Country Factsheet

Guinea/Guinée

December 2022

Country – capital	Republique de Guinée - Conakry[1]
Population	Fulani (Peuhl) 33.4%, Malinke 29.4%, Susu 21.2%, Guerze 7.8%, Kissi 6.2%, Toma 1.6%, other/foreign 0.4% (2018 est.) Total population 13.2 million (est. 2022)[2]
Geography	West Africa, at the North Atlantic Ocean, between Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone.[3]
Languages	French (official), Pular, Maninka, Susu, many other ethnic languages. [4]
Writing system	Latin[5]
Education and literacy	39.6 % is literate, with a large gender gap: male 54.4 %, female 27.7 % (est. 2018). [6] Youth literacy rate (ages 15-24) is higher: 46.3%. In 2014, primary enrollment for Guinea was 78.02 %. Primary enrollment of Guinea increased from 44.98 % in 2000 to 78.02 % in 2014, growing at an average annual rate of 4.09%.[7] Education is free and officially compulsory for all children between ages 7-13. The first 6 years of the program take place at primary school, although in practice many rural children never even get this far. A far smaller number of pupils go on to secondary education, the first 4 years at lower secondary school. 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.There are 40 institutions of higher education, both public and private.[8] In 2014, pupil-teacher ratio in primary education for Guinea was 45.6 students per teacher, in secondary education the ratio is 33.1.[9]
Religions	Muslim 89.1%, Christian 6.8%, animist 1.6%, other 0.1%, none 2.4% (2014 est.) [10]
Conflict history and overview	In 1958, Guinea achieved independence from France. Guinea was a constitutional democratic republic until 5 Sept. 2021, when Colonel Mamadi Doumbouya and military special forces arrested President Alpha Conde and seized power through a coup d'etat. In October 2020, after a controversial amendment of the constitution, President Conde had been elected to a third term, leading to widespread electoral violence. Mass demonstrations were crushed by security forces with excessive force, hundreds of arrests.[11] After the coup, oppositional political prisoners were released.
Humanitarian situation	Life expectancy at birth: 63.9 yrs (male 62, female 65.8).[12] Population below poverty line: 43.7 % (2018 est). [13] Guinea faces economic and social challenges, recurrent natural disasters such as floading and is hosting refugees who add to the strain of a struggling economy. The outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in 2014 also devastated health infrastructure in southern parts of the country.[14]
Human rights situation	Significant human rights issues include: unlawful or arbitrary killings, including extrajudicial killings by the (Conde) government; torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment by the government; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions; arbitrary arrest or detention; political prisoners; serious problems with independence of the judiciary; arbitrary/unlawful interference with privacy; serious restrictions on free expression and media; and many more issues.[15]
Situation of women FGM/C – early marriages	Maternal mortality rate: 576 per 100,000 live births (2017).[16] FGM/C is legally prohibited (2016) but 91.7% of all women aged 15-49 have been cut. The percentage is very high in all regions and among all age groups. High support for the practice.[17] The legal minimum age for marriage is 18 years. 47% of girls in Guinea are married before their 18th birthday and 17% before their 15th. 2% of boys are married before the age of 18. Poverty, low education, FGM/C, polygamy are contributing factors.[18]
Situation of LGBTI	Same-sex activities are prohibited and punishable by a prison sentence of 6 months to 3 years and/or a hefty fine.[19] Arbitrary arrest, violence, and harassment by security forces occur on accusation of disrupting the social order. There were no prosecutions in 2021. Harassment, discrimination, forced unwanted hetero marriages occur.[20]
Asylum / migration / internally displaced persons (IDPs)	Malta: Guinea sea arrivals unknown. [21] In 2021 27 persons lodged asylum applications in Malta; in first half of 2022: 8. The largest nr of Guinea asylum applications is in France.[22]

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1 https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/guinea
2 https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/guinea
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This factsheet was compiled by Adri van den Berg for Blue Door Education. Adri worked for many years as a Country of Origin Information (COI) researcher, her final post before retiring being with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) in Malta.