Groundwater issues and impacts

The public water supply company has recorded about 22,000 connections.

Bissau is located in the Senegalo-Mauritanian Basin, which stretches from Guinea-Bissau to Mauritania. The area is characterized by a Hot desert climate with temperatures ranging from 25°C to 40°C, and annual rainfall of less than 500 mm. The groundwater is naturally contaminated by fluoride and arsenic.

Assuming that one connection supplies around 6 or 10 people, it is estimated that 20% of the population rely on domestic hand-dug wells, which are also used for purposes other than drinking. This contamination is exacerbated during flood events, which affect mostly the shallow aquifer, and infrastructure related contamination.

Additional sources of water: further wellfields, surface water abstraction plants or seawater intrusion schemes.

A new drinking water plant has been inaugurated in 2021.

The rest of the country relies on hand-dug wells and, to a lesser extent (10%), connections to the public water supply network are restricted to the city centre.

CONAKRY - Guinea

Population city

Aberdeen, Sierra Leone

Monrovia - Liberia

Abidjan - Côte d’Ivoire

Accra - Ghana

Bissau - Guinea-Bissau

Bamako - Mali

Ouagadougou - Burkina Faso

Niamey - Niger

Conakry - Guinea

Water distribution network and main drinking water treatment plants

LEGEND

- Public water supply
- Private water supply
- Production wells
- Borehole licensing
- Water management measures
- Monitoring wells
- Protection zones
- Water saving
- Water demand strategy

GROUNDWATER IN FAST GROWING CITIES IN WESTERN AFRICA