



CULTURAL GROUP • GUINEA-BISSAU & PORTUGAL • SINCE 2000

NETOS DE BANDIM

Culture is a travelling embassy.

BAIRRO DE BANDIM, BISSAU • 11°51'N 15°35'W
LISBOA • 38°43'N 9°08'W

2000 Founded in Bissau on 12 November	700+ Members over the years	30+ Countries visited
40+ International festivals	50+ Trophies and awards	8× Winner of the Guinea-Bissau Carnival

WHO WE ARE

BORN IN A BISSAU NEIGHBOURHOOD

Grupo Cultural Netos de Bandim was founded on 12 November 2000 by AMIC, the Friends of the Child Association, to bring the children and young people of Bandim, a neighbourhood of Bissau, together through music, theatre and dance.

It began as a place to meet and learn citizenship for children, teenagers and women living in extreme poverty. Rehearsals took place in the Zona 5 community school, demolished in 2010. Over the years the group took on orphans and young people from every part of Bissau, supporting their schooling, health and social integration.

Many of the founding children are still in the group today. More than 700 members have come through it, and many went on to professional careers. The group now works between Bissau and Lisbon, where it serves the Guinean diaspora, and has taken the ethnic diversity of Guinea-Bissau to festivals in more than 30 countries.

STAGE

Dance, percussion, music and theatre from every Guinean ethnic group.

LIVING ARCHIVE

Field research on dances, songs and tales at risk of being lost.

EDUCATION

COMMUNITY

Workshops in schools and universities in Portugal, Brazil and Guinea-Bissau.

Awareness campaigns and integration support for the diaspora in Portugal.



Netos de Bandim in Bissau



REPertoire

A WHOLE COUNTRY ON STAGE

Guinea-Bissau has more than twenty ethnic groups. The company performs dances from each of them, with their original costumes and rhythms.

DJAMBADON

BALANTA

Ceremonial dance of celebration and initiation, with driving movement to the sound of the bombolom drum.

TINA

FULA

An elegant women's dance of flowing movement and bright costume.

KUSSUNDÉ

BIAFADA

Danced in a circle for fertility and harvest: the community giving thanks to the land.

WOKASS

PEPEL

A warrior dance with shields and spears, honouring the courage of the coastal communities.

FARROBA

MANJACO

A tribute to the ancestors, solemn and deeply spiritual.

BUGUERABU · EKONKO

FELUPE

Two Felupe dances filmed by the group, the most watched on its channel.

DIFUNTO · KABARÓ

BIJAGÓ

Dances from the Bijagós archipelago, with masks, straw skirts and body paint.

GUMBÉ

CREOLE

The Creole rhythm of the Atlantic coast, played with influences from several ethnic groups.

The repertoire also includes Mandinka, Nalu, Sosso, Landuma and other dances.



On stage

WHAT WE BRING

FORMATS FOR FESTIVALS



STAGE SHOW

Traditional dances with live percussion and original costume. Presented as a full concert at Teatro do Bairro Alto, Lisbon.



FOLK FESTIVALS AND PARADES

Open-air performances for folk festivals and parades. Eight-time winner of the Guinea-Bissau Carnival.



WORKSHOPS

Dance, percussion and theatre for schools, universities and educators, such as the workshops given at UNESP in São Paulo.



THEATRE AND STORYTELLING

Plays about migration, identity and diversity, and Guinean storytelling.



ARTIST RESIDENCIES

Residencies hosted in Bissau, such as “Cenas de Dança, Cenas da Vida”, supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.



NATIONAL DAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

Africa Day, Guinea-Bissau independence day and community gatherings in Paris, The Gambia and Lisbon.



TRACK RECORD

25 YEARS ON THE ROAD

2000

BISSAU

Founded in Bandim by AMIC on 12 November.

2008

BRAZIL · CAPE VERDE

São Paulo Carnival. Performance at the National Auditorium of Cape Verde, invited by the City of Praia.

2009

GUINEA-BISSAU

“Rostos Invisíveis” project on domestic violence. Presidential election awareness campaigns with UNOGBIS.

2013

BRAZIL

Theatre, dance and Guinean percussion workshops for UNESP social educators in São Paulo.

2014

GUINEA-BISSAU

Concerts against female genital mutilation, with CNAPT.N.

2015–16

BRAZIL · PORTUGAL

Portuguese-Language Theatre Festival, São Paulo. Festival de Periferias, Sintra.

2017

PORTUGAL

Link de Saberes project: Mafra Palace, José Saramago Foundation, Jerónimos Monastery, RTP África and the Sintra Festival das Alternativas.

2018

MACAU • PORTUGAL • FRANCE • BRAZIL

Cultural festival in Macau. Folk Cantanhede, Folk Corredoura, Festarte and Mundo Dança in Guimarães. Guinea-Bissau independence day in Paris. Brazil tour: São Paulo, Florianópolis and Pernambuco.

2019

FRANCE • ITALY • SPAIN • PORTUGAL • THE GAMBIA

Africa Day in France. Lo Spirito del Pianeta festival, Bergamo. FIF Zamora. International Folk Festival, Barcelos. FolkMonção and FolkCinfães. Guinea-Bissau independence day in The Gambia.

2022

MOROCCO • SPAIN

Rabat. Tour of the Basque Country (Irun, Elgoibar, Portugalete), Avilés and the Enclave de Agua International Festival, Soria.

2023–24

QATAR • GUINEA-BISSAU

Choreography at Expo Qatar. “Cenas de Dança, Cenas da Vida” artist residency in Bissau, supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. Carnival 2024.

2025

PORTUGAL • SPAIN

Full concert at Teatro do Bairro Alto, Lisbon, on 17 February. Return to Zamora.

2026

PORTUGAL • BISSAU

International Urban Art Residency, Bissau. African Week at Parque das Nações. International Folk Festival, Barcelos. Sidónio Pais concert at Lisboa ao Vivo. RTP “Bem-Vindos”, Guinea-Bissau Independence special.

GALLERY



Lisboa



Coimbra



Beja



Bissau



Bissau



Spain



Brazil



On stage



Diaspora chapter



VIDEOS

WATCH BEFORE YOU BOOK



FULL CONCERT

Teatro do Bairro Alto,
Lisboa · 17.02.2025

youtube.com/watch?v=ImpXRhZInGs



BUGUERABU

Felupe dance · 8.9k views

youtube.com/watch?v=D8DJyHnGUm0



DIFUNTO

Bijagó dance · 6.1k views

youtube.com/watch?v=Pi0t0gf-Lp0



EKONKO

Felupe dance · 4k views

youtube.com/watch?v=C5V50wp6am0



EXPO QATAR

Choreography

youtube.com/watch?v=QPJ1FGThGYY



CARNIVAL 2024

Guinea-Bissau · 1.7k views

youtube.com/watch?v=GyBuaAWZD2U



ENCLAVE DE AGUA

Soria, Spain · 2022

youtube.com/watch?v=YyZagDkumBg



ZAMORA 2025

Spain

youtube.com/watch?v=n1UlbLj0x3s



RABAT 2022

Morocco · soundcheck

youtube.com/watch?v=12X0y0e0BMs



PERCUSSION

23rd anniversary · 2023

youtube.com/watch?v=ZaVKANIRLGQ



MACAU 2018

China

youtube.com/watch?v=Mxg2NRPsM0Y



FRANCE 2019

Guinea-Bissau Independence
· 24 Sept

youtube.com/watch?v=cud7vNRhJLQ

Official channel: 123 videos, 6.75k subscribers (October 2026).

AWARDS

EIGHT-TIME CARNIVAL WINNER

First place at the Guinea-Bissau Carnival in eight editions. More than 50 festival trophies, including a UN Peace Award.

2007

2008

2009

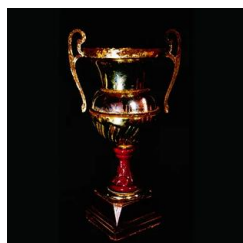
2010

2012

2013

2015

2016



PARTNERS

WHO WE HAVE WORKED WITH

AMIC

Friends of the Child Association

GULBENKIAN

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

PNUD

UN Development Programme

UNICEF

UN Children's Fund

UNOGBIS

UN Office in Guinea-Bissau

OIM

International Organization for Migration

CNAPTIN

National Committee against Harmful Traditional Practices

SOS

SOS Children's Villages

MANI TESE

International NGO

RISING VOICES

Foundation

UNESP

São Paulo State University

SINTRA

Sintra City Council

NETOS DE BANDIM BRING THE DANCES OF GUINEA-BISSAU TO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS

Founded in 2000 in a Bissau neighbourhood, Grupo Cultural Netos de Bandim performs dance, percussion and theatre from every Guinean ethnic group and has appeared in more than 30 countries.

Grupo Cultural Netos de Bandim (GCNB) was founded on 12 November 2000 by AMIC, the Friends of the Child Association, in Bandim, Bissau, to bring children and young people living in poverty together through music, theatre and dance. More than 700 members have come through the group, which now works between Bissau and Lisbon.

Its repertoire draws on dances from across Guinea-Bissau, among them Djambadon (Balanta), Tina (Fula), Kussundé (Biafada), Wokass (Pepel), Farroba (Manjaco), Buguerabu and Ekonko (Felupe) and Difunto and Kabaró (Bijagó), performed with live percussion and original costume. The group also carries out field research on dances, songs and tales in rural communities.

Internationally, GCNB has performed in Brazil, Cape Verde, Macau, France, Italy, Spain, The Gambia, Morocco and Qatar, at festivals including Lo Spirito del Pianeta (Bergamo), Enclave de Agua (Soria), FIF Zamora and the Barcelos International Folk Festival. In Portugal it has performed at the Jerónimos Monastery and Mafra Palace, and in February 2025 gave a full-length concert at Teatro do Bairro Alto in Lisbon.

The group has won the Guinea-Bissau Carnival eight times between 2007 and 2016 and holds more than 50 trophies. It has worked with UNDP, UNICEF, IOM and CNAPTIN on campaigns for peace and against domestic violence and female genital mutilation, and hosted the “Cenas de Dança, Cenas da Vida” artist residency in Bissau with support from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

GCNB welcomes invitations from festivals, programmers and cultural institutions for stage shows, open-air performances and dance and percussion workshops.

ABOUT GRUPO CULTURAL NETOS DE BANDIM

A Guinean cultural association founded in Bissau in 2000 and based in Lisbon (Portuguese company no. 517 567 768). It safeguards and promotes the cultural heritage of Guinea-Bissau and supports social integration, education and wellbeing through dance, music and theatre. Motto: “Culture is a travelling embassy.”

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BOOKING AND PRESS

BRING GUINEA-BISSAU TO YOUR FESTIVAL

We reply within two working days. Travel conditions on request.

geral@netosdebandim.org

BOOKING REQUEST

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