

= Guinea @-@ Bissau women 's national football team =

Guinea @-@ Bissau women 's national football team is a FIFA @-@ recognised team representing Guinea @-@ Bissau in international association football matches . Guinea @-@ Bissau have played in two FIFA @-@ recognised matches , both in 2006 against Guinea . The country also has a national under @-@ 17 side which participated in the 2012 Confederation of African Football qualifiers for the FIFA U @-@ 17 Women 's World Cup . Football is the most popular women 's sport in the country . A women 's football programme was established in 2004 , followed by the creation of a women 's national league .

= = Team = =

In 1985 , few countries had women 's national football teams . While the sport gained popularity worldwide in the ensuing years , Guinea @-@ Bissau 's team only began play more than two decades later . By the end of 2006 , the team had played in two FIFA @-@ recognised matches . The first was on 28 October 2006 against Guinea in Bissau , which ended in a 1 @-@ 1 tie after Guinea @-@ Bissau led 1 @-@ 0 at half @-@ time . On 12 November 2006 , the team played in their second FIFA @-@ recognised match in Conakry , where Guinea @-@ Bissau lost to Guinea 1 @-@ 3 . At the time , the team held three training sessions a week . The team has not participated in some of the major international and regional football competitions , including the Women 's World Cup , the 2010 African Women 's Championship and the 2011 All @-@ Africa Games .

The team 's average FIFA world ranking since 2006 is 119th . Its highest @-@ ever ranking was 92nd in December 2009 , and its lowest ranking was 144th in December 2007 . Guinea @-@ Bissau 's best @-@ ever rise in the rankings came in March 2008 , when the team climbed 23 places compared to its previous FIFA ranking . In March 2012 , the team was ranked the 135th in the world by FIFA and 30th in the Confederation of African Football . In June 2012 , they moved up five spots to 130th in the world but fell to the 33rd in Africa .

Guinea @-@ Bissau has a FIFA recognised under @-@ 17 football team , which was established in 2006 but did not play any matches that year . The team competed in the Confederation of African Football qualifiers for the FIFA U @-@ 17 World Cup to be held in Azerbaijan in September 2012 . They did not advance beyond regional qualifiers .

= = Background and development = =

The development of women 's football in Africa faces several challenges , including limited access to education , poverty amongst women , inequalities and human rights abuses targeting women . Many quality football players leave to seek greater opportunities in Europe or the United States . Funding for women 's football in Africa is also an issue : Most of the financial assistance for women 's football comes from FIFA , not the national football associations .

Guinea @-@ Bissau won its independence in 1974 , the same year its national football federation , Federação de Futebol da Guiné @-@ Bissau , was founded . The federation became a FIFA affiliate in 1986 . Women 's football is provided for in the constitution of Federação de Futebol da Guiné @-@ Bissau , and the organisation has four full @-@ time staff members focusing on it .

Football is the country 's most popular sport for women , and is supported by football programmes in schools . A national women 's football programme was established in 2004 . By 2006 , the country had 80 total football clubs , five of which were mixed and three of which were for women only . There were 380 registered female players , and a women 's teams played in a national football championship . Three years later , there were 24 active women 's teams in Guinea @-@ Bissau .