

SOCIAL
ADVANCEMENT
GROUP

LETELLIER LIFE: GUINEA SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF LIFE REPORT

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Guinea Development Outlook Report

An investigative study into agriculture, employment, education, infrastructure, and other important segments of Guinea.



**When you wait for tomorrow it never comes.
When you don't wait for it, tomorrow still comes.**

- Guinean Proverb

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AN INVESTIGATIVE STUDY INTO AGRICULTURE,
EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND
OTHER IMPORTANT SEGMENTS OF GUINEA.

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Guinea: The Country Outlook

Country Overview

Guinea is located in West Africa, bordering the Atlantic Ocean. It shares borders with Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Mali, Ivory Coast, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. It gained its independence from France on October 2, 1958. Its capital is Conakry, with 8 administrative regions. It is a multiparty presidential republic, with the president serving as the head of state and the prime minister as the head of government. It has a unicameral national assembly, and its official language is French. It is predominantly Islamic and practices a civil law legal system based on the French civil code. Guinea has an area of 245,857 square kilometers. Guinea is the source of several West African rivers, including the Senegal, Niger, and Gambia.

Demographic Information

Guinea has an estimated population of 12.53 million, comprising mostly a younger population (less than 25 years old), which makes up about 60.5% of the population; those in the age bracket of 25–64 years make up about 35.6% of the population; and those above 65 years of age make up about 3.9% of the population. The average population density is estimated at 53 inhabitants per square kilometer. In terms of human development indicators, it has a life expectancy of 65.0 years for women and 61.3 years for men. It achieved universal primary education with a 91.51% primary enrollment rate in 2016 and an overall literacy level of 30.4% as of 2015.

Ethnicity

Ethnicity consists of Fulani (Peuhl), Malinki, Susu, Guerze, Kissi, Toma, and 0.4% other.

Language

The official language is French, but other languages, including Pular, Maninka, Susu, and other native languages, are spoken. Around 40 languages are spoken, and each ethnic group has its own language.

Religion

Religion in Guinea is 89.1% Muslim, 6.8% Christian, 1.6% Animist, 0.1% other, and 2.4% reported as having no religion.

Living Conditions

On average, 55% of the Guinean population lives below the poverty line, and more than 21% of households are food insecure (United Nations World Food Program). The nutritional situation of children: 6.1% of children aged 6–59 months suffer from global acute malnutrition (of whom 1.7% are severely affected), and 24.4% of children aged 6–59 months suffer from stunting (United Nations World Food Program).

Water Access

Rural communities in Guinea remain poorly served, with too few sources of safe water in areas that are too widely spaced apart. In 2015, 32% of the population consumed contaminated water (UNICEF USA). According to 2015 statistics, the percentage of the population using at least basic sanitation services in urban communities is 34%, and the percentage in rural communities is 15% (World Health Organization).

Food Access

21.8% of households are food insecure. Malnutrition is high: 6.1% of children under 5 are affected by malnutrition, 24.4% are stunted, and 12% are underweight. Rural populations are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity. Among those affected by severe food insecurity, 71.1% practice subsistence farming. Smallholder farmers are the majority of the country's poor. This shows a correlation between poverty and food insecurity. They have poor access to seeds and fertilizers, production and processing equipment, storage facilities, basic infrastructure, and affordable financial services. Women make up 60% of people suffering from hunger, and the majority of rural people live in poverty (UN World Food Program).



Poverty

Below are charts that represent poverty in Guinea in the past few years. (World Bank Group)

POVERTY	Number of Poor (million)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	6.2	55.2	2012
International Poverty Line 5631.6 in Guinean franc (2012) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	3.8	35.3	2012
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 9484.8 in Guinean franc (2012) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	7.5	70.3	2012
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 16301.9 in Guinean franc (2012) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	9.8	92.3	2012
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		63.0	2012
SHARED PROSPERITY			
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent		N/A	N/A
INEQUALITY			
Gini Index		33.7	2012
Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth		N/A	N/A
GROWTH			
Annualized GDP per capita growth		1.53	2007-2012
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		N/A	N/A
MEDIAN INCOME			
Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita		N/A	N/A

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of February 2020, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

Distribution among groups: 2012	International Poverty Line(%)		Relative group (%)		Multidimensional Poverty Measures (% of people):	2012
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60		
Urban population	87	13	16	84	Monetary poverty (Consumption)	
Rural population	54	46	52	48	Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person	35.3
Males	65	35	40	60	Education	
Females	65	35	40	60	At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school	7.7
0 to 14 years old	60	40	45	55	No adult has completed primary education	53.7
15 to 64 years old	69	31	36	64	Access to basic infrastructure	
65 and older	66	34	40	60	No access to limited-standard drinking water	31.2
Without education (16+)	63	37	43	57	No access to limited-standard sanitation	65.7
Primary education (16+)	69	31	34	66	No access to electricity	74.9
Secondary education (16+)	83	17	20	80		
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	94	6	7	93		

Source: World Bank using ELEP/SSAPOV/GMD

Housing

Below are points that represent housing in Guinea in the past (2014): (United Nations)

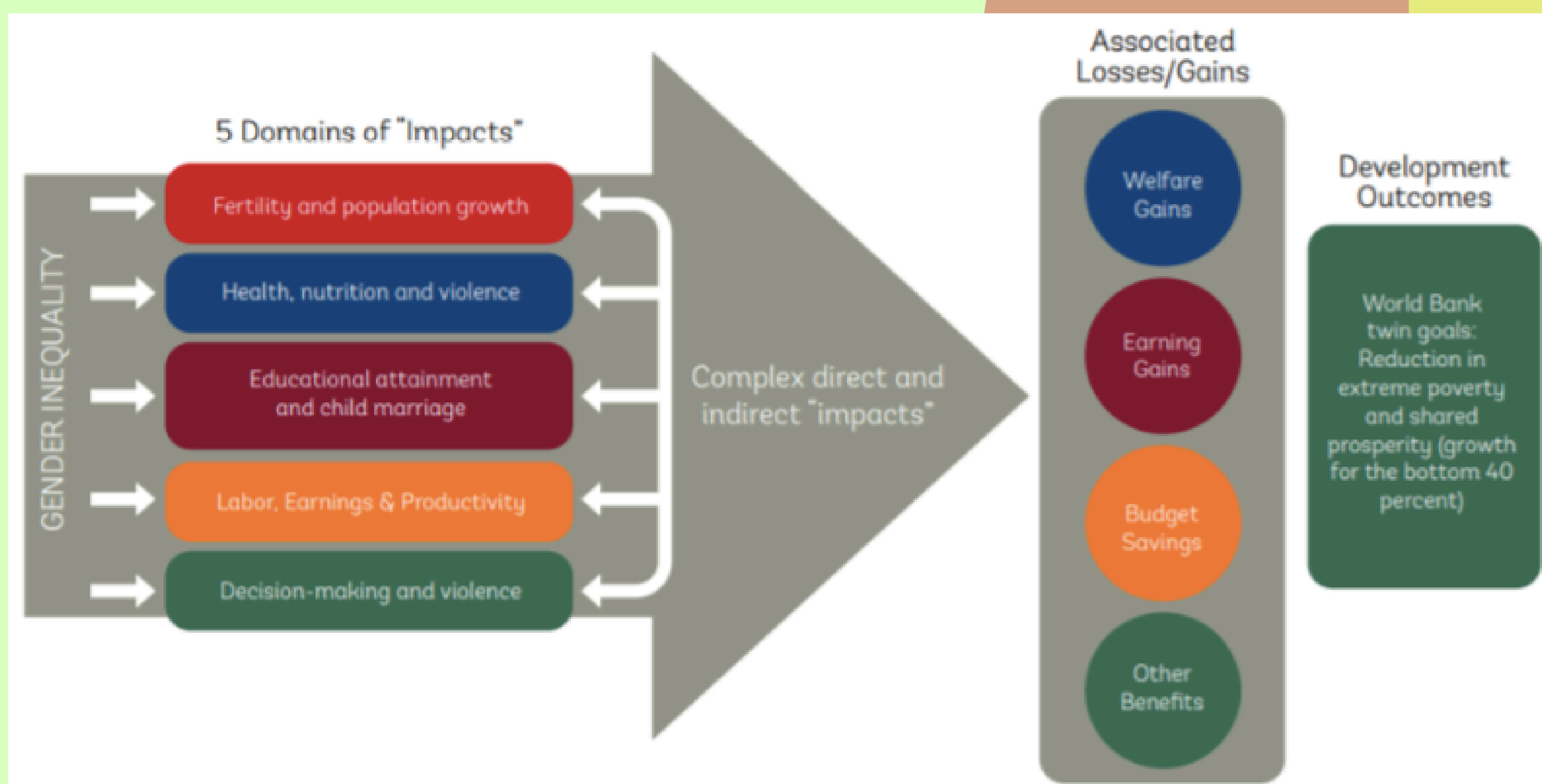
Indicators relating to housing, the living environment, hygiene and sanitation in 2014

Indicators	Percentage
Proportion of households in housing with walls made of durable materials	41.1
Proportion of households in housing with roofs made of durable materials	71.4
Proportion of heads of household owning their homes	75.4
Proportion of households in traditional housing	23.8
Proportion of heads of household renting their homes	19.8
Proportion of households with an occupancy density greater than three persons per bedroom	33.6
Proportion of households that indiscriminately dispose of their household waste	73.9
Proportion of households with electrical service from Electricité de Guinée for lighting	20.0
Proportion of households using battery-powered torches or lamps for lighting	71.7
Proportion of households with access to safe water	61.2
Proportion of households accessing the Internet for information	23.4
Proportion of households with at least one mobile phone	69.1
Proportion of households with at least one television set	23.4

Source : General population and housing census 2014/National Institute of Statistics/Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

Gender Gaps in Society

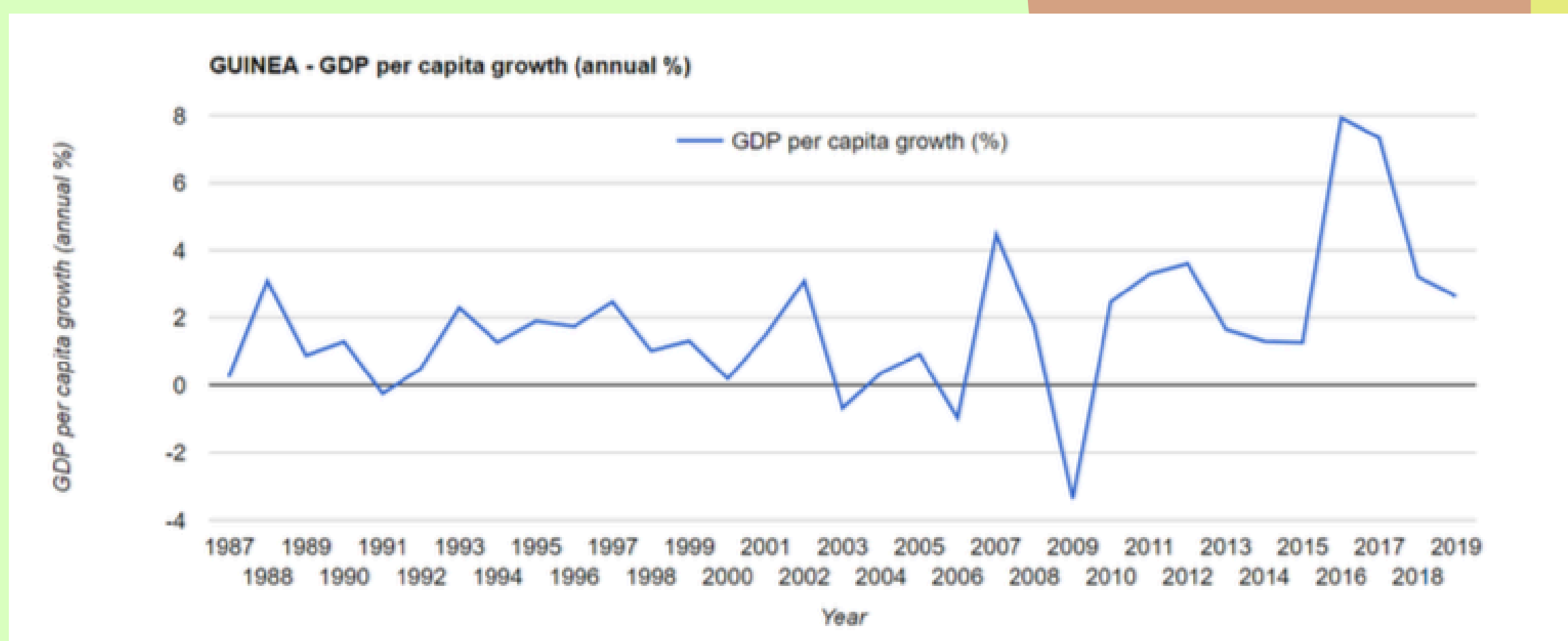
There are inefficient Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems in Guinea. Civil registration systems do not operate efficiently in Guinea, and as a result, many women cannot register a birth, marriage, divorce, or the death of their husband. Without this documentation, they are unable to provide proof that the government needs to establish their identity, age, or marital status. Consequently, they are not eligible for civil and political rights (Andreev, Dorina).



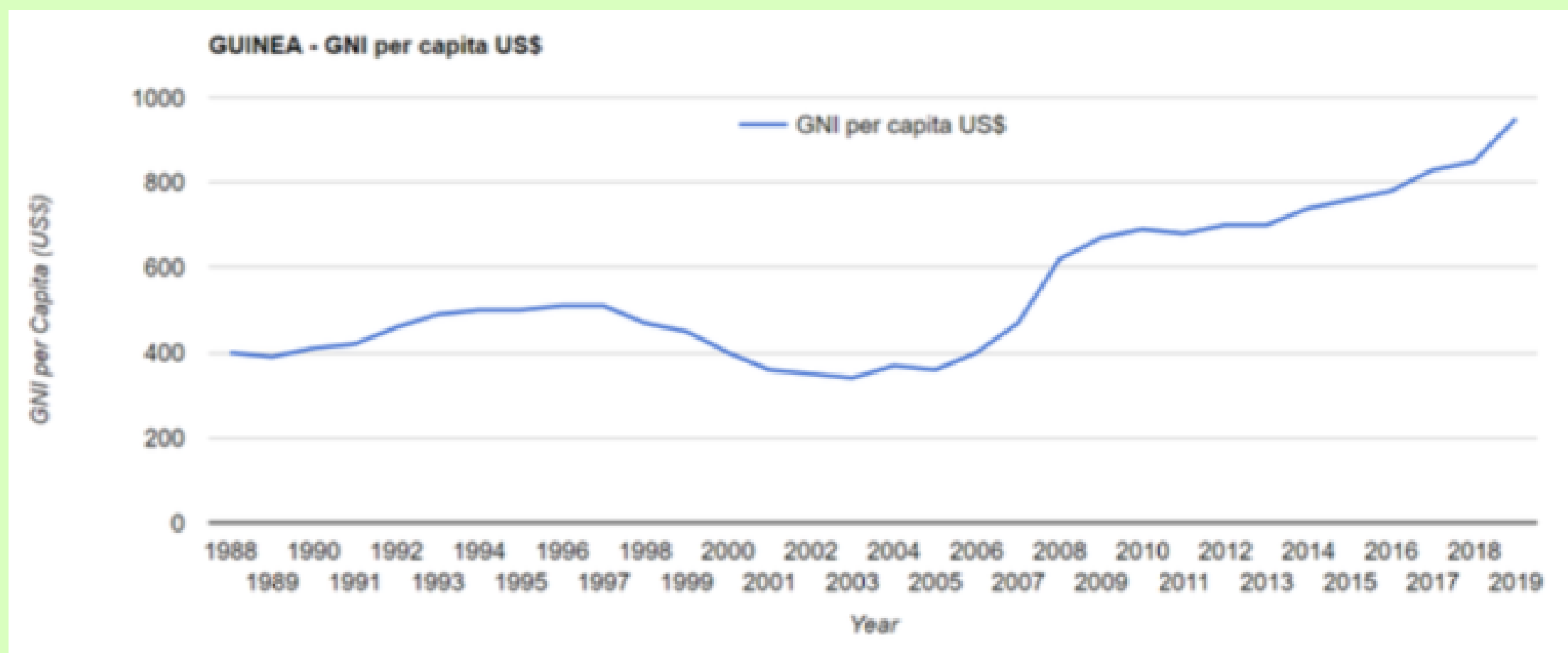
Source: Wodon and de la Briere (2018).

Broad Economic Overview:

The Guinean economy mainly relies on agriculture and mineral production. It has the largest reserves of bauxite in the world, the largest untapped high-grade iron ore reserves, as well as gold and diamond, and significant hydroelectric potential. Agriculture is estimated to contribute about 24% of GDP and employs about 66% of the country's workforce. Agriculture output and public investment continue to boost the country's economic growth, as the mining sector also continues to play a prominent role in economic performance. Real GDP expanded 5.6% in 2019, having recorded 6.7% compounded annual GDP growth in the past 5 years.



There is great potential for continuous growth in the economy given the country's estimated 6.2 million hectares of potential farmland (75% unused), 64,000 hectares of irrigable land (less than 10% is developed), and its hydroelectric potential, which is less than 6% tapped, according to the AFDB. Guinea's currency is the CFA franc pegged to the Euro. Inflation remains high due to deteriorating road conditions, resulting in increased travel times for perishable farm products from production to consumption areas. The main exports include bauxite, gold, diamonds, fish, coffee, etc. Major imports include petroleum products, transport equipment, foodstuffs, metals, machinery, textiles, etc.



Investment Opportunities

The Guinean government plans to reduce its food trade deficit by 50% by 2025 and create agribusiness processing zones. In 2013, the government amended its mining code, which resulted in a reduction of taxes and royalties. In 2014, Guinea demonstrated compliance with the requirements of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative by publishing its mining contracts and was found to be compliant. Guinea maintains some state-owned enterprises for public utilities (water and electricity), but the government is gradually privatizing them. Investment opportunities are available in the following sectors: agriculture, mining, energy and hydraulics, construction and real estate, fishing, health, ICT, education, etc. Crumbling infrastructure, chronic electricity shortages, and concerns about political uncertainties are some of the factors that continue to limit investment flow.

Agriculture in Guinea

An Overview

Historically, Guinea was the major agricultural producer among the colonies of French West Africa. The sector subsequently collapsed, making Guinea a net food importer, despite its immense agricultural potential. Farmers in Guinea largely engage in subsistence agriculture, growing crops on small plots of land to feed themselves and their families. Yet inadequate infrastructure and poor access to agricultural extension services, technologies, and inputs undermine potential productivity. The demand for food outstrips domestic production, forcing the country to turn to international food markets to fill the gap.

A devalued currency coupled with soaring food prices during the late 2000s pushed even more people into poverty and hunger. The Guinean franc began to stabilize in 2012, driving down inflation and lowering food prices, though chronic food insecurity and malnutrition persist in parts of the country, especially in the western and southern regions.

Rice is the largest imported food item in Guinea, making up almost 40% of all food imports and accounting for over USD 200 million annually. The second-largest item is wheat flour. Both of these items are staples of the Guinean diet, and domestic production is currently unable to meet demand. While there is some domestic production of rice and wheat, imported products are generally much cheaper and therefore more popular. Guinea's largest suppliers of rice are Thailand, India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Pakistan, China, and Taiwan. Flour imports originate largely in France and Morocco. Principal sugar suppliers include Belgium, France, Brazil, and Senegal. Periodically, the government takes measures to protect domestic agricultural production. For example, in 2011, the government banned many agricultural exports, most notably rice, believing that this would hold down domestic prices. In 2016, the government banned the export of many high-value agricultural products overland in an attempt to shift more shipping to the sea and airports.

Key Facts

- Only 25 percent of arable land is cultivated; this includes fallow land, and less than 10 percent is cropped each year.
- Only 32,000 ha (123.55269 square miles) have been developed for irrigation, although 360,000 ha (1389.96777 square miles) have potential for irrigation.
- Out of countries in Africa, Guinea has one of the lowest levels of fertilizer use. They only apply 7 kg of fertilizer per hectare per year.
- Less than 8 percent of cultivated land is planted with improved seed, and one-third of Guinean households, or 30.5 percent, are food insecure.
- The agricultural market employs around 52 percent of the population and is the source of income for 57% of houses in rural areas.
- \$764.9 million of agricultural and related products were imported in 2019. A quarter of this is rice, Guinea's main staple, and 39 percent is consumer-oriented products such as food preparations, condiments and sauces, poultry meat and products, dairy products, food preparation, and fresh vegetables.
- The US has exported has increased almost fivefold over the past five years to \$3.9 million of condiments and sauces to Guinea since 2019 (US Department of Agriculture).
- There are fewer men than women farmers (between the ages of 20 and 49) due to the migration of males that eventually move and work in more urban areas in the mining industries.
- Women and men both share decisions on many agriculture activities. But women are more likely to make decisions about sales and processing. Men are more in control of the income from the sales they generate.

The Challenges

- Guinean producers have little or no access to short-term loans or guaranteed markets, so it is difficult for them to make capital improvements to their farms.
- Poor or nonexistent infrastructure compounds the problem, as producers have little access to cold storage or good roads. As a result, it is hard to get produce to local markets before it starts to spoil, let alone transport it overseas.
- Some producers are making the transition to dried foodstuffs, which are easier to transport, but they lack the necessary machinery to make this a large-scale operation.
- There has been an increase in temperature and a decline in rainfall since the 1960s. This means that there is more variability in when the agricultural season starts, and there have been more frequent dry spells and floods.
- Some production areas are cut off from markets for part or most of the year, and there are many post-harvest losses due to poor agronomic practices. The poor practices can be due to poor post-harvest handling, a lack of storage, and deficient transport services.
- Based on these trends, it is predicted that there will be negative effects on ecosystems and agricultural production, and by 2050, there will be an estimated 10–25 percent decline in crop yield.

The Way Forward

- Investment in agriculture can help increase productivity and competition, facilitate economic diversification, help with private sector development, and also help create more jobs.
- Gender-specific actions are needed to be able to increase productivity and commercialization in agriculture.
- There is an established network of traders in Guinea, which can help connect buyers in neighboring West African countries. This could lead to opportunities for regional export sales.
- In Conakry, there are emerging supermarkets and hotels, which mainly serve expatriates and local high-income consumers.

Employment

An Overview

Agriculture and natural resources, as well as the manufacturing and services sectors, are some of Guinea's economic assets. Agriculture is the country's main source of employment and is critical for poverty reduction and rural development, providing income for 57% of rural households and employment for 52% of the workforce.

Key Facts

- In the 2013–2016 period, the private sector grew by 11% annually, the trends have been more positive, and the formal economy experienced a strong increase in employment (Urban Planning).
- In 2014, the employment sector in Conakry was dominated by non-tradable services and the retail sector, which accounted for 40% of total employment (Urban Planning).
- Sectors of employment are: retail (39%), public administration (14%), transport (13%), manufacturing (11%), construction (7%), scientific activities (4%), social services (3%), agriculture (2%), electricity, gas, and water (2%), entertainment (1%), ICT (1%), and others (3%).
- Significant increases in employment have been seen in the manufacturing sectors such as chemicals, metal production, furniture, wood, and other service sectors such as IT, retail, and wholesale.
- Despite these measures, tax revenue fell by 0.8% of GDP to 12.5% in 2018. An extraordinary transfer of 0.4% of GDP from the Post and Telecommunications Regulatory Agency helped improve the fiscal balance.
- Age Distribution: The current percentage of total labor participation for ages 15 and older is 64.2%. Guinea's population is young, with a median age of 18.6 years old. Young people face a high level of structural unemployment and underemployment. (WORLD BANK DOCUMENT).

The Challenges

- Poor working conditions are the main global employment challenge, according to the International Labor Organization (ILO), so much so that the UN has made “decent work for everyone” one of its priorities for the next decade.
- According to the ILO’s World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2019, which forecasts that the decline in the youth labor force participation rate over the past 25 years will likely continue,.
- The wage gap between men and women is one of today’s greatest social injustices. On average, a woman with the same skills and responsibilities earns 20% less than a man, according to the ILO.
- Climate change and the decline in biodiversity will affect millions of workers worldwide, particularly farmers whose crops are vulnerable to extreme weather events (intense precipitation, drought) or dependent on insect pollinators.
- The majority of child labor results from a combination of a poor standard of living for the families and social norms that tolerate it, as well as a lack of decent jobs for adults and adolescents, migration, crisis situations, and discrimination against indigenous populations and lower castes, according to UNICEF.

The Way Forward

- Guinea has many vast natural resources, such as mining and hydropower resources, which could help with income. They are estimated to have one of the largest reserves of bauxite in the world, and they are one of the largest producers of minerals (Public Administration Review).
- Agriculture and their natural resources are some of Guinea's main economic assets. Agriculture is one of the country's main sources of employment, which is critical for poverty reduction and rural development (Public Administration Review).

The Case of Child Labor in Guinea

Child Labor

Since 2019, Guinea has made minimal efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Enacted by the president, the national assembly adopted a Child Code that includes a list of hazardous child labor activities and has more severe penalties for violations of child labor. But child labor is still present, such as in mining, human trafficking, and forced begging. The government lacks a coordinating mechanism and national policy to address the worst forms of child labor. The laws for the minimum age to work do not meet international standards. This is because they don't include children working outside of a formal employment relationship or children who are self-employed. The government also does not implement sufficient social programs to address the extent of the problem of child labor. (US Department of Labor).

Overview of Children's Work by Sector and Activity (US Department of Labor)

- Agriculture
 - Farming and carrying heavy loads in the production of cashews, cocoa, coffee, and rubber
 - Herding livestock
 - Fishing, including capturing and processing fish
- Industry
 - Mining granite, gold, and diamonds
 - Manufacturing activities unknown
 - Construction, including carrying materials and the fabrication of construction materials such as bricks
- Services
 - Street work, including as market vendors, beggars, petty traders, shoe shiners, and porters in the transportation sector
 - Working in restaurants and informal cottage industries, including waitresses
 - Domestic work

- Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor
 - Forced labor as market vendors and in domestic work, mining, herding, fishing, and farming, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking
 - Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking
 - Forced begging by Koranic teachers

Boys in Child Labor

Boys are forced into labor in gold and diamond mining, which is also present in Senegal and Mali. Boys can be placed in the care of Koranic schools and can sometimes be forced by teachers to work in the fields or beg in the street and then have to surrender the money to the teachers. (US Department of Labor)

Girls in Child Labor

Girls are involved in domestic work and commercial exploitation in various West African countries (US Department of Labor). Parents who are not able to care for children may send them to relatives or strangers and can be expected to provide food, shelter, and schooling for the child in exchange for housework. Many may become domestic workers and are victims of labor exploitation and abuse (US Department of Labor).



An Overview

Primary Education

Education is compulsory and free in Guinea between ages 7 and 13. Unfortunately, as is the case in so many third-world countries, this dream is seldom fully realized. The first six years of the program take place at primary school, although in practice, many rural children never even get this far. Those who do, though, are rewarded with a Certificat d'Etudes Primaires Elémentaires.

Middle Education

A far smaller number of pupils go on to secondary education. The first four years of this take place in lower secondary school and continue to be academic in nature. They culminate in an examination for the Brevet d'Etudes du Premier Cycle Certificate.

Secondary Education

The final 3 years of the Guinean 11-year sub-tertiary education system are spent at academic upper secondary schools, but only by those young people fortunate enough to have parents with the money for their fees and who are prepared to support them voluntarily for another 3 years too. Many who make it thus far obtain passes at the final Baccalaureate Second Partie examinations, which herald the end of secondary education in a poverty-stricken land.

Key Facts

- Based on 2018 statistics, only 2.3% of the GDP is used towards education expenditures.
- The total population of those age 15 and over who can read and write is 30.4%.
- Breaking down the literacy rate by gender, 38.1% are male and 22.8% are female. The school life expectancy for primary to tertiary education is 9 years total, that is, 10 years for males and 8 years for females.
- Enrollment in preschool remains low but increased substantially from 6.9 percent in 2008 to 12 percent in 2017.
- Between 2010 and 2017, Guinea saw an 81 percent jump in school and classroom construction, which has contributed to the gradual increase in net enrollment rates from 41.6 percent in 1999 to 73.4 percent in 2017. (The World Bank).

- The majority of primary schools are public, enrolling 69 percent of students. In the lower and upper secondary subsectors, enrollment decreased by 3 percent and 1 percent, respectively (The World Bank).

The Challenges

- Inadequate financial resources, highly centralized ministerial bodies, and poor institutional capacity. (The World Bank).
- Salaries account for 84 percent of the MEN-As national budget, which leaves little room for additional resources to enhance the quality of the education system. (The World Bank).
- The decentralized levels of MEN-A, such as the Regional Education Departments Inspections Regionales de l'Education" (IRE) and Prefectural Education Departments "Delegations Prefectorales de l'Education" (DPE), receive practically no state resources for their functioning apart from the preparation of examinations. (The World Bank).
- Resource constraints don't allow for education planning, supervision, coaching, and training in the schools. They are also unable to have essential teaching-learning materials or building maintenance (The World Bank).
- Costs of school fees and supplies, shortages of teachers, and reported school violence impede access to education, which may increase the vulnerability of children to the worst forms of child labor (US Department of Labor).

Teachers

- Preschool teachers have had no formal training track until recently, when the ENI initiated a preschool program for teachers that now trains about 30 teachers per year. The result is that out of 6,125 teachers, only 359 have an education background.
- There are little or no opportunities for professional development after a teacher is hired, so they don't receive any in-service training or support in the classroom.
- There is in-service preschool and primary teacher training, but it is fragmented.
- There is little or no use of digital technologies to support professional development for teachers.

Education Materials

- Inadequate access and poor learning outcomes are due to the learning conditions and physical spaces (The World Bank).

- There is a significant deficit in the availability of ready and math textbooks, especially in the first and last years of primary schools, with the regions of Boké, Conakry, and Kindia being those where the needs of textbooks were the greatest during the 2015–16 school year. (The World Bank).
- Approximately 23 percent of all schools don't have access to water. There are 23% of rural schools without water and 2% of urban areas without water (World Bank).

Gender Gap

As one of the poorest countries in the world, Guinea struggles with primary school enrollment and inferior education quality. The average classroom hosts 80 children with only one teacher. The number of youth aged 15–24 who have no formal education totals 49 percent. Girls only stay in school for an average of eight years. However, even with the failing education system in Guinea, there are organizations that work to improve the quality of teaching and educational outreach to youth.

Gender Gap in Education

- The enrollment of girls in primary and secondary schools has increased since the 1980s, but there is still a big gap between females and males enrolled in schools (Coleman, Rebecca).
- Influenced by culture, the education system is more accessible to boys than girls (Coleman, Rebecca).
- An estimated 1 in 10 girls in Africa skips or drops out of school during menstruation because of a lack of lavatory sanitation. This is also due to the fear of gender-based violence (Coleman, Rebecca).

Effects of Girls in Schools

- As female education rises, fertility, population growth, infant and child mortality fall, and family health improves, there will be increases in women in the labor force, contributions to household and national income, a positive effect on child nutrition, and children of educated mothers are more likely to be enrolled in school and to have higher levels of education attainment (Coleman, Rebecca).

The Way Forward

- Actress and spokesperson Mia Farrow worked with UNICEF to help fund schools. In 2010, Farrow visited Guinea to focus on education since the government was lacking in investment in education. Farrow and UNICEF worked on a multi-donor trust fund called the Education for All Fast Track Initiative's Catalytic Fund. The World Bank managed this fund to allow UNICEF to build 1,000 schools and invest in properly training teachers and improving curricula.
- Save the Children, one of the biggest organizations improving education in developing countries, has had the aim of improving education in Guinea since 1997. The organization built elementary schools and improved community participation in school management. Their work has reached almost 570 communities.
- Communities of mothers are working to keep their daughters in school. There is a gap between boys and girls when it comes to getting an education. Girls don't go to school because of poverty, physical and sexual violence, as well as early marriage and pregnancy. But if they were able to get an education, it could decrease the likelihood of an early marriage and child mortality. The name of these associations of mothers helping their daughters get access to education in Guinea is "Comités des mères et des élèves filles" (COMEF). COMEFs work within schools to ensure the safety of girls from sexual violence and to be 'first responders' when problems arise.



Medical

An Overview

Since the establishment of the Second Republic in 1984, Guinea's health policy has experienced profound changes. In that year, the country launched an extensive reform of its health system at the instance of the WHO and the World Bank. Despite a slight improvement in some health indicators and the relaunch of primary health care in 2010 in the wake of the 2008 Ouagadougou Declaration, it is to be observed that the program and project approach remain firmly entrenched in the health system to the detriment of a comprehensive, system-wide approach. With support from WHO and other technical and financial partners, Guinea has embarked on health sector reform through national health consultations, which culminated in a review of the National Health Policy and the preparation of a new draft National Health Development Plan for the period 2015–2024, as well as the development and imminent signing of the National Compact. The reforms announced in the Minister of Health's engagement letter of February 2014 have been crystallized in the vision contained in the National Health Policy, which envisages "a Guinea where the entire population enjoys good health, is economically and socially productive, and has universal access to high-quality, fully inclusive health care and services." To achieve this vision, strategies and interventions have been developed to offset the low levels of health-care coverage resulting from the inefficient and poor condition of existing health infrastructure and facilities. To address the expectations of health service users, much remains to be done to improve the quality of care. On average, 53.7% of health-service users are dissatisfied with the care they receive. The main reasons given are the high cost of services (overpricing), the poor quality of the treatment, long waiting times, and shortages of medicines.

Key Facts

The health status of the Guinean population continues to give cause for concern.

- According to the Integrated Core Survey for the Evaluation of Poverty (EIBEP 2002–2003), access to health services (under 30 minutes) is 38.9%, and the rate of use is 18.6%.
- Malaria is the primary reason for consultation (34%), hospital admission (31%), and death (14.2%) in all age groups.
- The prevalence rate of diarrhea is 12.4% in children aged 0-59 months. Cholera has been endemic since 2003, peaking during the rainy season.
- In 2012 alone, Guinea recorded 11,941 cholera cases and 156 deaths.
- Tuberculosis is a major public-health problem with a case-fatality rate of 8%.
- The average prevalence of HIV in the general population has increased from 1.5% in 2005 to 1.7% in 2012.
- In Guinea, 31% of children are chronically malnourished, and 14% are severely malnourished.
- For the first time, the country has had to face an epidemic of Ebola virus hemorrhagic fever.
- General mortality has been running at 10.19 in 2015. Maternal mortality is 650 per 100,000 live births. Neonatal mortality is 33% of live births, and mortality in children under 5 years is 101 per 1000.

This troubling picture is compounded by emerging and re-emerging diseases. According to the STEPS survey conducted in 2009 on risk factors for non-communicable diseases in Conakry and Lower Guinea, the prevalence of diabetes was 3.5% in the population aged 15–64 and 5.2% in the population aged 25–64. Among cardiovascular diseases, the prevalence of high blood pressure alone was 28.1% in the survey population. The Global Health Observatory reports that life expectancy at birth is 58 years.

Key Challenges

- Management problems include a lack of objective criteria for assessment and decision-making.
- Lack of recruitment and re-deployment policies
- Inequitable geographic distribution of health workers, with health workers—particularly female health workers—concentrated in Conakry, where 15% of the population lives
- Lack of career planning and development
- A demotivated workforce due to inadequate living and working conditions and a lack of standardized job profiles
- Lack of coordination and communication between the HRH training system and the health services, and lack of quality training (Plan National de Développement Sanitaire 2003–2012, MSHP).

The Way Forward

- **Emergency Operations Centers:** The United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) helped create a system of public health Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) in 2015. These centers successfully responded to yellow fever, anthrax, and Lassa fever in Guinea. They also strengthened vaccination campaigns for polio, tetanus, and measles.
- **Health Commodities:** The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) aims to increase the capacity of Guinea’s public health systems by providing resources such as health training, equipment, and technical assistance to struggling communities. The USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program, launched in February 2017, has helped maintain a continuous supply of these commodities.
- **Epidemic/Pandemic Preparedness:** The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) aims to help communities prepare for and respond to health crises such as epidemics and pandemics. In conjunction with USAID funding, the IFRC created the Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Program (CP3) in 2017. This program strengthens the ability to prevent and address infectious diseases in Guinea and seven other countries. The infrastructure created through this program will continue to help in the preparation and response to such global crises as COVID-19.

These global efforts have already proven effective. Guinea's maternal mortality rate decreased from 724 per 100,000 births in 2006–2012 to 576 in 2017. Similarly, the under-5 mortality rate dropped from 120 per 1,000 births to about 100.

Infrastructure

An Overview

Guinea's infrastructure ranks almost the lowest, 147th out of 148 countries, in the World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report (2013). The quality of roads, the quality of electricity supply, and the ratio of fixed telephone lines are the second lowest (also 147th out of 148), while the quality of railroad and port infrastructure has some potential, which rank 114th and 119th, respectively. In 2011, the road network currently covers 35,000 km, of which some 15 percent are sealed. Poor road conditions hinder Guinea from developing its trade in goods and, in particular, attracting traffic from Mali and other landlocked countries. Moreover, Guinea has not exploited the potential of hydroelectric power, despite its considerable amount of around 6,000 MW. In view of the low level of investment and the lack of maintenance of the existing infrastructure, the electricity supply is deficient, especially during the dry season, when there are frequent power cuts throughout Guinea. In 2012, the number of fixed telephone subscriptions was as low as around 0.2 per 100 inhabitants. The supply of fixed telecommunications services is under the exclusive preserve of SOTELGUI, the traditional operator, because there are no implementing texts for the new law, which ended SOTELGUI's monopoly on December 23, 2005.

Indicator	Value	Rank/148
Quality of overall infrastructure	2.12	137
Quality of roads	1.91	137
Quality of railroad infrastructure	1.40	104
Quality of port infrastructure	3.20	110
Quality of air transport infrastructure	3.02	122
Individuals using Internet (%)	41.75	131
Mobile telephone subscriptions/100 pop	1.49	134
Fixed broadband Internet subscriptions/100 pop:	0.01	135
Source: World Economic Forum, Global Enabling Trade Report 2014		

Quick Facts

Electricity

As of 2019, the total population with access to electricity was 46%. In urban areas, 84% have access, and in rural areas, only 24% have access (The World Factbook).

- Electricity production: 589 kWh (2016)
- Electricity consumption: 556.1 million kWh (2016)
- Electricity from fossil fuels: 33% of total installed capacity (2016)
- Electricity from nuclear fuels: 0% of total installed capacity (2017)
- Electricity from hydroelectric plants: 67% of total installed capacity (2017)
- Electricity from other renewable sources: 0% of total installed (2017)

Transportation

Airways

- Guinea has a total of 16 airports. 4 have paved runways, and 12 have unpaved runways.
- They are currently served by twelve airlines. This includes two European and four African airlines (Republique de Guinee).

Waterways

- In 2016, China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) signed a \$770 million contract with Guinea's government to upgrade the port in Conakry to be able to expand Chinese economic influence in the West African iron and bauxite industry. The contacts say that they will construct three docks, roads, and other infrastructure in the eastern zone of the port. They will do this by providing up to 600 trucks. The port that is in Conakry handles almost all the products that are shipped into Guinea. The completion of this project will make it the largest port in the sub-region (Staff, Reuters).

Roadways

- There are only 30% paved roads, and they have inadequate national roads. Conakry doesn't have a bus station. The country faces major transportation difficulties. (Republique de Guinee).

Telephones and Technology

- 2016: 85.33 mobile cellular subscriptions were registered for every 100 people (Statista).
- Telephone density: 0.3% for fixed lines and 1.7% for mobile. Cellular phone penetration. But between 2000 and 2005, the number of cell phone users increased by 35% (Infodev).
- Guinea's telecommunications infrastructure is the least developed in West Africa. (Infodev)
- Broadband services are still very limited and expensive. (Guinea Telecoms).
- The outbreak of COVID-19 is having a significant impact on production and supply chains (Guinea Telecoms).
- The landing of the first international fiber optic submarine cable in 2012 and the setting up of an IXP in mid-2013 have gone some way toward developing the broadband market by reducing the cost of internet bandwidth and improving the reliability of infrastructure (Guinea Telecoms).
- A national backbone network is almost near completion, connecting administrative centers across the country, though in practice almost all internet connectivity will remain via mobile (Guinea Telecoms).

Media

- Some media outlets have reported government harassment or are subject to excessive fines under “licensing costs.” (International Trade Administration).
- A large portion of the Guinean population is illiterate, so the best and most preferred method for advertising is through the radio (International Trade Administration).
- Today, there are around 30 radio stations operating in Guinea; many provide substantial airtime to advertising products and services. (International Trade Administration).
- Domestic print media has low and limited readership due to the high cost of printing materials and the low literacy rate. (International Trade Administration).
- The major newspapers in Guinea include one daily government publication, one daily independent, eight major weekly independents, and several other independent newspapers that are published intermittently. (International Trade Administration).
- The government-run television station, Radio Television Guineenne (RTG), is the oldest television broadcaster. (International Trade Administration).
- There are a few independent TV stations that are generally more credible than the public television station, but most Guineans do not have access to television broadcasts (International Trade Administration).

- A number of informal newsletters are also published in indigenous languages. (Encyclopedia Britannica).

The Challenges

Guinea also faces inadequate infrastructure, an inefficient bureaucracy, a lack of skilled workers, and political uncertainty.

Guinea lacks the infrastructure necessary to support advanced commercial activities, but conditions are improving. Access to electricity has vastly improved throughout the capital city of Conakry since the completion of Kaleta Dam in the summer of 2015, but power outages are still common, especially during the dry season (February–May). Access to piped water in the capital is intermittent and unsafe for consumption before treatment. In the interior of the country, access to electricity and water is largely unavailable. Transportation infrastructure, including roads, railroads, and the port system, is unevenly developed throughout the country, though the government of Guinea has targeted infrastructure improvement as a high priority for the coming years. The road networks in certain areas, such as the outskirts of Conakry, between Dabola and Kankan, and from Beyla to N'Zerekore, have improved with resources from either international donors or corporate partners in the mining sector. However, roads deteriorate quickly because of the lengthy and heavy rainy season. Telecommunications operating costs remain high, and service is slow and subject to "blackouts" due to a lack of equipment. The ongoing installation of 4G and fiber optic networks is improving internet connectivity, though connections lag behind U.S. standards.

The Way Forward

It is recognized that the challenges Guinea faces are manifold. Not all can, nor should they, be addressed simultaneously. Resource constraints, both human and financial, as well as legitimate time demands for preparation and implementation, need to be heeded. Nonetheless, this section provides an attempt at an initial list of actions to be discussed with the government, its development partners, the private sector, and civil society. Each issue listed below will require additional debate of options and implications and might require specialized analysis that goes beyond the scope of this note.

- Identification of priority investments: these should satisfy the double condition of high impact and high feasibility and thus focus on projects that are advanced in the preparation phase. Both public and private resources should be considered for the options of service delivery and donor support. Among the priority areas to examine at this juncture are:
 1. Boke Rail system and port to evacuate bauxite and alumina (planned aluminum plants Sangaredi, Kamsar, and Dian-Dian); this would require additional rail interconnections, new facilities at the Kamsar port, as well as an estimated 700 MW of new thermal power capacity.
 2. Rail link between Simandou and Liberia to allow the evacuation of mining output from Southern Guinea.
 3. Establishment of road connectivity to Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.
 4. Transmission grid interconnection with the West Africa Power Pool.
- Issue a strong policy statement and letters of sector policy showing the government's commitment to infrastructure development in a strategic and step-wise (thus credible) manner.
- Undertake a study mapping out the legal and institutional options to engage the private sector following the adoption of a letter of sector policy. A diagnostic review of existing laws, regulations, processes, and institutions needs to be undertaken to assess the degree to which the current setup provides an enabling environment for private participation. Identify one or a small number of pilot PPP arrangements in mining areas based on the 2006 PPIAF study.
- For the mining sector, issue a policy paper and medium- to long-term strategy and investment plan, using the EI Value Chain Approach (EITI++) as an instrument to move these aspects forward.
- For the power sector, identify priority prospects among the hydroelectric plants proposed that can be undertaken with private participation. The first phase of the Kaleta plant and associated transmission link and distribution network would be a candidate.

- Initiate dialogue with the private sector. Commit to a transparent and accountable approach in order to signal long-term stability. Build appropriate institutional mechanisms and capacity to undertake infrastructure project development activities; bring in external experts for the initial pilot projects.

Longer term, a framework for integrated infrastructure planning should be established. The objective of such a framework is to provide a strategic approach for sequencing, prioritizing, and financing infrastructure investments in such a way as to maximize their contribution to economic growth. There are linkages between the spatial analysis and this supply analysis. Infrastructure planning should be undertaken at the national level to take all the needs of the country into account; however, in the face of limited resources, certain specific corridors (e.g., Boke) might be considered first, in particular if negotiations are opened with the private sector on the potential of making mining infrastructure accessible to the public.



Policies and Procedures

Imports/ Exports

Exports

- 2019: Guinea has exported \$5.041 billion in products including bauxite, gold, diamonds, coffee fish, and agricultural products (The World Factbook).
- 2017: Their exports are distributed as follows: 35.8% to China, 20.1% to Ghana, 11.6% to the UAE, and 4.3% to India (The World Factbook).

Imports

- 2019: They have imported \$7.924 billion of products such as petroleum products, metals, machinery, transport equipment, textiles, grain, and other foods. (The World Factbook).
- 2017: Their imports are distributed by 17.2% Netherlands, 13.2% China, 11.8% India, 10% Belgium, 6.9% France, and 4.5% UAE (The World Factbook).

Agriculture Industry Laws

Laws pertaining to food and agricultural products imported into Guinea are under the jurisdiction of the Guinean Institute of Normalization and Metrology (INGM). However, other offices, such as the National Directorate of Plant Protection, Stocks, and Technical Control and the National Directorate of Animal Production and Industry, are involved in sanitary and phytosanitary controls for agricultural imports. Exporters are advised to thoroughly research the laws and regulations applicable to their products across all relevant regulatory agencies (U.S. Department of Agriculture).

Labelling Requirements

Guinea's national standard is harmonized with the Codex General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods (Codex Stan 1-1985). English labels are accepted for all imported products. Guinea's national standard is harmonized with the Codex General Standard for the Labeling of and Claims of Prepackaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses (Codex Stan 146-1985). This standard includes specific nutrition labeling requirements. Guinea's national standard is harmonized with the Codex General Standard for the Labeling of Food Additives (Codex Stan 107-1981) (U.S. Department of Agriculture).

Packaging and Container Regulations

Guinea does not have national standards on packaging and container requirements for food products. However, some Guinean national standards (which are harmonized with Codex) for specific foods note a few requirements, e.g., packaging must protect quality characteristics or prevent microbiological contamination. For more information or questions on packaging, they suggest working with the ministry in charge of the imported product. (U.S. Department of Agriculture).

Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures

Guinea accepts phytosanitary certificates from all member states of the International Plant Protection Convention. All imports of plants, plant products, plant parts, seeds, solids, manures, composts, packaging, and vehicles and containers used for their transport must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the competent authority of the country of origin. The importer must also obtain an import permit from the Ministry of Agriculture's plant protection service prior to export. By law, this phytosanitary inspection process must be concluded within 72 hours. There is more information on Guinea's phytosanitary requirements in Law L/02/027/CTRN and Decree 95/6822/MAEF/SGG. (U.S. Department of Agriculture).

In general, the following documentation for imported food and agricultural products is required: (U.S. Department of Agriculture).

1. An approved request for importation is known as a descriptive import declaration (DDI), which is necessary for all imports with a FOB value of at least \$2,000.
2. Importers commerce card, business activity card, and tax registration number
3. A bank check or receipt for payment into the account opened by the Treasury with the Central Bank
4. Applicable export certificate issued by the competent authority of the country of origin (e.g., health certificate, phytosanitary certificate, certificate of origin, etc.)
5. Applicable certificate of analysis (issued by the border inspector)
6. A bill of lading (maritime), airway bill (air shipment), or waybill (ground transport)
7. Commercial invoice (includes value, net weight, and description of goods)
8. Export declaration from the country of origin

Trade Facilitation

Once the importer or agency declares the products to Customs and submits all documentation for verification (e.g., certificates, proof of payment, etc.), goods should be released after completion of all formalities within two days. Guinea's transition from a paper-based customs clearance process to this automated system reduced clearance time from fourteen days to two.

Guinea implements the Common External Tariff (CET) of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), whose tariffs on imports fall into five categories: 0%, 5%, 10%, 20%, and 35%, respectively. Other taxes include: (US Department of Agriculture).

- Payment processing fee (RTL): 2%
- Excise (AC): could be exempted for categories 1, 2, and 3 products
- Additional protection tax (TCP) could be exempted for category 1, 2, and 3 products.
- Value-added tax (VAT): 18%
- Community levy (PC): 0.5%
- Additional centimes (CA) vary from 0.25% to 0.28% for category 1, 2, and 3 products.

Channels of Distribution

Each industry has its own policy and network for sales and distribution. Sales of communication products usually occur through wholesalers who import in bulk for resale to small traders or distributors in the interior of the country. Retailers often directly import luxury consumer goods. Generally, mining, utility, and industrial firms conduct heavy equipment purchases directly through suppliers. Service and customer support should not be expected and are only possible if negotiated at the time of sale. Guinea features many open-air marketplaces, numerous small shops, and a few medium-sized grocery stores. A majority of consumer sales are completed within the informal ("black") market.

Guinea Economic Outlook

Recent macroeconomic and financial developments

Guinea's economy has suffered from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The drop in global demand and oil prices occasioned by the crisis, coupled with the drop in household consumption and the slowdown in business activities due to measures to contain the spread of the disease, exacerbated the country's already serious growth problems. Real GDP shrank 6.1% in 2020, compared with 5.6% in 2019. It was the eighth consecutive recession year due to growth problems in both the oil (-7.2%) and nonoil sectors (-4.7%). On the demand side, investment contracted by 35%. But even though output fell, prices rose. Inflation was 3% in 2020, up from 1.2% in 2019, the result of a pandemic-spawned decline in trade and a worsening monetary situation. As a result, the Bank of Central African States gave up trying to reduce liquidity in the banking system and proposed a series of measures to support the economies in the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) by cutting the policy interest rate and the marginal lending facility rate (from 3.5% to 3.25% and from 6% to 5%, respectively). The country faced a budget deficit estimated at 4.7% of GDP in 2020, despite the fiscal consolidation the country has been carrying out under a 2017 agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The fiscal consolidation helped generate a budget surplus of 1.6% of GDP in 2019 and 0.5% in 2018. The current account deficit widened to 9.9% of GDP in 2020, compared with 5.9% in 2019, because of the deterioration in trade and a 41.5% drop in oil exports.

Outlook and Risks

The economy is expected to grow 2.6% in 2021, a projection based on the successful completion of a large gas project and the recovery of the world economy by the second half of the year. But the country is expected to return to recession in 2022, with a real GDP decline of 4.4%. The inflation rate is expected to settle at 2.9% over the next two years, remaining within the CEMAC limit of 3%. The budget is expected to be in a deficit of 2.4% of GDP in 2021 and 1.5% of GDP in 2022. The current account balance is expected to remain in deficit at 6% of GDP in 2021 and 5.6% the following year. The country's main risk factor, beyond the persistence of the pandemic, remains the lack of diversification of its oil-based economy, to which is added the structural weakness of inadequate human capital. Indeed, the country has a capacity deficit, particularly in terms of public finance management and governance, that hinders effective implementation of its economic and social transformation policy.

Financing Issues and Options

Guinea's external debt remains low, at around 11.1% of GDP in 2019. However, significant domestic arrears have accumulated since the onset of the commodities crisis, resulting in a public debt-to-GDP ratio of 41.1% in 2019, up from 12.6% in 2014. China is the main external creditor of Guinea, holding about 75% of the external public debt. The stock of public debt is mainly linked to domestic arrears, but the increase in external debt is likely to exacerbate the country's future vulnerability. The government is committed to improving public debt management practices. Under the reform program supported by the IMF, the country's debt strategy will essentially consist of not contracting any new guaranteed loans or new guaranteed loan facilities for three years. The additional financing contracted in the fight against COVID-19 will increase the amount of public debt to 54.6% of GDP in 2020. That should fall to 48.7% of GDP in 2025.

