Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

GUINEA

SEPTEMBER 2017

ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

GUINEA

SENEGAL · MALI · Bamako · GUINEA-BISSAU · LIBERIA · SIERRA LEONE · CÔTE D'IVOIRE · ATLANTIC OCEAN

Regions: BOKÉ · LABÉ · MAMOU · KINDIA · FARANAH · KANKAN · NZÉRÉKORÉ

MOYENNE GUINÉE · GUINÉE MARITIME · HAUTE GUINÉE · GUINÉE FORESTIÈRE

Legend:
- ◉ National capital
- ◉ Regional capital
- ○ Administrative regional capital
- ○ Town, village
- ✈ Major airport
- —·— International boundary
- —— Regional boundary
- —··— Administrative regional boundary
- —— Main road
- —— Secondary road
- ·····+ Railroad

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

DISCLAIMER:
The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACLED	Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project
AfDB	African Development Bank
AU	African Union
ADR	Alternative Dispute Mechanisms
AVDR	Association of Volunteers for Rural development
BI	Baïonnette Intelligente
CENAFOD	Centre Africaine de Formation pour le Développement
CPIA	Country Policy and Institutional Assessment
CRA	Conflict Risk Assessment
CRVA	Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
DPA	ECOWAS Directorate of Political Affairs
DPKRS	ECOWAS Directorate of Peacekeeping & Regional Security
ECOWARN	ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECPF	ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework
EGES	La Gestion de Leadership en Milieu Electoral
EU	European Union
EWD	ECOWAS Directorate of Early Warning
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGM/C	Female genital mutilation and cutting
GBV	Gender-based violence
GIS	Geographic Information System
GSDRC	Governance and Social Development Resource Centre
ICC	International Criminal Court
IFI	International Finance Institution
INIDH	*Institution Nationale Indépendante des Droits de l'Homme* (National Independent Institution of Human Rights)
KII	Key Informant Interview
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCUD	Platforme Nationale desk Citoyens Unis pour le Développement
PDG	*Parti Démocratique de Guinée* (Democratic Party of Guinea)
REWARD	Reacting to Early Warning and Response Data in West Africa
RPG	*Rassemblement du Peuple Guinéen* (Rally of the Guinean People)
SAG	Sociéte AngloGold Ashanti
SAWL	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SFCG	Search for Common Ground
SitReps	ECOWARN Situation Reports
SNA	Stakeholder Network Analysis
SSR	Security Sector Reform
UDESKI	Union for the Economic and Social Development of Kissidougou
UFDG	*Union des Forces Démocratiques de Guinée* (Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea)

UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

Message from the President of the ECOWAS Commission

The 15 Member-States of the ECOWAS Community represent a thriving region of the world, with a population of approximately 366 million and a rich human and topographical diversity. From the coastline to the mountain peaks of Fouta Djallon, across the Sahara and the mangroves of the Niger Delta, ECOWAS is home to diverse families, communities, and nations.

Over the last decade, the region has witnessed significant progress in lifting the standard of living for millions. However, along with the richness of natural resources, human capital and great opportunity, there are also challenges to contend with such as natural disasters, pandemics, ethno-sectarian tensions, and security threats caused by extremism and terrorism.

Global developments and changes such as advances in technology, human migration and climate change, have added new levels of complexity, presenting new challenges for strategic planning and preparedness as we look ahead to the future.

This is where Early Warning plays a critical role in helping ECOWAS to understand the changing dynamics so as to strengthen decision making and early response at the regional and national levels. The Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVAs) serve as an important resource in this regard. These reports are useful for strengthening the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework action plans as well as to serve as reference materials for an in-depth understanding of the human security dynamics in our Member States, and for our partners across the region.

I therefore invite national stakeholders, all ECOWAS institutions and our partners to make use of these reports for the entrenchment of peace and progress for the benefit of the Citizens of ECOWAS.

Jean-Claude Brou
President of the ECOWAS Commission

Statement from the Vice President of the ECOWAS Commission

ECOWAS takes pride in finalizing this CRVA report which aims to identify structural vulnerabilities, event driven risks and existing resilience factors in each Member State of the Community. Indeed, this is a remarkable feat towards boosting the African Peace and Security Architecture of the African Union, with ECOWAS setting the pace for the development of an African-owned data set that can be tapped into to enhance human security analysis and accurate forecasting to assist policymakers to make informed decisions on pressing issues in the region. This information can be used as a baseline for ECOWAS and its partners to inform early warning and response efforts, particularly in this time when Early Warning and Response Mechanism is being deployed at the National level.

The CRVA research leverages ECOWARN data—gathered by Field Monitors—to establish a country baseline for monitoring patterns and trends across human security pillars. By comparing ECOWARN data to other data sets, and complementing quantitative data with qualitative findings, the assessments also help the Early Warning Directorate of ECOWAS to gather more robust data that is rich, reliable and empirical. The resulting findings are more representative in terms of geography, time, and theme for each country and needs to be updated periodically.

ECOWAS will consolidate this achievement by applying the knowledge and skills embodied in the CRVA Manual. My conviction for this emanates from the fact that the training of all EWD staff in the development of the CRVA Index, which marks the climax of transfer of knowledge and skills from the USAID REWARD technical staff to ECOWAS, will allow ECOWAS to independently conduct future CRVAs. Already, the EWD has initiated a process to put to practice the defined methodological framework to conduct Regional Risk and Resilience Assessment in the Lake Chad Basin, thereby serving as the first pillar in implementing the decision of the joint ECOWAS and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to engage communities in peacebuilding processes.

We hope the Member States of our Community take ownership of this report and anchor development and peace initiatives upon it, in addressing the risks and vulnerabilities in their communities. As we decentralize Early Warning and Response to the ECOWAS countries, the Commission stands ready to accompany each Member States in the implementation of the actionable recommendations embodied in the CRVA report.

Finda Koroma
Vice President, ECOWAS Commission

Preface

The ECOWAS Early Warning Directorate has made giant strides in the practice of data driven early warning, through the qualitative and quantitative analysis of incidents and situations from multiple sources, with the added benefit of original data generated through the ECOWARN system. Indeed, the Center's state-of-the-art technological tools places it at a vantage position to monitor and analyze risks and vulnerabilities in the ECOWAS region, cutting across the key areas of human security.

ECOWAS has played, and continues to play, a critical role in the monitoring of threats to human security across the region including the Sahelo-Saharan, Mano River, Gulf of Guinea, Lake Chad and Senegambia conflict systems to improve response for the prevention and management of conflict escalation.

Beyond a narrow focus on violent conflict alone, and consistent with its mandate to promote the socioeconomic and political integration of the sub-region, ECOWAS applies a human security lens with a view towards enhancing the well-being of the population in accordance with the ECOWAS Vision 2020. Thus, this report highlights risks, structural vulnerabilities and resilience factors across five dimensions (demographic, economic, security, governance and rule of law) at the national and sub-national levels.

Each CRVA report represents a myriad of perspectives and experiences from affected stakeholders including community leaders, civil society, administrative officials, security agents, traditional and religious leaders, just to mention a few. In this way, the CRVA report serves as a strategic document to provide an overview of the human security challenges in each ECOWAS member state as well as the social and institutional resilience factors that can help manage those challenges.

We hope that this report will be useful for strategic planning in addressing issues of human security as well as to provide insights to a multitude of stakeholders including policy and decision makers in the public and private sectors for conflict-sensitive engagement within the region.

Dr. Abdou Lat Gueye
Director, ECOWAS Early Warning

Executive Summary

From 2016 to 2019, ECOWAS collected quantitative and qualitative data in Guinea to better understand the structural vulnerabilities that may exist, and how those vulnerabilities affect the everyday lives of individuals and communities. This research was done in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Reacting to Early Warning and Response Data in West Africa (REWARD) project, as part of a broader assessment of the entire West African region. As part of this process, a series of focus group discussions and interviews were conducted in August 2017 in Guinea to contextualize the findings and to learn more about resilience factors that mitigate risk and promote human security. The purpose of this report is to summarize these insights and perspectives, so that national stakeholders can build on their successes, and also to serve as a baseline for ECOWAS's monitoring of patterns and trends. The report provides an overview of national and subnational vulnerabilities, risks, and resilience factors, as well as conclusions and recommendations.

The CRVA was conducted by ECOWAS to update and expand upon the Conflict Risk Assessment (CRA) 2013-2014 country reports. To better understand the sub-national patterns and trends, the research design began with a desktop study involving a social network analysis based on a survey of peace and security actors in the country and a scoping of experts to be consulted during the fieldwork. This was followed by a Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis of patterns and trends in escalation dynamics and a quantitative analysis of relative structural vulnerabilities by country and human security pillar.

In Guinea, moderate levels of vulnerability were found across all five pillars (Economics/Resources, Politics/Governance, Population/Demographics, Rule of Law, and Security).

Challenges included Guinea's reliance on commodities and endemic poverty, which were compounded by the legacy of the 2014 Ebola outbreak, with women in rural areas bearing the brunt of the economic consequences. Guinea managed to partially rebound in terms of GDP growth, which dropped to 0.1 percent in 2015 as a result of the crisis and a simultaneous drop in global commodity prices. However, this growth was reliant on mineral extraction and subsistence agriculture, leaving it vulnerable to external economic shocks. Mining was associated with multiple vulnerabilities in Guinea. Internal migration to mining regions was driven by a lack of viable employment alternatives and created pressures on local communities and intensified grievances directed towards mining companies. Environmental degradation and deforestation were noted, as was the proliferation of land-based conflicts in resource-rich areas. Ethnic tensions were noted as a key risk during elections, especially as political divisions fell along ethnic lines.

However, there were strong social and institutional resilience factors for effective dispute resolution and peacebuilding in Guinea. Guinea is relatively insulated against external security threats. And with regard to internal security concerns, volunteer community policing groups have been a source of resilience and have had success in maintaining peace and building trust with local populations. Religious and traditional leaders have been integral to compensating for a lack of access to justice in their role as mediators and promoters of intercommunal tolerance. Civil society groups and NGOs are a consistent source of resilience across multiple pillars. Civic initiatives have contributed to sensitization around healthcare and women's

rights and provided education on the importance of peaceful political processes. Women's and youth groups have also played a key role in bolstering development but could be better integrated into the political and economic life of the country.

The following report aims to provide an overview so that regional and national stakeholders can have a clear picture of the challenges faced by the country as well as the capacities that can be leveraged and built upon for the promotion of sustainable human security in Guinea.

Though risk/incident data naturally fluctuates and may therefore have changed since the publication of this report, the structural vulnerabilities are reflective of medium- and long-term trends. These reports focus on the identification of structural vulnerabilities and resiliencies, and how they may impact upon events and developments as they occur.

Introduction

Research Process

The CRVA assesses structural vulnerabilities, event-driven risks, and social and institutional resilience factors according to five human security pillars as identified by ECOWAS in a 2016 scoping paper.[1] The pillars are: 1) Economics and Resources, 2) Politics and Governance, 3) Population and Demographics, 4) Rule of Law, and 5) Security. Findings in this report describe how risks flow from vulnerabilities in the context of Guinea both within and across the five pillars. In recognition of the fact that violent conflict has underlying social, economic, political, and security drivers but expresses itself differently depending on the context, a holistic human security framework was used in this assessment, and will be used for the CRVAs in all ECOWAS member states. Furthermore, the analysis also breaks out gender considerations and external factors as cross-cutting issues that need to be understood for effective early warning, planning and response.[2]

As shown in the graphic below, the research was conducted in three main phases: Desktop Study, Field Research, and Analysis and Validation.

Phase 1: Desktop Study

The Desktop Study included a preliminary assessment of structural vulnerabilities, event-driven risks, and social and institutional resilience factors.

For the assessment of structural vulnerabilities, the research used data from dozens of sources, including ECOWARN Situation Reports (SitReps). Drawing on these pre-existing data sets,[3] a CRVA Index was created to measure the relative levels of vulnerability across five human security dimensions in Guinea.

---
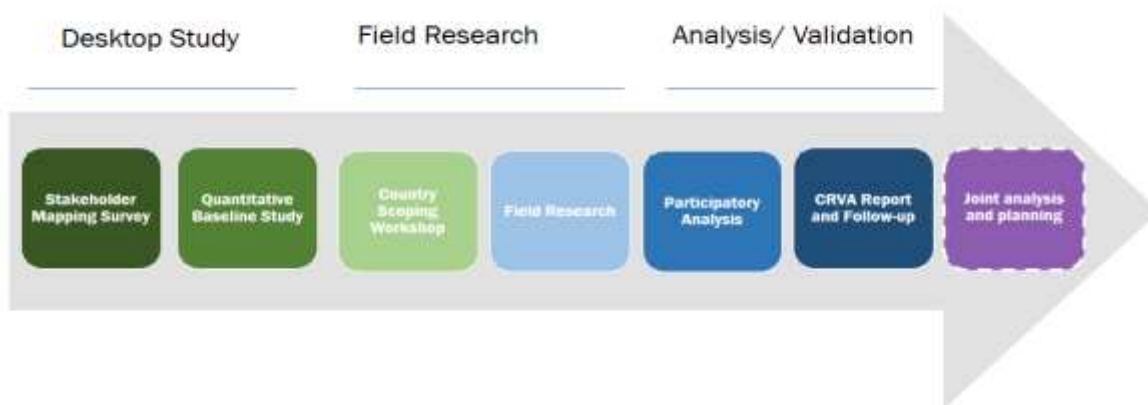
[1] The EWD Scoping Paper was developed by ECOWAS to help inform the CRVA process, with the human security pillars identified based on best practice approaches such as ECOWARN guidelines and the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID) framework.
[2] EWD Scoping Paper on "Risk Assessment of Five ECOWAS Pilot Countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, and Burkina Faso"
[3] Data sources used in the development of the CRVA Index include Global Integrity, the Economist Intelligence Unit, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Transparency International, Freedom House, Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the Armed Conflict Location and Event Database, World Bank, the Center for Security Studies ETH Zurich, Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index, Political Terror Scale, United Nations Refugee Agency, Uppsala University, UN Statistics, and Institute for Economics and Peace.

For the assessment of event-driven risks, event data, including from ECOWARN's Incident Reports (IncReps), was triangulated against data from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) to estimate the locations and type of conflict issues at the sub-national level over time. Using multiple sources allowed for cross-validation, the filling of gaps, and the ability to identify trends in indicators and sub-indicators using queries and key word searches.

For the assessment of social and institutional resilience factors, a survey was deployed to all of ECOWAS's in-country contacts to learn more about the peace and security actors working to manage and reduce risks and vulnerabilities in the country. Respondents (including representatives of religious institutions, public sector actors, civil society, youth groups, and development actors, among others) were also asked to name organizations that they have partnered with in the last two years on issues of peace and security. Data was then uploaded to a Stakeholder Network Map for quantitative analysis and to identify leverage points, spheres of influence, and social capital. Based on this analysis, key technical experts were identified and were contacted for the next phase of the research.

Phase 2: Field Research

The Field Research began with a scoping workshop in Conakry. Using the Stakeholder Network Map, highly-networked technical experts were convened in a workshop to validate the initial desktop findings and suggest a way forward for the qualitative analysis in the field. The Scoping Workshop was also used to tailor and sensitize the broader research questions and the Key Informant Interview (KII) and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) instruments and questionnaires based on local context. Additionally, the Scoping Workshop also served to attain references and contacts for key actors and stakeholders in the field who would be consulted over the course of the next two weeks during the KIIs and FGDs. Thus, the desktop study

phase informed the research questions that needed further context and validation in the field, as well as the sample of respondents to be engaged (what was asked, where, and to whom).

A team of experts and researchers then conducted an in-country assessment between August 15th and August 25th, 2017 with participants from the regions of Boké, Conakry, Faranah, Kankan, Kindia, Labé, Mamou, and Nzérékoré. The team traveled to the various hotspots identified in the desktop study and validated in the Scoping Workshop to interview key stakeholders affected by violence and with knowledge of local context and capacities. This team included representatives from the ECOWAS Directorates of Early Warning (EWD) and Political Affairs (DPA), as well as participants from USAID and affiliated experts. The KIIs and FGDs conducted during this in-country assessment collected qualitative data and information regarding various perspectives on structural vulnerabilities, event-driven risk factors, and social and institutional resilience factors relating to the different conflict issues across the country. These transcripts have been collated, streamlined to reduce repetition and vagueness, and categorized for analysis and prioritization during Phase 3.

Phase 3: Analysis and Validation

After the quantitative, GIS, and survey data was validated and contextualized in the field, and the qualitative data was collected, organized and summarized, this report was drafted and was then validated by ECOWAS and USAID. This report will serve as a baseline and resource for more targeted early warning products and analysis/planning towards strategic and operational prevention of human insecurity within the country of Guinea as well as associated conflict systems (e.g. Mano River) more broadly.

Terminology and Conceptual Definitions

In this CRVA report:

"Vulnerability" is defined as any structural factor that has the potential to be a conflict driver. These can include such things as youth unemployment, poverty, inequality, climate, patronage, demographic factors, etc.

"Risk" is defined as any event-driven factor that has the potential to be a conflict trigger. Risk factors can include specific controversies or events such as disasters or elections that may occur.

"Resilience" is defined as any social or institutional factor that has the potential to help mitigate or manage risks and vulnerabilities. These include political, cultural, and community leadership with significant social capital to influence conflict dynamics in a constructive way, including public sector, private sector, religious institutions, civil society, opinion leaders, development workers, etc. Resilience factors can include institutions that play a stabilizing role in the short, medium, or longer term.

The CRVA analysis was conducted according to the framework depicted in the figure below, whereby event-driven risk factors flow out of the structural vulnerabilities (per the red downward arrow) while social and institutional resilience factors mitigate and prevent those risks and vulnerabilities (per the green upward arrow).

For ECOWAS, this framework is useful in that it is aligned with the existing ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF), which is a strategic tool to strengthen the human security architecture in West Africa. Key to the ECPF are the categories of *"Operational Prevention,"* or measures applicable in the face of crisis, and *"Structural Prevention,"* or measures that ensure that crises do not arise or re-occur. The CRVA framework is aligned with the ECPF such that identified Vulnerability Factors are to be mitigated by Structural Prevention measures, and Risk Factors are to be mitigated by Operational Prevention measures. This alignment is important for the utility and actionability of this report by users in West Africa.

Economics and Resources	Population and Demographics	Politics and Governance	Security	Rule of Law
Structural and Contextual Vulnerability Factors				
Event-Driven Risk Factors				
Social and Institutional Resilience Factors				

Literature Review

A Human-Centric Approach to Early Warning

In academic literature, the human security lens to conflict early warning is a change from the more state-centric approaches that were in vogue throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Historically, early warning was focused on prevention and mitigation of conflict between states. In the post-Cold War period with a surge in intra-state conflict, early warning was focused on identifying the drivers and impacts of civil conflict on states. At that time, analysis focused on terminology of state "collapse" and "failure," emphasizing impacts to neighboring countries or regions, and perpetuating a comparative paradigm of poverty and limited economic growth and conflict in contrast to more developed countries.[4]

However, as a more interconnected human and global security approach emerged in the 2000s, conceptions of state fragility and conflict analysis evolved in both development aid and policy approaches. As the Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC) describes, "At a very broad level, fragility is the result of a dynamic interplay between internal factors (including violent conflict, poverty, economic and structural conditions, weak formal institutions), and external factors (including international political economy, regional and global insecurity)."[5] While not discounting the role of the state as a key vehicle for managing and preventing conflict, the human-centric approach looks first and foremost at the impact of demographic, economic, political, and security conflict drivers on individuals and communities as well as the role that a wide variety of social and

institutional factors play in preventing conflict. Thus, the human security framework provides a holistic approach to understanding different threats that affect individuals' lives, whether this is through conflict, health, food, environment, or other social, political or economic factors.

The United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security outlines a human-centric approach to security in five principles: 1) *People-centered*, with a focus on protecting basic human freedoms; 2) *Multi-sectoral*, encompassing a broad understanding of threats and causes of insecurity; 3) *Comprehensive*, taking into account different types of individuals' security from economic to social; 4) *Context-specific,* emphasizing the need to analyze specific conflict contexts and root causes of insecurity; and 5) *Prevention-oriented,* highlighting locally tailored risk prevention and mitigation measures through early warning mechanisms.[6] This focus on cross-cutting issues and situation-specific analysis and response are central to the CRVA process and broader objectives of integrated conflict early warning and response by ECOWAS and its partners. For the CRVAs, this involves identifying conflict risks, vulnerabilities and resiliencies across the human security pillars of Population and Demographics, Politics and Governance, Security, Economics and Resources, and Rule of Law.

Many indices and development frameworks have emerged for measuring resilience and fragility, from the Fund For Peace's *Fragile States Index*[7] to the African Development Bank (AfDB) and World Bank's *Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA)*[8] and Mo Ibrahim Foundation's *Index of African Governance.*[9] Today, leading international development actors and multilateral

---

[4] "Defining and measuring state fragility: a new proposal", Ferreira, I., The Annual Bank Conference on Africa, June 2015

[5] "Topic Guide on Fragile States", Mcloughlin, C., Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC), August 2009

[6] "Human Security in Theory and Practice", Human Security Unit, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations, January 2009

[7] Fragile States Index, The Fund for Peace

[8] Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA), World Bank and African Development Bank (AfDB)

[9] Ibrahim Index of African Governance, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

agencies such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and the AfDB have also produced strategies, practice areas, and tools, which seek to address the drivers of fragility. The AfDB, for example, has a 2014-2019 Strategy for *Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa*, with a focus on building member state capacities and focusing on "fragile situations rather than fragile states alone."[10]

As the AfDB Strategy notes, however, "there is no single solution and no predefined 'toolbox' for addressing fragility."[11] Older academic and policy conceptions of "state failure" used analysis centered on "traditional, state-centric conceptions of security that focused primarily on the safety of states from military aggression," as outlined in a 2009 paper by the United Nations Human Security Unit. Newer models of analysis have taken on a broader human security lens, which was in "response to the complexity and the interrelatedness of both old and new security threats – from chronic and persistent poverty to ethnic violence, human trafficking, climate change, health pandemics, international terrorism, and sudden economic and financial downturns. Such threats tend to acquire transnational dimensions and move beyond traditional notions of security that focus on external military aggressions alone."[12]

Thus, a human-centric approach, as opposed to a state-centric approach, is important for analyzing risks and vulnerabilities to society for robust early warning and response mechanisms. Human security provides a holistic approach to understanding different threats which affect individuals' lives, whether through conflict, health, food, environment, or other social, political, or economic factors. As such, the CRVAs seek to draw upon the more dynamic and interrelated aspects of risk and vulnerability, which look at capacities and

pressures within a society with a view to identifying structural vulnerabilities, resiliencies and risks across key human security pillars. As defined by the United Nations General Assembly, "human security is an approach to assist Member States in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood, and dignity of their people."[13] This approach is also in line with the ECOWAS Vison 2020 which seeks to promote peace, prosperity, and cohesion across the region,[14] and includes a focus on strengthening many human security aspects within member states.

Research Questions

Based on the initial desktop findings, the team developed a set of framing questions broken out by the five human security pillars. These framing questions were not asked verbatim in the field, but rather informed the design of the KII and FGD instruments. These instruments included simple, open-ended questions intended to prompt a discussion during which respondents could express their opinions, experiences, and perceptions about the ways in which they had been impacted by vulnerabilities, risks, and resilience factors in Guinea.

Politics and Governance: Considering recent democratic gains and the fact that Guinea has returned to civilian rule following the coup in 2008 and the election of Condé in 2010 and 2015, what are the prospects of a sustainable political process, especially in the upcoming parliamentary elections in 2018 and the presidential election in 2020? What are some challenges to state legitimacy, including lingering political patronage and factionalized elites? To what extent will the recent democratic transition help resolve past sociopolitical and economic grievances? What role

---

[10] "Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa, 2014 – 2019", AfDB
[11] Ibid.
[12] "Human Security in Theory and Practice", Human Security Unit, OCHA, United Nations, January 2009

[13] General Assembly resolution 66/290, October 2012
[14] ECOWAS Vision 2020: Towards a Democratic and Prosperous Community, ECOWAS, June 2010

will civil society play in democratic process going forward? What is the potential for renewed interference by the military? How does political influence socio-political dynamics?

Population and Demographics: To what extent is ethnic polarization or land tensions between communities salient factors in the socio-political landscape? Is a disproportionately large population of disenfranchised youth putting a strain on urban resources or public services? To what extent are adverse climatic conditions affecting food security and security in general? Are there groups who are structurally marginalized from political representation or opportunity? What role do women play in social, economic, and political life? How effective is family planning in terms of access and policy? How effective are legal and policy measure to prevent the practice of FGM? As Guinea is recovering from the Ebola crisis, how does public health affect social life?

Economics and Resources: To what extent does natural resource management and disputes over concessions undermine social cohesion? To what extent do volatility in commodity prices, including food and oil prices, affect the most vulnerable and contribute to instability? As Guinea is recovering from the Ebola crisis, how does public health affect economic life? To what extent does out-migration impact the local economy in Guinea?

Security: To what extent does conflict in the region impact security and stability in Guinea, such as refugees, migration, and cross-border issues with neighboring countries? Does radical extremism in the region increase the risk of terrorism or undermine social cohesion? To what extent is ethnic polarization a source of insecurity? Given the history of military mutinies and coups in Guinea what role will the security apparatus play in ensuring national security and civilian protection? What role do communities play in promoting security at the local level?

Rule of Law: Considering the recent democratic transition, what role does the judiciary play as regards questions of justice and impunity? Is the judiciary independent of executive or legislative influence? Outside of the administrative center, is there access to justice and legal services? Is there reliance on alternative/traditional dispute resolution mechanisms? How are law enforcement and judiciary dealing with emergent trans-border threats such as maritime security, arms, human, or drug trafficking? What are the challenges and capacities regarding effective penal and judicial system (prison breaks, mob justice, human rights, etc.)?

Description of the Sample

Data collected and analyzed for this research included hundreds of ECOWARN SitReps, ECOWARN IncReps, ACLED event data, and a scoping survey, as well as transcripts and notes from FGDs and KIIs in the field. Other sources, integrated to form a vulnerability index (the CRVA Index), included Global Integrity, the Economist Intelligence Unit, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Transparency International, Freedom House, Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the Armed Conflict Location and Event Database, World Bank, Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index, Political Terror Scale, United Nations Refugee Agency, Uppsala University, UN Statistics, and Institute for Economics and Peace. A complete breakdown is included in Appendix A.

Data Analysis

ECOWARN data shows fluctuating levels of political, economic, and social vulnerability from 2010-2016 (as measured by taking an average of each months' SitReps scores). In 2013, there was a sharp spike in fatalities due to political and ethnic clashes, especially in the southeastern region of Nzérékoré.
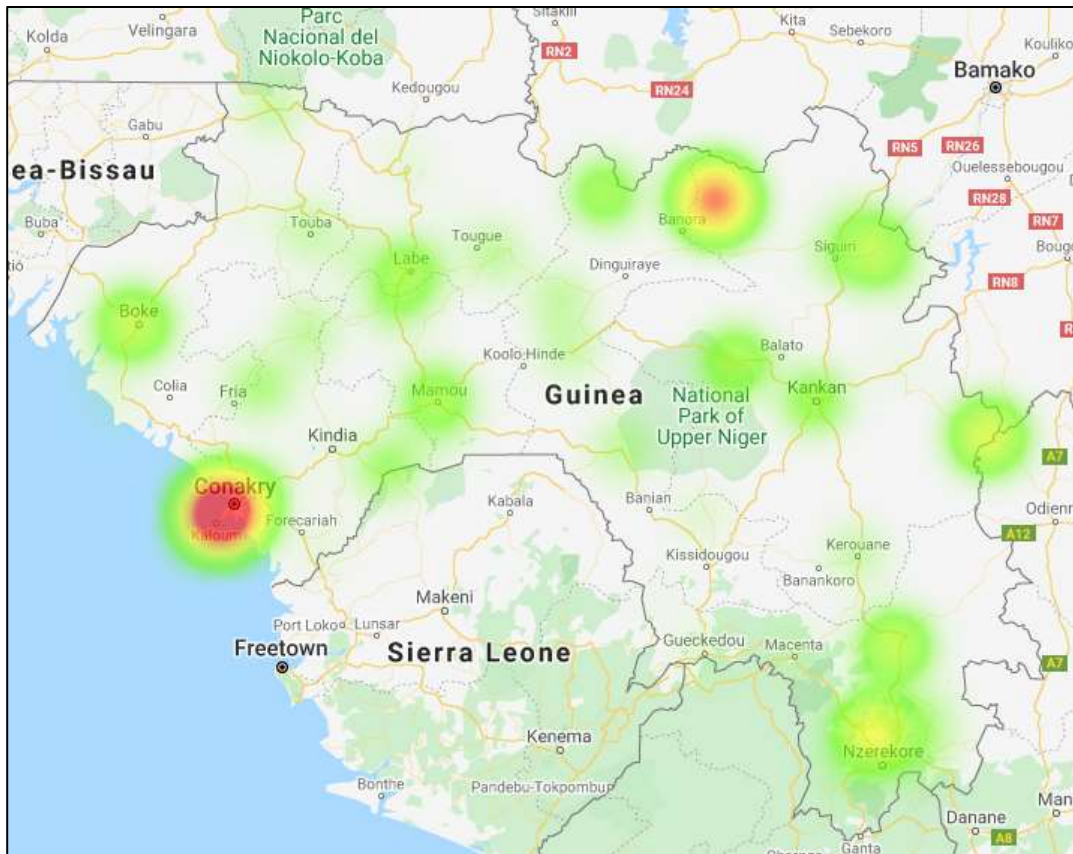
The heatmap above shows hot spots of human security fatalities between 2015 and 2018.
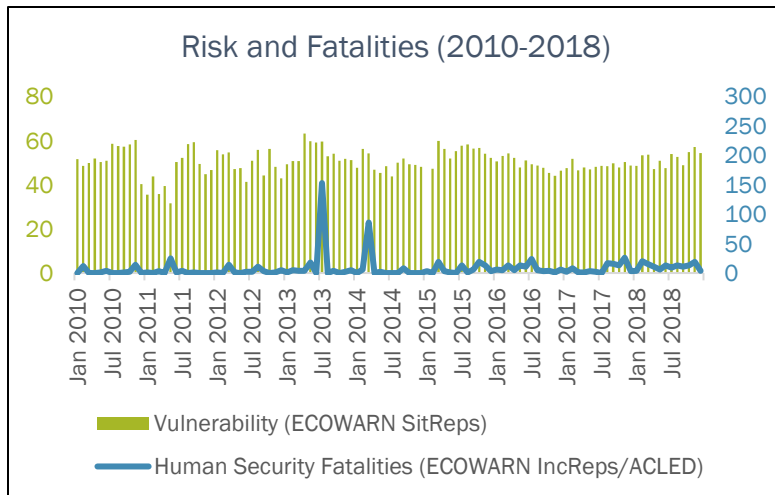
The graph above shows the trends in risk layered against vulnerability. The y axis on the left (0-80) shows the level of vulnerability with a score of over 60 reflecting higher levels of vulnerability. The y axis on the right (0-300) shows the number of fatalities, excluding Ebola-related fatalities, by month as a result of social, economic, political, and security factors.

Field research was conducted across the entire country for a deeper understanding of human security issues and how they affect the Guinean people.

The CRVA Index, shown below, indicates that in Guinea the human security pillar that exhibits the most severe levels of vulnerability is Economics and Resources. Data suggests that Rule of Law is less vulnerable. In the graph below, the lower the score on the y axis (0-10), the more vulnerable the human security pillar.

Relative Vulnerability by Human Security Pillar
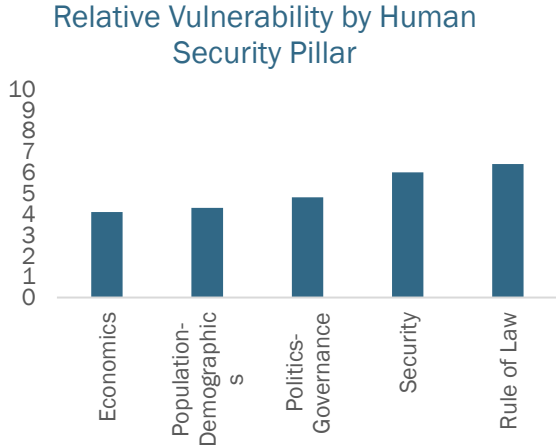
Event data shows hotspots, patterns, and trends at the sub-national level. These include protests, political tensions, and banditry in and around Conakry; criminality in Mamou and Labé, communal tensions and land issues in Kankan, tensions over land use and resources in Siguiri, and a major spike in communal tensions in Nzérékoré in 2013. Field research was undertaken to validate and contextualize these findings through KIIs and FGDs with people directly impacted by identified vulnerabilities and risks.

Scope and Limitations of the Study

This report seeks to layer, triangulate, and juxtapose quantitative, GIS, and qualitative data in a way that is accurate, meaningful, and representative. However, limitations to this analysis include the two- year date range for the event/GIS data and the seven-year date range for the ECOWARN SitReps. If there are conflict cycles that fall outside those parameters, there will be constraints on the ability to analyze those patterns in this report. Furthermore, this research sought to

ensure representativeness of the sample of stakeholders engaged through KIIs (52 prominent individuals) and FGDs (30 focus group discussions). To the extent that these stakeholders were representative, they added vital contextualization and validation of the desktop research.

Scope and limitations also apply to the use and purpose of the study. The CRVA reports support the objectives of ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF). In particular, the CRVA reports identify vulnerabilities across the human security pillars in order to inform structural prevention. Structural prevention, as defined in the ECPF, comprises "political, institutional (governance) and developmental reforms, capacity enhancement and advocacy on the culture of peace." While this report can also be used to inform operational prevention, which includes "early warning, mediation, conciliation, preventive disarmament and preventive deployment using interactive means such as good offices and the ECOWAS Standby Force," it seeks primarily to identify the key areas of structural vulnerability at the national and sub-national levels for strategic planning by ECOWAS and other partners in the peace and security space. However, inasmuch that operational prevention can be informed by patterns and trends in the event-driven risk factors highlighted in this report, the CRVA should serve as a baseline analysis of dynamics that are closely monitored over time. Thereby, in addition to informing strategic planning on structural vulnerability issues, the CRVA will also inform early warning products such as weekly, monthly, and quarterly situation reports that inform analysts and potential responders as to heightened conflict risk across one or more indicators, and propose recommendations on response. The CRVA reports can also be used as a foundation to inform more detailed case studies around identified risks, vulnerabilities and resiliencies for a country of interest or concern.

While many reports that seek to identify structural vulnerabilities and resilience factors focus almost exclusively at the national level, ECOWAS seeks to support a more decentralized early warning and response infrastructure across the region. As such, the CRVA reports also take into consideration dynamics at the sub-national level. These sub-national factors are critical to consider as they help analysts and potential responders understand the context in which specific events (risks) are occurring, which may be markedly different from the national context. A mapping of sub-national level risks, vulnerabilities, and resiliencies can also help inform strategies for engaging at the local level for structural prevention. In particular, as defined by the ECPF, taking "measures to ensure the crises do not arise in the first place or, if they do, that they do no re-occur."

Finally, as also noted in the ECPF, conflict in West Africa tends to be highly interconnected, which often leads to cycles of violence that cross borders and can keep countries emmeshed for decades. The CRVA reports, covering all fifteen member states of ECOWAS, are also useful in helping to inform and understand the dynamics of specific regional conflict systems, such as those that occur across the Mano River and Sahel. These regional conflict systems are influenced and interconnected not only historically and culturally, but also share many of the same structural vulnerabilities that give rise to risks and the eventual outbreak of violence, decade after decade. Thus, the CRVA reports present an opportunity to view not only the specific national and sub-national factors that lead to structural vulnerability and heightened risk, they also help highlight the nature of regional conflict systems, and the need for a holistic and systemic lens in both analysis and response.

Country Background

Since gaining independence from France in 1958, Guinea has experienced significant political instability, marked by coup d'états, governmental corruption and periods of military rule. The country's first president, independence leader Ahmed Sékou Touré, ruled Guinea as a one-party state under the Democratic Party of Guinea (*Parti Democratique de Guinée* - PDG) until his death in 1984. Touré's rule was marked by violent suppression of opposition groups, crackdowns on civil and political rights, and abuses by security forces.[15]

Soon after Touré's death in March 1984, Colonel Lansana Conté led a military coup against the interim government and was named president. Conté consolidated power, repelling an attempted coup by then-Prime Minister Diarra Traoré in 1985, and effectively continued Touré's authoritarian rule. Abuses by security forces - including extrajudicial killings, "disappearances", and arbitrary arrests - and suppression of civil and political rights continued.[16] There were also several attempted assassinations and mutinies during this period by soldiers over the failure to pay salaries. Facing increasing domestic and international pressure, Conté dissolved the military government and held multi-party elections in 1993. Conté won the 1993 elections, and proceeded to be re-elected in 1998 and 2003, though opposition leaders contested the outcomes of these elections and international observers reported incidents of vote rigging and arrest of opposition figures.[17]

Conté died in office in December 2008, and within hours of the announcement of his death, a group of soldiers led by Captain Moussa Dadis Camara announced the dissolution of the civilian government. Both the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU) suspended Guinea's membership in response to the coup.[18,19] In September 2009, opposition party members gathered in a stadium in Conakry to demand that Camara step down. Security forces loyal to Camara, led by members of the presidential guard, opened fire on the crowd, killed more than 150 people, and raped more than 100 women.[20] In December 2009, Camara was shot and wounded by his aide de camp,[21] and the military junta announced a transition to civilian rule.

Elections were held in 2010 and Alpha Condé, leader of the opposition party Rally of the Guinean People (*Rassemblement du Peuple Guinéen* - RPG), was elected president.[22] Violence between supporters of the RPG and another leading opposition party, the Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea (*Union des Forces Démocratiques de Guinée* – UFDG), broke out before and after the November polls, often along ethnic lines, leading to the declaration of a state of emergency.[23] In addition, international observers noted a number of irregularities during the first and second rounds of voting; however, the Supreme Court confirmed

---

[15] "Dying for Change: Brutality and Repression by Guinean Security Forces in Response to a Nationwide Strike", Human Rights Watch, April 2007.

[16] "Guinea: Does the Political Will Exist to Improve Human Rights?", Amnesty International, November 1995.

[17] "Dying for Change: Brutality and Repression by Guinean Security Forces in Response to a Nationwide Strike", Human Rights Watch, April 2007.

[18] "Guinea suspended from Ecowas", Radio France Internationale, January 2009.

[19] "African Union Suspends Guinea's Membership", Voice of America, November 2009.

[20] "Guinea: Stadium Massacre, Rape Likely Crimes Against Humanity", Human Rights Watch, December 2009.

[21] "Guinea aide admits shooting Moussa Dadis Camara", The Guardian, December 2009.

[22] "Observing the 2010 Presidential Elections in Guinea: Final Report", The Carter Center.

[23] "Guinea: Post-Election Violence Prompts a State of Emergency and a Curfew", The New York Times, November 2010.

the results and Condé was sworn into office in December 2010.[24]

Since taking office, Condé has pursued certain reforms and taken steps toward reconciliation and accountability for past human rights abuses. Condé established the Provisional Commission for Reflection and National Reconciliation in 2011 and appointed two religious figures – the Grand Imam of Conakry and the Archbishop of Conakry – to head the commission.[25] In addition, the National Human Rights Commission (INIDH) was established in 2015, although the Commission has been criticized for a lack of transparency and failure to fulfill its mandate.[26] Condé faced criticism in 2013 for repeatedly delaying legislative elections, sparking violent protests. In July 2013, the UN brokered a compromise between the government and the opposition, and legislative elections were finally held in September 2013.[27] Political tensions also resulted in violence ahead of the 2015 elections, but Condé was re-elected in 2015 with 58 percent of the vote.[28] International observers declared the vote to be valid but noted serious logistical and organizational difficulties during the election process.[29]

As a country transitioning from decades of authoritarian and military rule, with security forces that have routinely committed abuses and interfered in governance, the possibility of political violence and instability in Guinea remains high. With a legacy of governmental corruption and power centralized in the presidency and the military, much of the country remains underdeveloped and state institutions such as the

court system are generally weak and under-resourced.

In 2014, Guinea's transition was further undermined by an outbreak of the Ebola virus, which quickly spread to neighboring countries and sparked a crisis of global proportions. In response, President Condé imposed strict quarantine and travel restrictions, but the virus continued to proliferate across borders. By the time the country was declared Ebola-free in December 2015, Guinea had reported 3,814 suspected cases of Ebola and 2,544 deaths.[30] Beyond health and humanitarian considerations, the Ebola epidemic disrupted the country's economy, schools, and development, and further undermined the already-weak healthcare system. A 2015 survey by the World Bank found that income for rural households and for women in Ebola-affected areas declined by 30 percent during the epidemic, and that urban unemployment doubled from eight percent to 16 percent.[31] The Ebola crisis coincided with a drop in global commodity prices, resulting in a GDP growth of just 0.1 percent in 2015.[32]

Economically, Guinea is reliant on mineral extraction – primarily bauxite, gold, diamonds and iron ore – and subsistence agriculture, leaving the country susceptible to global market volatility and food insecurity. Poverty is widespread; 55 percent of the population lived below the poverty line in 2012.[33] Youth unemployment is also a key concern, particularly given the country's growing youth population.[34]

Though the leading security concerns in some of Guinea's neighbors include terrorism or external

[24] "Observing the 2010 Presidential Elections in Guinea: Final Report", The Carter Center.
[25] "Launch of national consultations in Guinea: laying the foundations for reconciliation", International Federation for Human Rights, March 2015.
[26] "Guinea: Events of 2016", Human Rights Watch.
[27] "Guinea: UN's Ban hails 'breakthrough' political deal between government, opposition", UN News, July 2013.
[28] "Guinea president Conde wins re-election with clear majority", Samb, S., Reuters, October 2015.

[29] "République de Guinée: Élection Présidentielle 11 Octobre 2015: Rapport Final", European Union, Electoral Observation Mission, December 2015.
[30] "2014 Ebola Outbreak in West Africa – Case Counts", Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, April 2016.
[31] "Guinea: Overview", World Bank
[32] "GDP growth (annual %)", World Bank
[33] "Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty lines (% of population)", World Bank
[34] "Defusing Guinea's youth unemployment time bomb", IRIN, September 2013.

threats, Guinea's primary security threats tend to emanate from within. Political instability, underpaid security forces and widespread governmental corruption are all leading challenges to stability in Guinea. Guinea's resilience in the area of security will rely heavily upon changes to its political and governmental culture, foremost being its capacity to adequately compensate and reform its security forces. As noted above, grievances within the security forces have resulted in mutinies, and the military has routinely interfered in government, most recently in 2008.

Though security continues to pose challenges for Guinea, the country has however made some progress in the area of Rule of Law. Since 2010, the judiciary has increasingly demonstrated independence from political influence and has also maintained a gender balance that is well above the regional average. However, the judicial system struggles in its ability to hold Guinean security forces accountable for their actions and is largely intertwined with Guinea's unstable political atmosphere, which may prove threatening to the country's stability in the future.

National-Level Vulnerabilities, Risks and Resiliencies

Based on desktop research using the ECOWARN and ACLED data sets, surveys of peace and security actors in key regions in Guinea, field research that included KIIs and FGDs, and participatory analysis by the CRVA field research team, the following national-level risks, vulnerabilities, and resilience factors were identified:

Structural Vulnerabilities	**Economics and Resources** • Food insecurity • Inflation and rising food prices • Dependence on primary commodities • High levels of poverty throughout the country • High youth unemployment • Undiversified economy (reliance on mining of raw materials and subsistence agriculture) • Weak governance of natural resources • Poor infrastructure (roads, electricity, water, sanitation) • Reliance on imported commodities • Weak currency • Capital flights • Underdeveloped private sector and SMEs • High cost of living • Deforestation and environmental degradation **Population and Demographics** • Land- and resource-based conflicts • Lack of social infrastructure • Poor access to social services (including healthcare and education) • High emigration of youth • Rural-urban migration • Cultural barriers to family planning • Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), gender-based violence, and child marriage • Large unemployed youth population • Development gap between rural and urban areas • Lack of adequate waste management system • Unplanned urbanization • High illiteracy rate

Politics and Governance
- Ethnic and political polarization
- Perceptions of corruption within the political system
- Underrepresentation of women and youth in political decision-making
- Weak institutions
- Perceptions of corruption
- Bad governance
- Lack of separation of powers
- Contentious and politicized electoral management institution
- History of military coup d'états
- Weak implementation of decentralization policies

Security
- Abuses by security forces
- Inadequate resources and training for security forces
- Porous borders
- Proliferation of small arms and light weapons
- Drug trafficking
- Criminality

Rule of Law
- Lack of trust in the formal justice system
- Lack of adequate resources and staffing within the judiciary
- Perception of corruption and impunity in the judicial system
- Lack of infrastructure for the judicial system
- Failure to respect due process
- Lack of judicial independence
- Poor prisons and detention conditions
- Backlog of court cases including long period of detention without trial

Event-Driven Risks

Economics and Resources
- Fluctuations of global commodity prices
- Economically-driven social grievances/tensions/protests
- Protests because of the poor governance of the mining sector
- Tensions/conflict between communities and mining and logging companies

Population and Demographics
- Disease outbreaks
- Social tensions/unrest
- Flooding
- Road accidents
- Crackdown on the media
- Conflict between farmers and herders
- Communal conflicts

Politics and Governance
- 2018 legislative elections and 2020 presidential elections
- Attempts to extend presidential mandate
- Coups d'état
- Electoral violence
- Demonstrations
- Non implementation of the political agreement of October 2016

Security
- Land- and resource-based conflicts
- Conflicts between ethnic groups
- Violent political protests
- Land conflicts
- Security crackdown during protests/demonstrations
- Communal conflicts
- Self-defense groups

Rule of Law
- Incidents of corruption within the court system
- Mob justice
- Violations of human rights
- Interference in legal processes

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors	**Economics and Resources**

Economics and Resources
- Vibrant informal sector
- Reform of the mining sector
- Subsistence farming
- Available micro-finance institutions
- Abundant water resources

Population and Demographics
- The "joking relationship" (*cousinage à plaisanterie*)
- Inter-marriages
- Strong social cohesion
- The role of religious and traditional leaders
- Vibrant civil society
- Presence of regional and international organizations

Politics and Governance
- Civil society groups, including NGOs and women's and youth groups
- Civic education initiatives
- Political dialogue
- Support from the international including regional actors
- Influence of religious and traditional institutions

Security
- Traditional leaders and local opinion leaders
- Religious leaders
- Joint border cooperation with neighboring countries
- Security sector reforms
- Religious tolerance
- Alternative dispute mechanisms

Rule of Law
- Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms
- Role of religious and traditional institutions
- The role of right organizations
- "Le Médiateur de la République"
- Legal aid services

Economics and Resources (Most Vulnerable Pillar)

Vulnerabilities	- Food insecurity - Inflation and rising food prices - Dependence on primary commodities - High levels of poverty throughout the country - High youth unemployment - Undiversified economy (reliance on mining of raw materials and subsistence agriculture) - Weak governance of natural resources - Poor infrastructure (roads, electricity, water, sanitation) - Reliance on imported commodities - Weak currency - Capital flights - Underdeveloped private sector and SMEs - High cost of living - Deforestation and environmental degradation
Risks	- Fluctuations of global commodity prices - Economically-driven social grievances/tensions/protests - Protests because of the poor governance of the mining sector - Tensions/conflict between communities and mining and logging companies

Vulnerabilities and Risks

According to the CRVA Index, the greatest vulnerability for Guinea is in the area of Economics and Resources. Guinea's economy is largely reliant on subsistence agriculture and the mining sector, including the extraction of bauxite, iron ore, gold, and diamonds,[35] and is thus vulnerable to global fluctuations in commodity prices. Further, underdevelopment of infrastructure compounded by decades of inadequate governance and insufficient levels of investment have broadly undermined Guinea's long-term economic potential, which remains largely unrealized. An example of the effect of this underdevelopment is hydroelectric power. Although Guinea has

significant potential in this area – the country is home to the sources of the Niger, Gambia and Senegal rivers – the country currently utilizes less than five percent of its technically exploitable potential.[36] A result of this underdevelopment is that two-thirds of the population lacks access to electricity,[37] with the figure rising to over ninety percent in rural areas.[38]

In 2014-2015, the Guinean economy experienced twin shocks stemming from the Ebola epidemic and a drop in global commodity prices, with this situation compounded by deep political uncertainty ahead of the 2015 elections.[39] As a result, in 2015 Guinea had a GDP growth rate of a mere 0.1 percent.[40] The economy has since rebounded, with the GDP growth rate in 2016 jumping to 5.2

---

[35] "Republic of Guinea: Country Strategy Paper 2012-2016", African Development Bank, December 2011.
[36] "Guinea", International Hydropower Association, May 2016.
[37] "Access to electricity (% of population)", World Bank

[38] "Access to electricity, rural (% of rural population)", World Bank
[39] "GDP growth (annual %)", World Bank
[40] Ibid.

percent, due largely to volatile commodities demand that underpinned increased production of bauxite, gold, and agricultural products. The country's growth rate for 2017 is projected to be slightly lower, at 4.4 percent.[41] Though the Guinean economy rebounded, this was more to do with volatility of commodity prices rather than any structural improvement in the Guinean economy, which continues to suffer from a significant budget deficit, and high rates of unemployment. Unless more structural issues in the economy are addressed, Guinea's reliance on primary commodities will again make it vulnerable to global commodity price fluctuations. Further, the long-term effects of the Ebola epidemic, though not necessarily a structural issue, nevertheless continue to also undermine the manufacturing and service sectors.[42]

During the fieldwork interviews, participants identified poverty, youth unemployment, tensions over mining and environmental degradation as key vulnerabilities in Guinea. Poverty remains endemic in Guinea - indeed, prior to the Ebola outbreak, an estimated 55 percent of the Guinean population lived below the poverty line.[43] It is suggested that the Ebola outbreak reversed a previous trend of poverty reduction, particularly in rural communities, with rates of poverty increasing by between 2.2 percent and 7.9 percent in 2014-2015.[44] Food security also continues to be a concern, with an estimated 1.9 million people, or roughly 17.5 percent of the population, considered to be food insecure.[45] Participants throughout the country reported an increase in inflation and rising prices for staple foods such as rice and sugar, which has contributed to the food security issues and generally to the cost of living. Many interviewees connected this rise in prices to a lack of market regulation by the government.

As formal banks and credit are often difficult to access, particularly in rural areas, microfinance initiatives are widely used. Specific programs identified by the fieldwork participants include those of the Financial Cooperative for Women of Africa (*Mutuelle Financière pour les Femmes d'Afrique* – MUFFA), Plan Guinea, Crédit Rural, and the Union for Economic and Social Development of Kissidougou (UDESKI). Some participants noted that these programs have been successful in extending credit to vulnerable populations, particularly women. Others, however, expressed concern that the effectiveness of these programs is undermined by short repayment times, high interest rates, corruption, and a lack of youth-oriented initiatives.

Youth unemployment was also identified as an ongoing concern, linked to a lack of vocational training. Guinea has a large and growing youth population, and rates of youth unemployment are high – as much as 60 percent according to some government statistics.[46] In the Boké and Kankan regions, fieldwork participants noted that local youth are unable to find employment with mining companies in the area because they lack the necessary training, which in some cases has led to frustration and tensions. Other participants expressed concern that grievances around unemployment and poverty could make youth susceptible to manipulation by political actors.

As noted above, Guinea possesses significant natural resources and mining operations -- both artisanal and formal -- are active in many parts of the country, in the regions of Boké, Faranah, Kankan, and Kindia. While some participants noted that these companies have brought employment and, in some cases, infrastructure and social services, many local communities

[41] "Guinea: Overview", World Bank
[42] "Republic of Guinea: Country Strategy Paper 2012-2016", African Development Bank, December 2011.
[43] "Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty lines (% of population)", World Bank

[44] "Socio-Economic Impact of Ebola Virus Disease in West African Countries", United Nations Development Group, February 2015.
[45] "WFP Guinea Country Brief", World Food Programme, November 2017.
[46] "Defusing Guinea's youth unemployment time bomb", IRIN, September 2013.

reported tensions and grievances stemming from the presence of mining operations. For example, perceptions that mining companies are not hiring locals, are ignoring provisions of the mining code, or are failing to invest in community development projects were raised as concerns in the Boké and Faranah regions. In the Kankan region, participants reported that an influx of workers from other regions of Guinea and from neighboring countries to work in the mines has contributed to social and public health concerns such as crime, drug use, prostitution, and the spread of HIV in the area. In the Faranah region, participants also noted that the prevalence of mining, combined with a lack of alternative viable employment opportunities, has led to higher rates of school dropouts among youth.

Mining, logging and other human activities (such as charcoal burning) have also contributed to significant deforestation and environmental degradation, particularly in eastern and southern Guinea.[47] In the Kankan region, for example, fieldwork participants reported that mining has depleted soil quality and polluted water sources with cyanide and mercury. These concerns have been exacerbated by reports of recent drought and lower levels of rainfall, which are affecting agricultural outputs throughout the country.

"Trees that should not be cut are cut. All this is done because the authorities are corrupted by money. The forest has almost disappeared to give way to the savannah."

- Women's Leader, Nzérékoré

Finally, land- and resource-based conflicts are a recurrent concern in Guinea, both between individuals, families and communities, as well as with mining companies. Fieldwork participants reported cases of herder-farmer conflicts

(including across the borders with Mali and Côte d'Ivoire) and disputes over boundaries and land ownership. Particularly in urban areas, the re-sale of land to multiple people is an issue, and the process of obtaining land title is often unclear. Some participants also reported that the presence of mining companies has spurred competition for land by raising prices and contributing to disputes over land and profit-sharing when gold or other minerals are found.

"The economic impact of mining is not much felt in the population. Only 0.5 percent of mining revenues are expected to be reinvested in the area in question in the form of health centers, schools, etc. These amounts are diverted by local authorities, sometimes causing uprisings."

- Interview with the Ministry of Economy and Finances, Conakry

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors

Fieldwork participants reported that NGOs and civil society groups, including women's and youth groups, play an important role in development activities. In addition, microfinance and other financial initiatives were often identified as being a source of resilience when they are available, but some participants noted barriers such as short repayment periods or high interest rates that deter women and youth from participating. Finally, fieldwork participants identified several mechanisms for resolving disputes and grievances between local communities and mining companies – namely, the creation of local peace committees by the Ministry of Mining and the *tomboloma* (a traditional group consisting of youth elders and workers who oversee and resolve mining-related disputes) in Mandiana.

---

[47] "The Deforestation of the Upper Guinean Forest", U.S. Geological Survey

Population and Demographics (Second Most Vulnerable Pillar)

Vulnerabilities	- Land- and resource-based conflicts - Lack of social infrastructure - Poor access to social services (including healthcare and education) - High emigration of youth - Rural-urban migration - Cultural barriers to family planning - Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), gender-based violence, and child marriage - Large unemployed youth population - Development gap between rural and urban areas - Lack of adequate waste management system - Unplanned urbanization - High illiteracy rate
Risks	- Disease outbreaks - Social tensions/unrest - Flooding - Road accidents - Conflict between farmers and herders - Communal conflicts

Vulnerabilities and Risks

Guinea is an ethnically diverse country, dominated by the Fulani, Malinké, and Soussou ethnic groups, who account for 40 percent, 30 percent, and 20 percent of the population respectively.[48] The demographic makeup is roughly reflected in regional divisions -- the Fulani live primarily in the central *Moyenne Guinée* area (Labé, Mamou, and parts of Boké regions), the Malinké live in the eastern *Haute Guinée* area (Kankan and Faranah) and parts of *Guinée Forestière*, and the Soussou are centered in the western coastal regions (*la Guinée Maritime*). Apart from the three most dominant ethnic groups, Guinea's population is also made up of smaller groups including the Kissi, the Kpelle, and the Toma, as well as a limited population of foreign nationals. These smaller ethnic groups live primarily in *Guinée Forestière*, located along the border with Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire.

At approximately 85 percent, the vast majority of the Guinean population is Muslim. Christians account for 10 percent of the population, while the remaining 5 percent follow indigenous or animist religious practices.[49] Though Muslims are a majority in all regions of the country, the Christian population is concentrated primarily in Conakry and *Guinée Forestière*, the latter also being home to the population that practices indigenous and animist religions.[50] While relationships between religious groups in Guinea are reportedly peaceful, increasing ethnic polarization – driven by the alignment of ethnic identities and political party

---

[48] "Guinea: Ethnic composition of police and military forces", Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, May 2014.

[49] "Guinea", U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor
[50] Ibid.

affiliation – was identified as a primary concern among fieldwork participants.

Key population and demographic issues identified in the field research also include a large and growing youth population, poor infrastructure and services (including healthcare and education), population migration, female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C), early marriage, and high rates of gender-based violence (GBV).

Guinea has a large youth population – 42.4 percent of the population is under the age of 15, as compared to a mere 3.1 percent over the age of 65.[51] Furthermore, population is growing at a rate of 2.5 percent per year.[52] The use of family planning remains limited in Guinea, and the country has one of the lowest rates of contraceptive usage in the world; in 2012 only 5.6 percent of Guinean women between the ages of 15 and 49 reported using any form of contraception.[53] Participants in the fieldwork noted that, while sensitization around family planning is being conducted by NGOs, community radio stations and some local leaders, efforts are hindered by strong cultural and religious taboos around the subject. Women in several different focus groups reported that women who choose to practice family planning must often do so in secret, for fear of being divorced by their husbands. As the youth

"One leader told his community that family planning is not good for them, that it is for developed countries. He said that, in order for the Fulani to take power in this country, they must have many children. …So you have to make more children to run for all the elections in the country."

- Meeting with the Ministry of Health, Conakry

population expands, issues identified in the field research, such as unemployment, high illiteracy rates and low primary school enrollment, will pose ever-greater obstacles for sustainable development in Guinea. As noted by some participants, unemployment and grievances around poverty may also raise youth vulnerability to political manipulation.

Interviewees in the field research also reported low levels of infrastructure (including roads, electricity, clean water and sanitation) and poor access to social services such as healthcare and education. Guinea's health system was famously strained by the 2014-2015 Ebola epidemic, which resulted in more than 2,500 deaths in the country.[54] While a return of Ebola was not considered an immediate threat by most participants, many noted that advances in health protocols put in place during the epidemic (such as hand-washing) have since been largely abandoned, leaving Guinea vulnerable to Ebola or other similar diseases should another outbreak occur. In some regions, Nzérékoré in particular, myths and confusion around Ebola's origin -- one interviewee reported a belief that Ebola was brought by the government to delay elections -- further undermine public health campaigns. Though the pressure placed on the health infrastructure by Ebola is well-known, other structural concerns in the health sector remain, such as limited coverage in rural areas, a shortage of skilled healthcare workers, poor drug and vaccine delivery, and high costs for patients.[55] For example, in multiple regions interviewees reported that while, by law, Caesarean sections are now provided free-of-charge, hospitals continue to charge patients for the cost of medication and supplies, creating a barrier for poor populations. Poor access to healthcare has also contributed to Guinea's high rate of maternal mortality (679 per 100,000 live births).[56]

[51] "Population ages 65 and above (% of total)", World Bank
[52] "Population growth (annual %)", World Bank
[53] "World Contraceptive Use 2016", UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division
[54] "2014 Ebola Outbreak in West Africa – Case Counts", Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, April 2016.

[55] "Guinea: A Country Status Report on Health and Poverty", World Bank, March 2006.
[56] "Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate, per 100,000 live births)", World Bank

Guinea is also experiencing trends of internal migration and emigration, both driven by poverty and unemployment. In the Kankan, Faranah and Boké regions, fieldwork participants reported an influx of workers from other parts of Guinea and from neighboring countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal due to mining. In the Kankan region, this demographic shift has reportedly contributed to tensions with local populations, who have expressed concerns around crime and in some cases refused to allow foreigners to settle in their communities. Poverty and unemployment have also contributed to a strong trend of emigration to Europe, particularly among young Guinean men. Fieldwork participants in the Boké, Faranah, Kankan, Labé, and Mamou regions reported high rates of emigration, with one woman in Dinguiraye stating that, "now the young are in exile and only the elderly remain in the villages."

Finally, gender-based violence (GBV), FGM/C and early marriage are salient issues facing women in Guinea. Although FGM/C is prohibited under Guinean law, fieldwork participants reported that the practice is still widespread (though it is now practiced clandestinely in most regions) and is deeply rooted in Guinean culture. Early marriage is common, with more than half of women married (or in an equivalent union) before the age of 18.[57] While participants noted that the practice is decreasing in many areas, some highlighted that the *Haute Guinée* region has continued to see high rates of early marriage, particularly among Fulani communities. Both women and men also reported cases of domestic and sexual violence, including abuse of underage girls, and sexual harassment in the workplace.

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors

Participants in the field research reported that NGOs and civil society groups are actively involved in advocacy, sensitization and programming around issues such as healthcare, women's rights, FGM/C, early marriage and family planning. Religious and traditional leaders play an important role in promoting social cohesion and easing tensions between ethnic groups. The practice of the "joking relationship" (*cousinage à plaisanterie*) was also noted by some participants as a source of resilience in encouraging social cohesion between ethnic groups and communities.

---

[57] "Guinea: Child Marriage", Girls Not Brides

Politics and Governance (Third Most Vulnerable Pillar)

Vulnerabilities	• Ethnic and political polarization • Perceptions of corruption within the political system • Underrepresentation of women and youth in political decision-making • Weak institutions • Perceptions of corruption • Bad governance • Lack of separation of powers • Contentious and politicized electoral management institution • History of military coup d'états • Weak implementation of decentralization policies
Risks	• 2018 legislative elections and 2020 presidential elections • Attempts to extend presidential mandate • Coups d'état • Electoral violence • Demonstrations • Non-implementation of the political agreement of October 2016

Vulnerabilities and Risks

During the fieldwork, participants identified ethnic polarization during elections, risk of political violence, perceptions of corruption and ineffectiveness, and political stagnancy as key political vulnerabilities in Guinea. Additionally, interviewees highlighted widespread frustration with the failure of politicians to follow through on campaign promises. Fieldwork participants noted that limited access to water and poor sanitation infrastructure are key concerns in many regions.

Ethnic polarization, especially during elections, was cited by fieldwork participants as a key vulnerability throughout Guinea. Political affiliations in Guinea often follow ethnic lines, creating an inherent risk of conflating political and ethnic grievances -- for example, supporters of the ruling RPG are majority Mandingo and Soussou, while supporters of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea (UFDG) are largely Fulani.[58] As successive

presidents have favored their own ethnic groups in politics and government, ethno-political polarization appears to be growing at the elite level and contributing to increased sentiments of ethnic-based exclusion among opposition groups.[59]

During an interview with the opposition UFDG party, participants detailed growing frustration with delays and a lack of preparation for legislative and municipal elections. Fieldwork participants also highlighted widespread concern that President Condé will run for a third term. Due to the uncertain political environment, there is little confidence in the political system. Perceptions of corruption around mining concessions, drug trafficking, and border control were highlighted during the fieldwork. In 2016, President Condé and his son were implicated in alleged corruption scandals involving the mining companies Sable Mining[60] and

---

[58] "BTI 2016 | Guinea Country Report", Bertelsmann Stiftung
[59] Ibid.

[60] "Guinea to take legal action against Global Witness – president", Samb, S., Reuters, May 2016.

Rio Tinto,[61] although the president denies these claims.

Political violence is a key concern in Guinea, as violence between supporters of political parties has occurred ahead of elections (most recently in 2015) with protestors met with violence, arbitrary detention or torture by security forces.[62] In September 2009, security forces, including members of the elite Presidential Guard, massacred opposition protestors at a stadium in Conakry, killing more than 150 people and raping nearly 100 women and girls.[63] Despite some progress in the investigation, which has been referred to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for alleged crimes against humanity, the case is still pending in the courts.

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors

Civil society groups, including local and international NGOs who implement civic education, voter education and awareness-raising programs were also identified as a key source of resiliency. Civic education initiatives play an important role in the promotion of peaceful elections. Interviewees also cited government initiatives aimed at providing a grievance mechanism for local populations to voice concerns as a resilience factor.

[61] "Audio recordings drag Guinea president into mine bribery scandal", Perelman, M., France 24, December 2016.
[62] "Guinea: One Year On, No Justice for Election Violence", Human Rights Watch, October 2016.

[63] "Guinea: September 28 Massacre Was Premeditated", Human Rights Watch, October 2009.

Security (Fourth Most Vulnerable Pillar)

Vulnerabilities	- Abuses by security forces - Inadequate resources and training for security forces - Porous borders - Proliferation of small arms and light weapons - Drug trafficking - Criminality
Risks	- Land- and resource-based conflicts - Conflicts between ethnic groups - Violent political protests - Land conflicts - Security crackdown during protests/demonstrations - Communal conflicts - Self-defense groups

Vulnerabilities and Risks

Though Guinea is situated in a region that has seen multiple terrorist incidents in recent years, the threat of terrorism within the country's borders is relatively low. Guinea faces greater security threats stemming from internal issues, such as political tensions, criminality, and poorly-funded police and public security forces.

In the field research, crime and armed banditry were identified as key concerns among local populations across the country. Additionally, public security forces were reported to be under-resourced and ineffective in many regions. Tension and mistrust between local populations and security forces was reported by interviewees due to perceptions of corruption and reports of excessive force and abuse of civilians. In some regions, fieldwork participants discussed incidents of violent crackdown during political protests that resulted in multiple fatalities. As noted above, elections are routinely violent and unstable events in Guinea. In 2010, the military declared a state of emergency after violence broke out around the presidential elections.[64] During the 2015 presidential elections, at least ten people were killed and dozens more were injured, arrested or tortured by security forces.[65] Due to a lack of police presence in several regions, fieldwork participants described an increase in volunteer neighborhood watch groups and community policing groups, stating that these groups have been successful in maintaining security and are viewed positively by local populations.

The Guinean military has a long history of deep involvement in politics, beginning in 1984 with the coup d'état that brought Lansana Conté to power. In addition, Guinea has a history of mutinies and attempted coups brought about by grievances over poor conditions and recruitment practices.[66] Concerns remain that, without meaningful Security Sector Reform (SSR), the military could again interfere in politics in the future. Fieldwork participants reported that there have been SSR initiatives in some regions, but expressed mixed opinions about their success. Some interviewees

---

[64] "Guinea military declares state of emergency", The Guardian, November 2010.
[65] "Guinea: One Year On, No Justice for Election Violence", Human Rights Watch, October 2016.

[66] "Guinea: Reforming the Army", International Crisis Group, September 2010.

noted that there has been improvement in the conduct of security forces, but others stated that SSR initiatives are incomplete or ineffective.

Ethnic-based conflicts are also an internal security threat, particularly in the *Forestière* region and in multi-ethnic urban areas. Clashes between ethnic groups have regularly occurred in the *Forestière* region over the last two decades, including fighting between the Guerzé/Kpelle and Konianké in Nzérékoré in 2013 that left more than 200 people dead.[67] In the case of Guerzé-Konianké conflicts, divisions between these ethnic groups also roughly align with religious identities, as the Guerzé are largely Christian and animist and the Konianké are predominantly Muslim.[68] Ethnic- and religious-based conflicts are also closely tied to conflicts and pressures over land and resource allocation in Guinea. Herder-farmer conflicts are common, and have increased as grazing lands have been degraded and customary methods of negotiating land use become less common.[69] Resource-based conflicts also occur within and between families, and between landholders and land users.[70]

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors

In the fieldwork, participants identified neighborhood watch groups and community security groups as sources of resilience and security. SSR initiatives, though limited, are also a potential resilience factor. The practice of the "joking relationship" (*cousinage à plaisanterie)* was also identified as an important cultural resilience factor in maintaining relationships between communities. Interviewees also identified religious leaders as a resilience factor, as they have played an active role in the promotion of peace and tolerance.

---

[67] "Conflict Analysis Report: Guinée Forestière", Médam, B. and Abouya, B., Search for Common Ground, September 2013.
[68] Ibid.

[69] "Guinea: Property Rights and Resource Governance", USAID
[70] Ibid.

Rule of Law (Least Vulnerable Pillar)

Vulnerabilities	• Lack of trust in the formal justice system • Lack of adequate resources and staffing within the judiciary • Perception of corruption and impunity in the judicial system • Lack of infrastructure for the judicial system • Failure to respect due process • Lack of judicial independence • Poor prisons and detention conditions • Backlog of court cases including long period of detention without trial
Risks	• Incidents of corruption within the court system • Mob justice • Violations of human rights • Interference in legal processes

Vulnerabilities and Risks

According to the CRVA Index, Rule of Law is comparatively the least vulnerable of the pillars examined in Guinea. However, though it presents the lowest level of vulnerability of the five areas considered, interviewees during the fieldwork nevertheless identified a lack of confidence and mistrust in the judiciary as a widespread concern across the country, citing perceptions of corruption, bias, impunity, and ineffectiveness.

A lack of material resources and inadequate staff were cited by fieldwork participants as factors that have hindered the development of the judiciary. In some regions, local courts have only one judge and few support staff, which has contributed to slow processing times and a backlog of cases. Interviewees reported that court decisions are rarely respected or implemented, as many convicted criminals are allegedly released due to the prevalence of bribery. Throughout the fieldwork, participants highlighted poor prison system infrastructure as a key vulnerability throughout the country, citing frequent escapes and inadequate staffing.

Fieldwork participants noted that the lack of confidence in the formal judicial system has precipitated a rise in mob or vigilante justice. Additionally, many regions rely on alternative methods of dispute resolution. These traditional justice mechanisms can include mediation by traditional and religious leaders, or dispute resolution mechanisms mediated by NGOs and civil society actors. Cases are sometimes referred between the formal and traditional systems to find resolution or ensure compliance.[71] High illiteracy rates and a lack of awareness of the legal protections to which people are entitled also serves to create a barrier to access to the formal justice system.[72]

During the fieldwork, participants highlighted concerns over separation of power between the judiciary and the executive branches. Interviewees reported perceptions that the executive branch wields significant power over the judiciary and interferes in the decisions of the judicial branch. Though the Constitution and laws dictate an independent judiciary, the judicial branch lacks capacity and resources,[73] thus cultivating an

---

[71] "Guinea 2016 Human Rights Report", U.S. Department of State

[72] Ibid.
[73] Ibid.

Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessment: Guinea | 38

environment ripe for corruption.[74] Both law enforcement and the judiciary are susceptible to influence by the executive branch[75] and are vulnerable to corruption. Nepotism and ethnic bias are also significant problems within the justice system. The judiciary has been used as a tool by the various governing regimes to exonerate friends and associates accused of committing crimes.[76] As such, the independence and legitimacy of the court system are compromised.[77]

While the Constitution prohibits cruel or inhumane punishments, and Guinea's new penal code criminalizes torture, coerced confessions and abusive practices in prisons are widespread.[78] The police often ignore legal protections afforded to Guineans through the Constitution and penal code, such as the right to appeal a judicial decision, inviolability of the home, and the presumption of innocence.[79] The Constitution and the law also prohibit arbitrary arrest or detention, but such

abuses still occur[80] – for example, prisoners often remain detained even after being cleared of guilt or having finished their sentences because they cannot pay the guards exit fees; meanwhile, politically connected prisoners go free.[81]

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors

Participants in the fieldwork identified traditional leaders (such as the Council of Elders) and religious leaders as sources of resilience for the role they have played in implementing Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms. Women and youth groups have played an active role in conflict resolution and mediation. Traditional justice mechanisms were also cited as resilience factors in Guinea. During an interview with the Ministry of Justice, a respondent emphasized that providing better access to justice is a priority and that there are plans to build additional courthouses throughout the country.

[74] Ibid.
[75] "Guinea – Judicial system", Nations Encyclopedia
[76] "Guinea 2016 Human Rights Report", U.S. Department of State
[77] Ibid.

[78] Ibid.
[79] "Guinea – Judicial system", Nations Encyclopedia
[80] "Guinea 2016 Human Rights Report", U.S. Department of State
[81] Ibid.

External Factors

Guinea is actively engaged with a number of regional organizations, including ECOWAS and the AU, and also belongs to a number of international organizations, such as the UN, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.

In the area of economics, Guinea is impacted by changes in global commodity prices and the activities of International Financial Institutions (IFIs). The World Bank has funded a number of projects in the country, such as an initiative to improve water infrastructure, and several post-Ebola recovery projects. In recent years, Guinea has seen an increase in foreign investment, mainly in the mining and timber sectors.

Due to the country's porous borders and inadequate border security, drug and human trafficking, and the trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) as part of wider regional networks have become an increasing concern in Guinea. While incidents of terrorism and violent extremism remain low within the country's borders, Guinea is situated in a region that has seen multiple terrorist incidents in recent years, thus causing concern of

potential spill-over effects. There have also been reports of cross-border clashes with Mali and Côte d'Ivoire related to conflicts between pastoralists and farmers and other land-based issues.

Regional patterns of migration also affect Guinea, as workers are drawn to Guinea by the potential for employment in the mining industry. Conversely, some Guineans, especially youth, have begun to migrate to Europe in search of improved economic opportunities, contributing to brain drain within the country.

Finally, Guinea faces pressures from climate change and environmental degradation. Guinea is prone to natural disasters, primarily flooding and recurrent droughts.[82] Guinea is also vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including changes in rainfall patterns, cycles of drought and flooding, coastal erosion and sea level rise.[83] Parts of eastern and southern Guinea have seen significant deforestation in recent decades, due to logging and other human activities, as well as pollution and declining soil quality. In coastal regions, the mangroves that protect against erosion are threatened by population growth, pollution and agricultural activities.[84]

---

[82] "Guinea: Disaster & Risk Profile", PreventionWeb
[83] "Résumé Des Études 2014-2016", United Nations Development Programme

[84] "Guinea Environmental Threats and Opportunities Assessment", USAID, October 2012.

Gender Considerations

Women and girls in Guinea continue to face significant challenges in the social, political and economic spheres.

Gender-based violence (GBV), female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C), and early marriage are common in Guinea. A 2011 study reported that 91 percent of Guinean women have experienced GBV and 49 percent have experienced sexual assault.[85] In addition, Guinea has the second-highest rate of FGM/C in the world: in 2012, UNICEF estimated that 97 percent of women and girls ages 15-49 in Guinea have undergone some form of FGM/C.[86] FGM/C is widely practiced across all ethnic groups and regions, although the Guerzé in the *Forestière* region have lower rates of FGM/C.[87] The practice has been outlawed by the Guinean government for nearly a decade, but remains deeply rooted in Guinean culture. In fact, recent studies have shown that support for FGM/C among women and girls actually increased between 1999 and 2012, from 65 percent to 76 percent.[88] Field data also confirmed this trend. For example, during Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with women throughout Guinea, many noted that FGM/C is seen as a "rite of passage" by most families and communities, and women who have not undergone the procedure or who attempt to escape it are stigmatized.

Advocacy campaigns by various civil society groups have served to raise awareness, according to interviewees, on the health risks associated with FGM/C, but the practice remains deeply ingrained in the Guinean culture. To cope with this, interviewees said that more coordinated grassroots-based efforts at educating community leaders and families, who can advocate against the practice, are needed. Finally, some women interviewed did note that FGM/C is now practiced clandestinely in certain communities, for fear of being caught and punished by the government. This also carries an associated heightened risk, as those involved are more reluctant to consult a doctor or health care worker if something goes wrong during the procedure or in the immediate aftermath. Others, most notably from Mamou and Labé regions, reported that FGM/C is still practiced openly and campaigns advocating its cessation are viewed as mainly foreign, and not representative of traditional Guinean social and cultural norms.

Early marriage is common as well in the country - according to the 2012 Demographic and Health Survey, the median age of marriage was 17.1[89] and 51.7 percent of women aged 20-24 were married before the age of 18.[90] During interviews in the field, it was confirmed that early marriage practices persist in Guinea, especially in rural areas. Often, impoverished families will consent to marrying girls early to help alleviate some of the financial burden on the household. Others noted that traditional norms surrounding early marriage and raising large families further plays a role. The practice of early marriage also means that fewer girls have access to education beyond primary or secondary school and that many remain at risk for dying in childbirth from age-related complications. In the Mandiana region of Kankan, several groups related a recent story of a girl who committed suicide rather than be married off by her parents. Others noted that suicide to avoid early marriage may be more widespread than is discussed or reported, as doing so would bring shame upon families. Family planning and awareness raising campaigns were viewed by some as ineffective, as more needed to be done to ensure that messages were appropriate to the local context as many are not presented in a

---

[85] "Guinea 2016 Human Rights Report", U.S. Department of State
[86] "Female Genital Mutilation in Guinea on the rise – Zeid", UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, April 2016.
[87] Ibid.

[88] Ibid.
[89] "Enquête Demographique et de Santé et à Indicateurs Multiples (EDS-MICS 2012)" ICF International, November 2013.
[90] "Women who were first married by age 18 (% of women ages 20-24), World Bank

way that is easily understood. Others, however, mentioned a program on family planning by an international NGO, Save the Children, in Mandiana in the Kankan region, which was seen as highly effective and a model for replication in other parts of the country.

Women also remain underrepresented politically in Guinea. Guinea's electoral code does include a provision that 30 percent of candidates on proportional representation lists must be women; however, women accounted for only 22 percent of National Assembly members as of 2015.[91] Women also held 15 percent of ministerial positions and 24 percent of positions in public administration.[92] Women are also underrepresented at the local level, despite electoral codes that require one-third of district council seats to be reserved for women and mandate that 30 percent of candidates for Communal Councils should be women.[93] During the FGDs and KIIs, it was confirmed that women and youth remain underrepresented in decision-making and in political positions in Guinea, particularly in rural communities outside of the capital. Despite legislation, women and girls face barriers around access to education and a cultural stigma surrounding the participation of women in politics. Many who participated in the FGDs and KIIs noted that most men oppose the involvement of women in politics, believing their traditional roles to be in the home. However, there are reportedly an increasing number of women in appointed and elected positions; including as a vice-mayor and as a head of district in Kankan as well as serving in ministerial positions in Conakry. Interviewees also noted that women are becoming increasingly involved in running political campaigns, voting, and other aspects of political parties. While the presence and contribution of women to national politics still tends to occur in the capital and major populations centers, rather than in rural areas, most interviewees felt that the situation was gradually improving, although significantly more progress remains to be made to put the country on par with some of its regional neighbors.

In regard to the role of women in the economy, a majority of Guinean women are employed in the informal sector, primarily in agricultural production and trade. Women have limited access to credit and financial services[94], and customary law often limits women's ability to inherit land.[95] Significant disparities in education and literacy persist as well – as of 2015 the literacy rate for females age 15 and above was only 22.87 percent, compared to 38.09 percent for men aged 15 and above.[96] Due in part to the prevalence of early marriage, the dropout rate among girls in secondary school is very high.[97] During the FGDs and KIIs, both women and men reported that the economy is highly dependent on the contributions of women in the workforce, although this is not easy to measure or capture as it is largely in the informal market. Women serve as traders both within the country and also with neighboring countries, where porous borders allow day traders to cross back and forth fairly regularly. Women do have access to microcredit schemes, some noted, and where available these have been able to assist women in starting businesses or improving their economic viability. Most reported, however, that, in general, women still face widespread discrimination when it comes to accessing financial capital or resources. While small loans and microcredit have made some women more resilient, much more needs to be done.

Another main concern raised in interviews throughout the country was the issue of inheritance. Currently, although the formal legal

---

[91] "Gender Quotas Database: Guinea", International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
[92] "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", United Nations, November 2014.
[93] "Gender Quotas Database: Guinea", International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

[94] "Profil Genre Guinee", Agence Française de Développement, August 2016.
[95] "Social Institutions & Gender Index: Guinea", OECD
[96] "Literacy rate, adult female (% of females ages 15 and above)", World Bank
[97] "Africa for Women's Rights: Guinea Conakry", WikiGender

and civil codes provide protections to women in many regards, both the formal and informal justice systems do not support women's claims to inheritance. According to the 2016 US State Department Human Rights Report for Guinea, with supplemental data from the OECD, women in Guinea are only allowed to hold land tenure by an informal agreement under traditional law. This agreement authorizes them to work on land owned by relatives and draw a wage but they themselves are forbidden ownership.[98] Interviewees confirmed that traditional practices surrounding land ownership based on religious or customary law still prevail throughout Guinea, and women are extremely vulnerable following the deaths of husbands or male family members, when they could be rendered homeless. In addition, although divorce is legal, respondents noted that it always favors men, both in terms of sharing of properties and lands that may have been acquired through the marriage, as well as in terms of awarding legal custody of children to the male parent or his family.

The 2014-2015 Ebola epidemic had a disproportionately negative effect on women in Guinea, particularly in rural areas. As women often play a caretaker role within Guinean society, they were more exposed to the virus. In some affected regions, women made up to 74 percent of Ebola cases.[99] In addition, women generally occupy vulnerable economic positions – such as farming and trading in marketplaces or across borders - that were more negatively impacted by the quarantines and border closures that accompanied the epidemic.[100] Women in an FGD in Siguiri reported that healthcare clinics often lack electricity, equipment and training for staff. As a result, people must travel to Bamako in Mali or the capital of Conakry to access healthcare. Participants from Conakry also confirmed that

while healthcare is largely accessible in the capital and in bigger towns, it is difficult or impossible to access for women from many rural areas. Interviewees also noted that while healthcare is supposed to be free by law, families are charged for the instruments and medical supplies used for Caesarian sections and births, and often for other basic supplies as well. In addition, there are reportedly very few obstetricians and gynecologists available in the country, to which many women attributed the high rate of maternal mortality, one of the worst in Sub-Saharan Africa. To this end, the government recently distributed C-section kits to health centers across the country to help address the high mortality rate at birth.[101] Fieldwork participants also reported that there is a need to strengthen awareness around basic hygiene practices to prevent public health crises like Ebola and other preventable disease outbreaks, as many of the protocols adopted during the Ebola outbreak have been abandoned.

Finally, as noted above, domestic abuse and sexual violence are common throughout the country, particularly in rural areas, and rarely are prosecuted, despite being illegal. According to those interviewed during the field research in Guinea, some women in rural areas believe that keeping silent about domestic abuse would help protect their marriages and keep the family together. Other women noted that they do not report sexual assault or abuse for fear of being shamed or stigmatized by their communities as it is almost always assumed to be the woman's fault. Although sensitization and awareness raising campaigns about the scourge of domestic violence and sexual assault have had an impact in urban areas, according to a youth group, they have gained little ground in rural areas.

---

[98] "Guinea 2016 Human Rights Report", U.S. Department of State
[99] "Confronting the gender impact of Ebola virus disease in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone", UN Development Programme, January 2015.

[100] "Assessing the impacts of Ebola virus disease in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone: The Road to Recovery", UN Development Programme, December 2014.
[101] "Ministère de la Santé – Lancement de la Campagne de Distribution des Kits Sonu par le Ministre de la Sante", Government of Guinea

Sub-National Level Vulnerabilities, Risks and Resilience Factors: Observations by Region

Boké Region

The Boké region is the northwestern-most region in Guinea, bordering the Labé region to the east and the Kindia region to the Southeast. It has a population of 1,083,147 as of the 2014 census.[102] The Boké region is home to 14 different ethnic groups and has a history of inter-ethnic and religious tolerance. The Boké region also has substantial deposits of bauxite and is the site of Guinea's two largest mining facilities.
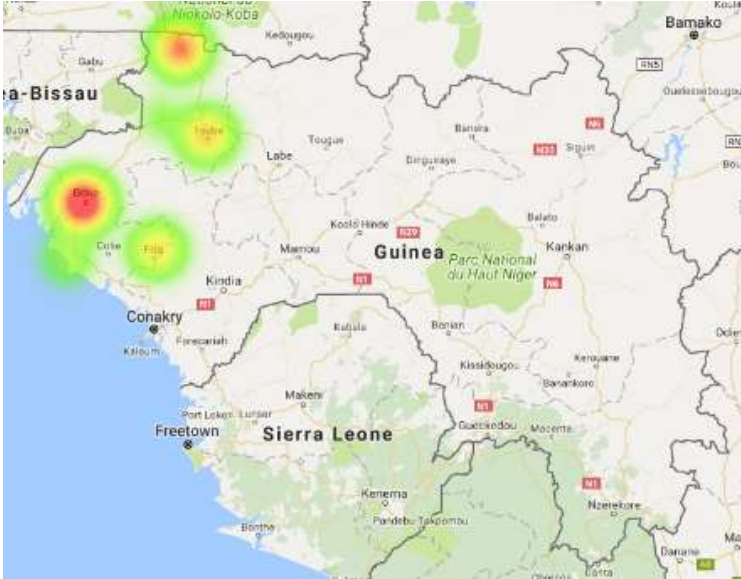
Structural Vulnerabilities	• Inflation • Poverty • Unemployment, especially for youth • Lack of confidence in the government and politicians • Political instability • Perceptions of corruption and lack of transparency within the government and judicial system • Lack of public services – especially electricity and clean water • Lack of awareness or interest in effective family planning • Failure to implement national laws protecting women and children • Environmental degradation, including pollution and deforestation • Limited access to healthcare
Event-Driven Risks	• Strikes • Protests • 2018 legislative elections and 2020 presidential elections • Constitutional reforms to prolong the mandate of the president • Conflict over land ownership

---

[102] "Prefectures of Guinea", Statoids

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors	• Harmony between ethnic and religious groups • The government's formation of a crisis committee to provide a grievance mechanism for potential protestors and demonstrators • Active CSO networks, such as *Boké Mou Kanama* (local non-violence movement) • Religious and community leaders • Training and application of Alternate Dispute Resolution Mechanisms • Effective and transparent security forces and community policing initiatives

Economics and Resources

Mining, cashew farming, informal trade, fishing, and subsistence agriculture are the main economic activities in Boké. Participants in the fieldwork identified poverty, high unemployment rates, and inflation as key economic vulnerabilities. During a Key Informant Interview (KII), a civil society leader stated that there has been a rise in commodity prices because there is no market regulation. Participants in the women's Focus Group Discussion (FGD) stated that cost of living in the region has increased due to the presence of many foreign companies.

While the region is rich in mineral resources, mainly bauxite, interviewees noted that mining companies primarily hire individuals from outside Boké, doing little to alleviate unemployment in the region. During a KII, one participant noted that youth lack the training necessary to compete for jobs in the mining industry and emphasized the need for vocational training centers.

In addition to employment challenges, KII and FGD participants expressed concern with actions of the mining companies, saying that mining companies provide little economic benefit to local communities. During a KII, a civil society leader noted that the already poor road infrastructure has suffered more due to increased traffic of mining trucks. Interviewees stated that mining has taken a significant toll on the environment, citing increased water pollution and deforestation. During the men's FGD, a participant stated that

some villages cannot farm because of pollution. Additionally, fieldwork participants reported incidents of embezzlement and perceptions of corruption between community leaders and the mining companies.

In addition to concerns over mining, interviewees reported a lack in public services as a key vulnerability. Fieldwork participants reported that electricity is rationed at night and that there are often outages. The lack of access to clean water is also a key concern, as some water sources have been polluted due to the mining of bauxite. Interviewees expressed divergent opinions about road infrastructure. One participant reported that it has improved due to the mining activity in the region. However, several interviewees noted that, despite development, the road quality remains poor.

Land competition was also cited as a key vulnerability during the fieldwork. During a KII, a civil society leader stated that poor natural resource management has contributed to conflicts over land access and ownership. During the men's FGD, a participant detailed the roots of this conflict, stating that land ownership was historically informal, but people have begun to claim ownership. Land contracts are reportedly written poorly and often changed without notifying local communities. Interviewees also stated that the purchase of land by mining companies has led to an increase in land competition. Fieldwork participants reported that there have also been

small conflicts over distribution of mining resources and small land plots.

Interviewees expressed mixed views on access to credit. During one KII, a civil society leader stated that youth do not have access to credit and that only NGOs or groups benefit from these programs. Participants in the women's FGD noted that although they occasionally have access to microcredit schemes, women need additional economic support to pursue money-making opportunities.

Population and Demographics

Participants identified a lack of social services and population growth as key demographic vulnerabilities in the region. Interviewees discussed gaps in the healthcare system, saying that it is inaccessible to parts of the population due to high costs and a lack of awareness about hospitals. Meningitis and malaria are prevalent in the region. During a KII, a civil society member stated that people have forgone the good hygiene practices which prevented the spread of Ebola, creating the conditions for disease outbreak.

In response to high population growth, some women have begun to practice family planning due to sensitization campaigns, but it is still not common because of cultural norms and pressures. One participant attributed the high population growth to the increased presence of mining companies in the region and the influx of young male workers.

Participants in the fieldwork emphasized that the ethnic groups living in Boké coexist harmoniously, noting that this is unique to the region. There is little conflict between groups, and inter-marriage between different ethnicities is common and believed to be a source of resilience. During a KII, a civil society leader also noted that there is also almost no tension between Muslim and Christian religious communities.

Interviewees also discussed the prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV), noting that while Guinea has laws aimed at protecting women, they are not enforced and domestic violence continues to be widespread. Fieldwork participants also noted that people still discretely practice Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), despite laws against the practice. Early marriage was noted as an issue, but interviewees stated that they believed it is becoming less common in the region.

Politics and Governance

During the fieldwork, interviewees identified perceptions of corruption, mistrust in government, and dissatisfaction over politicians' failure to honor campaign promises as key political vulnerabilities. Fieldwork participants stated that the population in Boké feels that politicians only come to the region during elections to make promises, but that they are neglected otherwise. During a KII, a civil society member stated that protest was the only means for the local population to capture the attention of the government in Conakry.

Interviewees also discussed feelings of frustration surrounding the lack of local elections, which have not been held since 2005. During a KII, a civil society leader discussed a history of poorly organized elections and concerns over election rigging and manipulation. Fieldwork participants also noted that people who do not belong to the ruling party, the Rally of the Guinean People (RPG), are ignored.

"Political leaders tell us not to protest. We could go 20 or 40 years without local elections, if people don't protest demanding them."

- Civil society member, Boké Region

While some parts of Guinea experienced violence after the 2010 and 2015 elections, interview respondents noted that in Boké both elections

were transparent and were held without any violence or serious problems. One person interviewed expressed a lack of confidence in the integrity of the elections, however, and the perception that elections are easily rigged and manipulated.

Fieldwork participants emphasized widespread concern that President Condé, who assumed power after winning the presidential election in 2010, will seek a third presidential term in 2020. Currently, the constitution of Guinea only allows a president to be in office for two five-year terms. Many interview respondents discussed the potential for violent protest or a military coup d'état if the president were to seek a third term.

Interviewees noted that women vote in the region and have recently begun to run for office, especially at local levels. During a KII, a civil society leader noted that while women are involved in politics at the local level in Boké, they need support to advance further.

Security

According to interviewees, the region of Boké is resilient regarding security. During KIIs and FGDs, participants largely agreed that incidents of banditry are rare in the region and other risk factors, such as violent extremism and abuses by security forces, are not prevalent. The potential for protests to turn violent, however, and the resultant crackdowns on demonstrators, were the primary security concerns that emerged during the fieldwork. During one KII, a civil society leader described a large-scale protest over lack of water, electricity, and jobs for youth. During the protest, some participants began to throw stones and security forces responded by shooting at protesters, reportedly causing at least two fatalities. One fieldwork participant noted that the region lacks an adequately sized local police force, but this gap has been filled by representatives of the national police force or gendarmerie. Local police forces and the national gendarmerie are, on

the whole, considered to be professional and not known for extrajudicial abuses. Youth organizations and community policing groups have also effectively contributed to the security of the region by filling gaps where police and security forces are not present or able to respond in adequate time to emergencies or other incidents.

Rule of Law

According to participants in the fieldwork, perceptions of impunity, corruption and ineffectiveness within the formal judicial system are key vulnerabilities. Separation of power is also a concern, and during one KII, a civil society leader reported that the executive branch interferes in the judicial system. Fieldwork participants expressed mixed opinions about other aspects of the judicial process. Some interviewees noted that court rulings are generally respected, but that the judicial process is often lengthy and delayed. However, during another FGD, interviewees emphasized that judgements are not respected and that there has been a pattern of false convictions. For this reason, people prefer to resolve conflict through neighborhood and traditional leaders before escalating issues to the formal justice system.

The poor condition of the prison system was also discussed during the fieldwork. Participants during the men's FGD stated that the region lacks an adequate prison infrastructure and that prison breaks occur often. Additionally, interviewees discussed alleged incidents of bribes paid to security forces and prison officials in order to secure the release of convicted criminals.

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors

During the KIIs and FGDs, several resilience factors were identified in Boké. As mentioned above, community leaders, religious leaders, and civil society organizations play an important role in implementing Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms to address potential conflicts. Additionally, community leaders have effectively

intervened during protests to prevent violence. Many interviewees pointed to a government initiative which has established a crisis committee composed of former protest leaders aimed at providing a mechanism for local populations to voice their concerns before taking to the streets. Additionally, the *Boké Mun Kanama* movement was cited as a resilience factor. The movement's goal is to seek to increase awareness about "peace and social cohesion" and to prevent the violence seen in previous protests. NGOs and INGOs were also cited as a resilience factor. For example, the INGO Search for Common Ground worked with youth in Boké in a successful and popular program to educate people across the region about the prevention of conflict surrounding mining operations. Local NGOs working on awareness raising campaigns surrounding health, the protection of women and children, and non-violent engagement were also noted as having very positive impacts. Finally, the prevalence of inter-marriage between ethnic and religious groups was repeatedly pointed to as a resiliency, particularly in a country where many believed that political manipulation of ethnic identities is a common and dangerous risk factor. Community members and leaders noted repeatedly that the rich history of interethnic tolerance has helped buffer the region during times of crises or contentious events like elections.

Conakry Region

Conakry is home to the national capital and as of 2014, Conakry had a population of more than 1.6 million people.[103] As the economic and political center of the country, the population of Conakry has lower rates of poverty and greater access to healthcare, electricity and clean drinking water than other parts of the country.[104] While the country is predominately Muslim, both Christians and Muslims live in the Conakry region.[105] Conakry is also considered "ethnically heterogenous."[106]

Structural Vulnerabilities	
	• Poverty
	• Unemployment, particularly for youth
	• Poor infrastructure, including access to clean water, sanitation and healthcare
	• Inadequately staffed schools and healthcare facilities
	• Rapid urban growth
	• Lack of waste management system
	• Underrepresentation of women and youth in political decision-making
	• Gender-based violence, including discrimination and sexual coercion of women in the workforce
	• Price volatility
	• Land conflicts
	• Ethnic polarization in politics
	• Criminality
	• Porous borders
	• Low levels of trust in police and security forces
	• Lack of resources and training for security forces
	• Lack of resources and training for the judicial system
	• Low levels of trust in the judicial system, due to perceptions of corruption, impunity and bias

---

[103] "Conakry", Guinea Data Portal.
[104] Ibid.
[105] "Guinea", U.S. Department of State
[106] "2013 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Guinea", U.S. Department of State, February 2014.

Event-Driven Risks	• Protests and strikes • 2018 legislative elections and 2020 presidential elections • Attempts to extend presidential mandate • Outbreak of disease
Social and Institutional Resilience Factors	• Civil society groups, including NGOs and women's and youth groups • Traditional leaders and local opinion leaders (such as griots) • The "joking relationship" and community pacts • Local peace committees • Civic education and citizenship initiatives

Economics and Resources

As the national capital and the largest city in Guinea, the economy of the Conakry region is largely based on small trade, shipping, and manufacturing rather than agriculture. Key economic vulnerabilities in the Conakry region include widespread poverty – more than a quarter of the population lived below the poverty line in 2012[107] - and poor infrastructure, including roads, clean water, and sanitation. One participant also noted that Guinea lacks railroads, which hinders trade and the economy in general. Participants also expressed concerns around price volatility, citing that there are no price controls set at the government level, so prices rise quickly even on staple foods like rice.

Many participants felt that poverty in Conakry was, in part, due to a misallocation of financial and natural resources. While some mentioned that the exploitation of available resources was negatively impacting health, the environment, and the economy, others had the perception that profits were being misused. Many expressed frustration, citing the perception that government officials and some religious leaders were overspending or using funds for personal gain.

Interviewees also mentioned frequent conflicts over land in the Conakry region, spurred on by rapid urban growth. Many felt that the process of obtaining a land title was unclear or not known,

which increased the possibility of clashes over ownership of land. One focus group discussed how land is sometimes claimed by the community, which can create issues among community members when resources are found on the land or when fees are paid to use the land.

Participants in the Youth Focus Group Discussion (FGD) also expressed the opinion that microfinance initiatives are largely ineffective, stating that there was both a lack of information on the possibility of using microfinance and low accessibility for those who needed it. Some mentioned that banks and financial institutions were discouraged from participating due to a high risk of non-payment, and when they did grant loans, the interest on reimbursement was high.

Population and Demographics

The key vulnerabilities in the Conakry region are a lack of infrastructure and social services, including inadequate access to healthcare and education, divisions between ethnic groups, and rapid urban growth. Participants noted that urbanization has already led to certain areas being overcrowded and difficult to access. Many participants also described insufficient infrastructure, including limited access to water and poor sanitation. Though one participant did mention that the availability of electricity was improving with the building of the Kaleta Dam in 2015, participants also mentioned areas where residents have taps

---

[107] "Socio Economic Database of Guinea, 1983-2012", Guinea Data Portal

but no running water. One interviewee further noted that a garbage dump that had been in use since the 1980s recently collapsed on nearby homes due to torrential rain on August 22, 2017. Eight people were killed in the incident and refuse from the dump destroyed many homes built at the base.[108]

Participants also felt that the divisions between ethnic groups in the Conakry region were worsening. Many mentioned how political affiliations fall along ethnic lines, which increases tensions. One participant also discussed hearing different ethnic languages used in different hospitals, or radio stations using predominantly one ethnic language. He felt as though this indicated increasing divisions amongst ethnic groups in the region.

The healthcare system was also discussed as an area of vulnerability, with one participant mentioning there were only two hospitals to serve the rapidly growing population. Participants voiced concern that good hygiene practices instituted during the Ebola crisis have been discontinued. Many mentioned that family planning is rarely practiced because of the social stigma against it. Some interviewees mentioned that many men do not support family planning, so their wives either do not participate in family planning or do it in secret. Female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C), as well as early marriage, is reportedly still widely practiced in this region. Participants in the Women's FGD noted that FGM/C can bring financial and material resources to families due to gifts from sponsors, and is considered to be a strong cultural tradition, which hinders efforts to deter the practice. While FGM/C has been banned by the Guinean government, some participants noted that prefects and judges are sometimes threatened with death by witchcraft if they interfere.

"The conditions of women and men are distinctly different. Because of customs, women are disadvantaged and relayed to the background. Women are poorly represented in decision-making bodies."

- Religious leader, Conakry

The status of women was also noted as a vulnerability in the Conakry region. Participants cited gender disparities in school enrollment, and said that girls were likely to drop out due to poverty. Others mentioned that women and youth are poorly represented in politics. Women in this region continue to face gender-based violence, and many participants mentioned instances in which women face sexual coercion and harassment in politics or in the workforce. One woman in a focus group said "My daughter finished school this year. I sent her to do an internship, and the gentleman asked my daughter to sleep with him, saying take it or leave it. I gave him a pair of slaps."

Politics and Governance

As noted above, ethnic polarization was identified as a primary political concern in the Conakry region. Political appointments, as well as party affiliation, are reportedly based on ethnic considerations rather than policy platforms or personal qualifications. One interviewee noted that ethnic and political identities have supplanted a national Guinean identity, and called for greater civic education efforts to encourage social cohesion and inform local populations of their rights and duties.

In addition to concerns around increasing ethnic polarization, key political issues in the Conakry region include the poor implementation of political agreements – particularly the delay in organizing local elections – and tensions around the

---

[108] "Mudslide at Guinea rubbish dump kills at least eight", Samb, S., Reuters, August 2017.

possibility of a third term for President Condé. Interviewees ascribed the non-implementation of the agreements due to a lack of political will and respect for the agreements. While some participants noted that there are mixed opinions among RPG supporters on the concept of a third term, all respondents agreed that attempts to reform the constitution could increase tensions and lead to violence ahead of the 2020 presidential elections. Many also agreed that there is a risk of a military coup if the debate over a third term leads to insecurity.

Women and youth reportedly remain under-represented in political decision-making, often due to social constraints and expectations. Members of the Youth FGD did note that the current government has nominated several young ministers, a move which they welcomed.

Finally, civil society groups were identified as playing an important role in advocacy and early warning, as well as in easing tensions and resolving disputes. However, several interviewees noted that civil society is often divided and needs greater support and funding to fully carry out their role. Members of the Youth FGD also expressed concerns that the press and media can sometimes play a role in exacerbating tensions, and recommended training and capacity-building for journalists.

"Civil society is the barometer of the fragile democracy in Guinea."

- Youth focus group discussion, Conakry

Security

Key security concerns in the Conakry region include banditry and crime such as motorcycle theft, land conflicts, and violent political protests and strikes. Terrorism and violent extremism was not identified as an immediate threat, although interviewees expressed concerns around the risk of a future terrorist attack due to the country's porous borders, the participation of Guinean forces in counter-terrorism operations, and the vulnerability of youth to radicalism stemming from poverty and unemployment. Two interviewees in Conakry also reported that there have been assassinations and disappearances of high-profile individuals, including journalists, lawyers, and human rights activists.

Participants in the fieldwork noted tensions and mistrust between security forces and local populations, largely due to perceived corruption within the security forces. Security forces are reportedly under-staffed and under-resourced, which contributes to corruption and perpetuates poor recruitment practices. Participants in the women's focus group discussion (FGD) also highlighted the need to recruit more women to encourage trust in the security forces, particularly when it comes to reporting cases of rape and sexual assault. As one woman said, "Women must be members of these police forces to encourage victims, often women, to come and lodge complaints. There is a tendency for men to believe that women are complicit in acts of rape due to their clothing."

Fieldwork respondents expressed mixed opinions about the success of recent security sector reform (SSR) initiatives in the region. Members of the Youth FGD highlighted improvements in the conduct of security forces, noting that today "it is rare to meet military with weapons in the street."

"The security forces are involved in both security and insecurity, because when they arrest armed bandits, the same bandits are found back in the street stealing. There is one who works to arrest them and others who let them leave to steal again."

- Civil society leader, Conakry

However, others suggested that the application of SSR is incomplete or has not been effective.

Rule of Law

As the capital city, Conakry has more justice system infrastructure (including courts and prisons) relative to other parts of the country, yet the justice system is reportedly still hampered by a lack of material resources and staff. In addition, fieldwork participants identified widespread mistrust in the judicial system due to a lack of access for poor communities and perceptions of corruption, impunity, and bias toward the wealthy. Several interviewees also noted that constitutional protections and laws are routinely violated or poorly applied, citing cases of arbitrary arrest and extended detentions, and raised concerns of executive interference in the justice system.

As a result of this lack of confidence, many interviewees reported that local populations prefer to resolve disputes through alternative mechanisms, such as mediation by civil society groups or religious leaders. This has also contributed to cases of mob justice, which are reportedly common in Conakry region.

Several interviewees also highlighted the need to improve the prison system, including constructing modern prisons, improving staff training, and decentralizing prisons to rural areas. However, it was noted that prison construction is hindered by a popular myth that "the one who builds a prison will finish inside the cell."

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors

Participants in the fieldwork highlighted several key social and institutional resilience factors in the Conakry region. Civil society groups – including local and international NGOs, youth groups, and local peace committees – were identified as playing a key role in peacebuilding, dispute resolution, and sensitization around issues such as women's rights. Participants particularly named the work of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), Search for Common Ground (SFCG), the *Plateforme Nationale des Citoyens Unis pour le Développement* (PCUD) and the *Centre Africaine de Formation pour le Développement* (CENAFOD) in the areas of development and peacebuilding. One interviewee also noted that an NGO called *Baïonnette Intelligente* (BI) is working with youth in Conakry to provide trainings on peacebuilding and non-violent protest methods.

Participants also highlighted the important role played by elders, religious leaders and traditional community leaders (such as griots) in resolving disputes. One interviewee noted that elders in Conakry are involved in sensitizing youth around protests. The "joking relationship" (*cousinage à plaisanterie*), local peace committees, and pacts between communities were also highlighted as alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Finally, civic education and citizenship initiatives were identified as being beneficial to social cohesion, national identity and the promotion of peaceful elections. One interviewee particularly noted the creation of a Week of Citizenship.

Faranah Region

Located in the east-central area of the country, the Faranah region, which comprises the Dabola, Dinguiraye, Faranah and Kissidougou prefectures, is home to more than 900,000 Guineans. The Kissi, Malinké, Fula and Loma, the main ethnic groups in the area, primarily engage in agriculture, mining, trade, fishing and husbandry as their main economic activities.
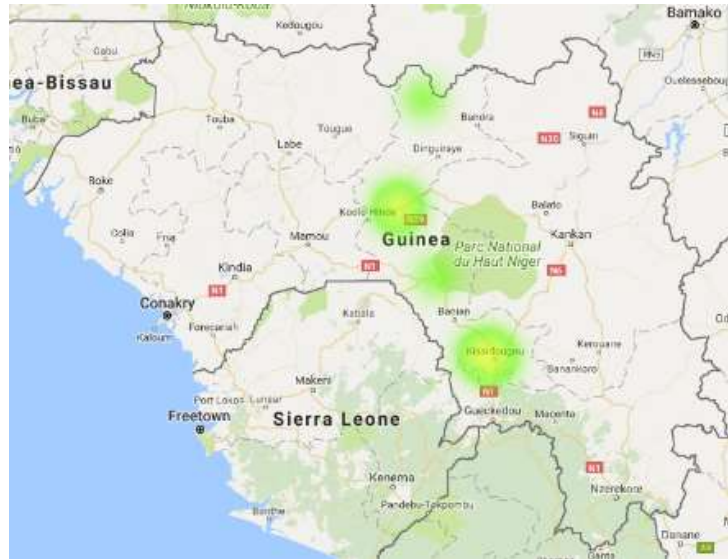
Structural Vulnerabilities	- Limited provision of public services, especially education, security and health - Poorly equipped prefectural administrations - Lack of trust in the judicial system, due to perceptions of corruption, bias, impunity, and unequal access - Political discontent due to perceptions of unfulfilled political promises and the manipulation of youth - Delays in organizing local elections - Ethnic polarization in politics - Under-representation of women and youth in politics - Inequitable distribution of resources and profits - Inadequate road infrastructure - Price volatility - Environmental degradation due to mining - Land and resource competition - Exploitation of children in the mining sector - Gender based violence: prostitution, rape, domestic violence, early marriage, FGM/C - Land conflicts, especially for women - Herder-farmer clashes - Armed banditry, road attacks
Event-Driven Risks	- Attempts to extend the presidential mandate 2018 legislative elections and 2020 presidential elections - Protests and demonstrations

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors	• NGOs and civil society organizations, including women's and youth groups • Traditional and religious leaders • Microfinance initiatives • Forestry Service and the Water and Forest Guard • Peace monuments • Health Emergency Committees • Community radio stations and media • Hunters' groups • Youth consultation frameworks

Economics and Resources

The economy in the Faranah region is largely reliant on mining (gold and iron ore), farming, herding, fishing, and informal trade. Youth unemployment, inequitable distribution of resources, poor road infrastructure, and price volatility were identified by fieldwork participants as key economic vulnerabilities in the region. Interviewees stated that there is strong variation in market prices based on the season, which particularly impacts poor populations, and that trade is hindered by the poor road conditions.

Interviewees also discussed the impacts of mining companies in the region, noting that there have been adverse effects including land conflict, rising cost of living around mining sites, and environmental degradation. Participants identified rapid deforestation and pollution as primary concerns. In addition, interviewees reported that mining companies are unwilling to respect mining codes and that funds from these companies intended for community development projects are often diverted due to corruption. Furthermore, participants in the women's Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in Dinguiraye stated that mining companies have done little to alleviate unemployment, because they mainly hire foreigners from Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, and Burkina Faso or workers from other regions in Guinea. They also noted that the presence of mining companies has increased the rate of school dropouts as youth leave school to go work in the mines. The closure

of mines can also impact communities; for example, the men's FGD in Faranah reported that the closure of an iron ore mine in Kalia had negative economic impacts by increasing unemployment and stopping development projects. These issues have contributed to frustrations among local populations and increased the risk of confrontations between mining companies and locals.

In addition to deforestation and environmental degradation caused by mining and other human activities (such as charcoal burning), participants in the fieldwork noted that the region has been experiencing lower rainfall levels. One interviewee in Dinguiraye reported that that "Water sources are disappearing. People are even digging in the riverbed. Hippopotamuses are stuck in the river and can't move to get to the rice."

Poor resource management was a widespread concern and land- and resource-based conflicts were reported, both between herders and farmers and between individuals and communities around boundary disputes. One interviewee cited the example of a dispute between two villages over which community would benefit from the taxes on a newly installed Orange network tower.

As formal banks and access to credit is limited in the Faranah region, microfinance initiatives have taken on an important role. Interviewees particularly identified the programs of the Financial Cooperative for Women of Africa (*Mutuelle Financière pour les Femmes d'Afrique* – MUFFA),

Plan Guinea, and the Union for Economic and Social Development of Kissidougou (UDESKI). Attitudes about the microfinance system were mixed among fieldwork participants, however. While some respondents identified microfinance programs as a resilience factor, interviewees often described such programs as being ineffective, citing limited access to credit, high interest rates, short repayment periods, the lack of youth-oriented microfinance schemes, and corruption as factors that undermine the system.

Population and Demographics

The key demographic vulnerabilities in Faranah are youth unemployment, lack of social services, including inadequate healthcare and education systems, and ethnic polarization during elections. High population growth due to lack of family planning and a large youth population were also cited as vulnerabilities during the fieldwork.

Fieldwork participants discussed ethnic divisions, stating that historically ethnic groups in the region coexisted peacefully, but that the divisiveness of the last election had created tensions between the Fulani and Malinké ethnic groups. During the women's FGD, participants noted that there has been a decrease in inter-marriage between ethnic groups since the 2010 election.

Recurrent episodes of farmer-herder antagonism and tensions were major risk factors for social cohesion in the Faranah region. However, in some instances, the elders were once again cited as resiliency factors. Land conflicts due to poor knowledge about inheritance rights and a poorly-managed land registry structure were also highlighted as vulnerabilities.

Fieldwork participants reported that family planning is not widely practiced in the Faranah region, as it is considered to be culturally and religiously taboo and is hidden from men. However, some participants noted that there is a growing acceptance of family planning due to sensitization

and awareness raising campaigns carried out by NGOs and through community radio stations. Others claimed that growing food insecurity has led to a greater acceptance of family planning as families are concerned about being able to provide for multiple children.

Although FGM/C is illegal in the country, fieldwork participants reported that the practice is still carried out in secret. However, organizations like the Muslim Union and the Biblical Group of Christians, who work to combat FGM practices, were identified as resiliency structures. Gender-based violence such as domestic violence, rape and the marginalization of women in relation to land inheritance were also identified as key vulnerabilities. During a Key Informant Interview (KII), one participant noted that though rates of early marriage have decreased, it is still a concern in rural areas.

Interviewees cited youth unemployment and underrepresentation in decision-making roles as key vulnerabilities. Fieldwork participants also expressed concern that youth are easily manipulated during the political process.

The healthcare system was also discussed as an area of vulnerability. Fieldwork participants cited inadequate resources, the circulation of obsolete drugs and exorbitant drug prices as key issues. Also, hospitals lack specialized equipment and trained staff. Furthermore, interviewees expressed concern over the abandonment of Ebola-preventative practices in some localities. Interviewees also reported a poorly-managed garbage system and a poorly-structured sanitation system. Although women sanitation groups were viewed as sources of resiliency, interviewees noted that the lack of support and the diversion of resources for personal gain by authorities have undermined their impact.

Politics and Governance

As in other parts of the country, ethnic polarization in politics is a growing concern in the Faranah region, particularly ahead of the 2018 legislative elections and the 2020 presidential elections. Some fieldwork participants expressed a sense that ethnocentrism in politics has increased since the 2010 elections, and expressed concerns around the potential for violence along ethnic lines around future elections. Some noted that these tensions are affecting daily interactions; one civil society leader in Faranah said "The Fulani are not happy with the current regime. At the level of the market we can see it. When you want to buy something it is better to talk to him in Peulh. Otherwise it can increase the price." Civic education, political dialogue and training on non-violence were identified as necessary steps to avoid violence.

The issue of voting rigging and other forms of electoral malpractices were voiced during an FGD with community leaders from Dinguiraye as factors undermining the integrity of elections in Guinea and the legitimacy of political authorities. Participants argued that final results that are declared by the Electoral Commission are often inflated and do not reflect outcomes of polling station results.

In addition, many fieldwork participants highlighted a sense of disillusionment and dissatisfaction with politics among local populations, stemming from a perceived failure to fulfill campaign promises, reports of corruption, and the lack of implementation of political agreements. Interviewees also reported mixed opinions on the likelihood and validity of a third term for President Condé as well as the potential for a military coup but noted that the debate is contributing to increased tensions in the region. The delay in organizing local elections was a key concern as well, and some interviewees expressed that the delay is compromising the legitimacy of local leaders. As one women's leader in Kissidougou said, "In my opinion, the communal elections have been delayed too long. The former chiefs are no

"When the state approaches elections it realizes how disappointed people are, and that they will lose their fiefs – even the civil servants from the regime are disappointed."

- Men's focus group discussion, Dinguiraye

longer leaders, the duration of their mandate is over. Others are tired and can no longer meet the needs."

Despite these concerns, several interviewees did highlight some examples of improvements in governance, including greater information-sharing, freedom of expression and transparency. Two interviewees in Kissidougou also noted the establishment of the UNDP-supported Vigilance Committees for Good Governance in the prefecture.

Women continue to be under-represented in politics and decision-making in the Faranah region, although participants in Dinguiraye noted that the last head of the communal council and a former mayor were women. Women are also reportedly engaged in activities within political parties and often hold positions within the women's offices of those parties. Some participants noted that youth are largely excluded from decision-making (although they are often involved in political protests), which has contributed to a sense of being left behind in politics.

Finally, fieldwork participants reported that civil society is involved in awareness-raising and plays a watchdog role toward the government, yet lacks adequate resources and support.

Security

Although participants noted that there were no instances of violent extremism in Faranah, they identified porous borders and the complicity of security forces in the mismanagement of border control as key vulnerabilities. The circulation of

Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), the rise of road banditry, and armed attacks were also cited as key security concerns. However, some participants noted that the requirement that weapons be registered with the Water and Forest Guard have served as a countermeasure to the risks posed by SALW.

Interviewees stated that security forces in the region are poorly staffed and inadequately resourced, which has led many to prefer police postings in Conakry. During a KII, one participant stated that the local population perceives security forces as careless and corrupt. Additionally, due to understaffing, incidents of armed banditry and armed theft have increased in the region. Several interviewees stated that incidents of armed banditry occur in close proximity to police stations and even then, there is no intervention by security forces. When perpetrators are arrested, fieldwork participants stated that due to impunity they often go free without consequence.

Rule of Law

Mistrust of the justice system is common in the Faranah region, due to perceptions of corruption, impunity, bias toward the wealthy and unequal access within the system. Some noted that sentences are poorly applied and that processing times are slow. One interviewee highlighted the lack of material resources allocated to the courts and security forces as hindering their effectiveness, though others reported that judges are among the highest paid in the civil service.

> *"If you kill someone, you just pay a little and you go free."*
>
> *- Men's focus group discussion, Dinguiraye*

This lack of confidence in the justice system has contributed to the phenomenon of mob justice and a preference for alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as mediation by community elders. The women's FGD in Dinguiraye noted, however, that in cases involving land, many women prefer to- go to the justice system as community councils often rule against them. Some participants also noted that sensitization campaigns on community radio have also helped to decrease instances of mob justice.

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors

During KIIs and FGDs, several social and institutional resilience factors were identified in Faranah. Traditional leaders (such as The Council of Elders), religious leaders and female and youth peace actors were seen as primary sources of community resilience. For example, the Prefectural Council of Elders have played an important role in dispute resolution and the promotion of peace. Awareness campaigns on security, FGM/C and family planning, broadcast through radio media, were also presented as tools of sensitization and resilience. Additionally, the organization of the motorcycle taxi industry into unions was advanced as a resilience factor.

Government agencies working in infrastructure development and social services were also cited as resilience factors - in particular, respondents named the Forestry Service and Water and Forest Guard. In addition, the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were also cited as sources of resilience. Specific programs run by the EU included the erection of peace monuments, income-generating activities for the youth, and grassroots developmental projects and those by the UNDP included good governance projects. Reforestation initiatives, headed by the Forestry Service and the citizenry, were presented as resilience factors to the issues of deforestation. Additionally, limits on employment of youth and women in the mining sector, which can prove harmful to their health, and AGRs (income generating activities) were cited as resilience factors.

Some fieldwork participants identified civil society organizations as vehicles for conflict mitigation. Local and international civil society organizations that were cited as resilience factors include *La Gestion de Leadership en Milieu Electoral* (EGES); SICAP; *Plan Guinée*; Mano River, Muslim Union and the Biblical Group of Christians, RENAMEG; Union for Economic and Social Development of Kissidougou (UDESKI); Association of Volunteers for Rural Development (AVDR); and the international NGO, Search for Common Ground.

Interviewees expressed mixed views on microfinance and credit schemes. While some fieldwork participants expressed concerns about perceptions of corruption and poor management structures, others acknowledged their contributions to providing economic opportunities.

Kankan Region

The Kankan Region is located in the eastern *Haute Guinée* region of Guinea, along the shared borders with Mali and Côte d'Ivoire. As of 2014, the region had a population of more than 1.9 million people.[109] Some of the main sources of livelihood include livestock farming and gold panning.[110] The population of Kankan is majority Malinké and the Fulani are the region's largest minority group.[111]
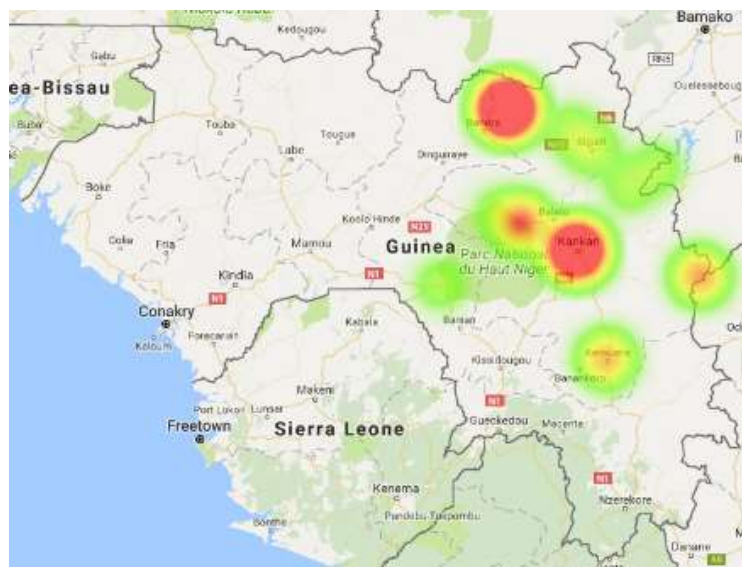
Structural Vulnerabilities	• Limited or inadequate provision of health, education and social services • Unemployment and poor vocational training opportunities, particularly for youth • Land- and resource-based conflicts • Environmental degradation, including pollution of water, decreased soil quality, and deforestation • Increasing trends of drought and desertification • Influx of workers from other regions and countries • Perceptions of corruption within the political and judicial systems • Ethnic divisions between political parties • Limited or incomplete implementation of political agreements • Under-representation of women and youth in decision-making processes • Lack of resources and training for security forces • Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)
Event-Driven Risks	• 2018 legislative elections and 2020 presidential elections • Attempts to extend presidential mandate
Social and Institutional Resilience Factors	• Local and traditional leaders, particularly in dispute resolution • Religious leaders • Civil society organizations, including women's and youth groups • Awareness-raising activities by community radio stations and other media outlets • Community security groups

---

[109] "Kankan", Guinea Data Portal
[110] "République de Guinée – Zones de Moyens d'Existence", USAID
[111] "Politics of ethnicity in Monrovia, Liberia and Kankan, Guinea - A comparative analysis", Ammann, C. and Kaufmann, A., Mande Studies, 2012.

Economics and Resources

The primary economic activities in the Kankan region are agriculture (including livestock herding and fishing), commerce and gold mining. The Kankan region is one of the country's largest commercial cashew producers, particularly around the towns of Kankan and Mandiana.[112] The region is also home to both artisanal and large-scale gold mining operations, centered in the prefectures of Mandiana and Siguiri.

Participants in the fieldwork noted that despite the region's natural resource wealth, much of the population lives in poverty. Nearly half of the population of Kankan region lived below the poverty line in 2012.[113] Inflation and rising food prices, particularly during the dry season, were identified as key concerns, although it was acknowledged that this issue is present throughout the country. Interviewees also highlighted a need for better infrastructure (particularly roads, water and electricity) and social services such as healthcare and education.

Youth unemployment was a primary concern for participants in the fieldwork, and interviewees connected this to a lack of vocational training in the region. Some noted that youth work in the gold mines because they do not have adequate education or training to pursue other employment. Other interviewees identified the lack of employment opportunities as a driver of youth migration and as contributing to the vulnerability of youth to political manipulation.

"The big problem is that there is no vocational training center in the prefecture. Even if a factory is established, the workers will come from elsewhere because people do not know these trades."

- Youth focus group discussion, Mandiana

As noted above, the Kankan region is home to both artisanal and large-scale gold mining operations. Interviews with fieldwork participants in Siguiri demonstrated the large role that mining companies have come to play in these communities, including in development and service provision. Women in a focus group discussion (FGD) in Siguiri reported that mining companies – the largest of which is Société AngloGold Ashanti (SAG) – have taken on responsibility for healthcare and food for employees and their families. They also reported that SAG began providing electricity in 2007 in response to protests by youth. As one woman said, "In Siguiri, when there is a problem, people ask SAG for help first."

While some respondents felt that mining operations have benefitted the region by bringing employment and services, others expressed that gold mining has provoked conflict (due to perceptions of unfair recruitment practices, inequitable distribution of resources, and increased competition for land) and degraded the environment. Mining activity has reportedly depleted soil quality and artisanal and formal mining operations use cyanide and mercury in processing gold, which has polluted water sources. Both mining and other human activities – such as cutting wood to produce charcoal and fire brick kilns – have further contributed to deforestation in the Kankan region. In addition, mining (both

"The mining causes enough problems for the population. No provision is made for the management of the environment. In Kankan, the river Milo is threatened by the advance of drought – if one does not make arrangements the river will disappear one day."

- Journalist, Kankan

---

[112] "Sustainable Cashew Production in Guiena", Gaye, M. and Moreau, O., UN Development Programme

[113] "Socio Economic Database of Guinea, 1983-2012", Guinea Data Portal

artisanal and formal) have reportedly contributed to landslides and fatalities in the mines.

Interviewees also noted that Kankan is experiencing increasing drought and desertification, which has affected agricultural outputs. One interviewee in Mandiana also expressed concerns that these trends could exacerbate conflicts between herders and farmers as competition for land increases.

Finally, respondents reported that land is a recurrent source of conflict in the Kankan region. Conflicts have occurred within and between families, as well as between communities, over access to land for gold mining, cashew cultivation, agriculture and livestock grazing. Cattle theft and conflicts between herder and farmer communities are also prevalent. Cattle theft was reportedly particularly prevalent along the border with Mali. One interviewee in Mandiana noted that there have also been instances of cross-border violence between communities on both sides of the Mali-Guinea border over the distribution of profits when gold is discovered on shared family land.

Population and Demographics

The population of the *Haute Guinée* region is majority Malinké, while the Fulani make up the largest minority group.[114] Participants in the fieldwork expressed that relationships between ethnic and religious groups in Kankan region are generally good, although inter-ethnic tensions arise ahead of elections due to the fact that political party identities align with ethnic identities. Due to the presence of mining operations, Kankan has also attracted workers and traders from other parts of Guinea and neighboring countries such as Senegal, Burkina Faso and Mali. In Mandiana, one interviewee reported that some local communities have refused to let foreign miners settle in their communities because they are afraid they will bring crime and drug use. The influx of workers has also increased concerns around public health issues

such as HIV and prostitution. Workers in artisanal and formal mines also face the risk of injuries and health issues such as dehydration due to poor hygiene and working conditions in the mines.

A key concern for participants in the fieldwork was the lack of infrastructure (namely electricity, clean water and roads) and social services in the region, particularly healthcare. Women interviewed in an FGD in Siguiri reported that healthcare clinics often lack electricity, equipment and training for staff. As a result, people must travel to Bamako in Mali or the capital of Conakry to access healthcare. There are reportedly very few obstetricians and gynecologists in Siguiri, which women connected to the high rate of maternal mortality (Guinea's maternal mortality rate of 679 per 100,000 live births is above the average for Sub-Saharan Africa[115]). Fieldwork participants also reported that there is a need to raise awareness around hygiene practices to prevent disease outbreaks, as many of the protocols adopted during the Ebola outbreak have been abandoned.

> *"The roads are terrible, there is no electricity, no water. Electricity only came in 2007 after demanding it from SAG. Young people rose up against SAG, throwing rocks, occupying the entrance of their premises. SAG provides electricity now during certain hours but there are regular cuts. It's not sufficient, we can go 3-5 days without electricity."*
>
> *- Women's focus group discussion, Siguiri*

In addition, family planning is reportedly not extensively practiced in Kankan region. Sensitization campaigns have been carried out by NGOs, health centers, and even some religious leaders, but are hindered by religious and social customs. However, it was noted that more youth

---

[114] "Politics of ethnicity in Monrovia, Liberia and Kankan, Guinea - A comparative analysis", Ammann, C. and Kaufmann, A., Mande Studies, 2012.

[115] "Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate, per 100,000 live births)", World Bank

have started to adopt family planning methods and some communities have started to see a decreasing birth rate.

Female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C), early marriage, and domestic and sexual violence are also prevalent concerns facing women and girls in Kankan region. The practice of FGM/C is reportedly widespread but conducted clandestinely, as the practice is outlawed under Guinean law. Early marriage is also reported and interviewees in Mandiana recounted the story of a young girl who recently committed suicide due to her parent's insistence on marriage. In both Siguiri and Mandiana, women reported high levels of domestic and sexual violence, particularly in rural areas.

Politics and Governance

Ethnic polarization around politics is reportedly high in Kankan region and has increased since 2010. As a majority Malinké region, Kankan is politically dominated by the Rally of the Guinean People (RPG) Arc-en-Ciel party and participants in the fieldwork reported that elections are based primarily on ethnic considerations. Some participants in Mandiana also reported discrimination based on political affiliation, with one interviewee noting that "90 percent of locals are for "*La Mouvance*" (the RPG) and the rest are deemed to be against progress or against Mandiana's interests." Fieldwork participants also raised concerns around the potential for conflict between Malinkés and Fulani and the manipulation of youth ahead of the 2018 legislative elections and the 2020 presidential elections.

"Politically Mandiana is divided into two blocks: the Malinkés and the Fulani. As soon as a leader comes here he falls back on his ethnicity."

- KII with Health Worker, Mandiana

In addition to the risk of political violence, a key concern in Kankan region is the lack of implementation of political agreements and the delay of local elections, which have not been held since 2005. Participants suggested that political agreements have not been implemented due to a lack of political will at the national level and the desire of the ruling party to hold on to power at the local level. Local communities have been administered by special delegations since 2010, and some interviewees reported that these leaders hold little credibility among local populations due to perceptions of corruption and the fact that they were appointed and not elected. These issues are contributing to political tensions in Kankan region, with one interviewee in Siguiri stating that "this situation leads to a real political disengagement and a real tension, the risk of which is an unprecedented popular uprising."

Looking toward the 2020 presidential elections, residents of Kankan region expressed concern around the potential of a third term for President Condé. Some suggested that attempts to change the constitution to allow for a third term would trigger a crisis or popular uprising, which could prompt the military to intervene in political affairs. Interviewees expressed mixed opinions around the potential for a military intervention – some considered it highly likely, while others noted that recent security sector reforms have increased the army's discipline and placed presidential allies in high-ranking positions.

Women and youth remain underrepresented in decision-making and in political positions in Kankan. Women face barriers of education and cultural stigma, as many men reportedly oppose the involvement of women in politics. However, there are reportedly an increasing number of women in appointed and elected positions (including as a vice-mayor and as heads of district in Mandiana), and women are also involved in running political campaigns, voting, and other aspects of political parties. The mayor of Mandiana

has also reportedly made efforts to start including women in decision-making.

Finally, fieldwork participants expressed divergent opinions on the role and strength of civil society groups in Kankan region. Many interviewees noted that NGOs and other civil society groups play important roles in mediation and in sensitization and awareness-raising on issues such as FGM, health, and development. However, others noted that civil society groups lack resources or are viewed as partisan (thus making them unable to act as a counterweight to the government).

Security

Armed banditry, crime, and inter-communal conflicts over land and resources are the primary security concerns in Kankan region. Drug trafficking was also raised as an issue in Siguiri. Gold sellers and traders have reportedly been targeted by bandits, particularly between Mandiana and Siguiri. As noted above, conflicts between herders and farmers, including across the Mali-Guinea border, and disputes over land boundaries, resource distribution and mining recruitment practices are prevalent.

Terrorism and violent extremism were not considered to be immediate threats in Kankan, but respondents noted that Guinea's public support for neighboring countries dealing with terrorism (i.e. Mali) could increase the risk of attacks in Guinea. Some participants in Kankan also noted that communities are actively involved in monitoring and reporting the activities of foreign nationals who may bring divisive discussions on religion. They also reported community efforts to monitor religious figures in the mosques to prevent extremist rhetoric.

According to fieldwork participants, police in the Kankan region are understaffed and under-resourced, and have a limited or non-existent presence in most areas. More often, security is provided by the military, which some reported has

"Most of the conflicts in Mandiana are settled under the palavar tree with the participation of opinion leaders (a griot for example) and civil society, supported by friendly joking."

- Men Focus Group Discussion, Mandiana

successfully decreased the prevalence of armed banditry. While many participants expressed that there is generally good cooperation between security forces and civilians, women and youth in Siguiri cited examples of local police threatening and beating civilians.

To compensate for the lack of police presence in the region, many communities in Kankan have created neighborhood watch groups. In Mandiana, it was also reported that a group of hunters known as the *donso* have operated as an organized security force since 2010. The *donso* reportedly coordinate with the army and receive authorization before undertaking actions.

Rule of Law

Mistrust of the formal justice system was prevalent in Kankan, due to perceptions of corruption, impunity, and bias toward the wealthy and politically well-connected in the justice system. Fieldwork respondents also noted that sentences are poorly applied, with several noting that criminals charged with banditry are often released and found back on the streets after being sentenced.

The low level of confidece in the justice system has contributed to instances of mob or vigilante justice in Kankan and a greater reliance on alternative methods of dispute resolution. Fieldwork participants reported that there are several conflict resolution mechanisms in Kankan region, namely dialogue mediated by civil society actors, elders, or NGOs and communal peace accords. One interviewee in Mandiana reported that there is also a traditional group called *tomboloma* which is

made up of youth, elders and workers to oversee and resolve mining-related disputes. In addition, youth in Mandiana and Siguiri reported that the gendarmerie will sometimes impose rulings and fines rather than sending cases to the justice system.

Both the courts and the prison system in Kankan are hindered by a lack of personnel and resources. One interviewee in Mandiana reported that the local court consists of only one judge and a retired clerk of the court, as well as youth volunteers, which contributes to a backlog of cases. The prison system in Kankan is also outdated and staff are poorly trained, which has contributed to a common phenomenon of prison escapes. Particularly in Siguiri, escapes occur both when prisoners break out and when local communities attack the prisons over dissatisfaction with security services.

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors

During the key informant interviews (KIIs) and FGDs, several resilience factors were identified in Kankan. As noted above, civil society organizations, including women's and youth groups, are actively involved in conflict resolution, mediation, economic development, and sensitization around issues such as FGM/C and

health. Youth in Mandiana noted a particularly effective campaign run by an NGO, Save the Children, to promote family planning. In Siguiri, the Youth Association for Islamic Solidarity uses community radio to sensitize the population on issues of peace and conflict resolution. Community radio stations and other media outlets are also actively involved in awareness-raising and even in mediation.
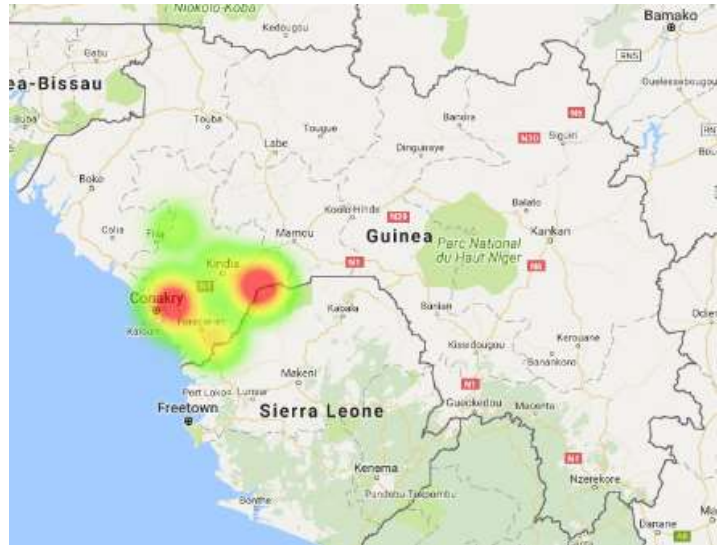
In addition, local opinion leaders (such as griots) and religious leaders are involved in dispute resolution and the promotion of peace. In Siguiri, imams are reportedly preaching against mob justice and use community radio to promote tolerance.

The practice of the "joking relationship" (*cousinage à plaisanterie)* was also identified as an important cultural resilience factor in maintaining relationships between communities.

Finally, the creation of neighborhood watch groups and the presence of hunter groups (the *donso*) were identified in some cases as being a source of security and resilience, although they simultaneously point to a vulnerability as there is a lack of capacity on the part of the security services that requires their presence.

Kindia Region

The Kindia Region is located in western Guinea, sharing a national border with Sierra Leone and internal borders with the regions of Conakry, Labé, Mamou, and Boké. The population of the region is 1,561,374. The Kindia region is economically reliant upon agriculture, herding, and small trade. An international mining company also extracts bauxite in this region.

Structural Vulnerabilities	• Poor infrastructure, including poorly maintained roads, unreliable electricity, and poor access to healthcare facilities
	• Youth unemployment
	• Understaffed schools
	• Poverty
	• Underrepresentation of women in political decision-making
	• Ethnic polarization in politics
	• Price volatility for staple crops and rising cost of living
	• Perceptions of corruption in the justice system
	• Lack of equipment for security forces
	• Environmental degradation due to mining
	• Land-based conflicts
	• Criminality
Event-Driven Risks	• 2018 legislative elections and 2020 presidential elections
Social and Institutional Resilience Factors	• The "joking relationship" (*cousinage à plaisanterie*)
	• Traditional and customary leaders; religious leaders
	• Co-existence between Christians and Muslims
	• Credit unions and microfinance
	• Women in important positions

Economics and Resources

Poverty, disputes over land tenure, and environmental degradation are the main economic vulnerabilities in the Kindia Region. The largest sources of income in the area are agriculture, small trade, motorcycle taxis, fishing, and herding. While there is mining of natural resources such as bauxite, iron, and granite, fieldwork participants felt that the local population does not adequately benefit from the extraction of these resources.

Participants noted that while the bauxite mining company (RUSAL) is supposed to distribute profits to local towns, many felt that the money was staying with the company and the authorities. There is also a perception that the mining company has taken land from impoverished people in order to expand their mining operations. The participants expressed frustration with the mining company for leaving finished mine sites open, raising the risk that livestock will fall in and be killed, as well as with the effects of mining, such as land and water pollution, rivers drying up, deforestation, and destruction of deep-sea basins. Traditional diamond mining was also a source of concern, as some participants felt it was leading to the destruction of the environment and the lowlands.

Some participants mentioned the problem of price volatility, mentioning how staples cost more during Ramadan and how food is sometimes more expensive in the Kindia region than in Conakry. Many felt that fish was more expensive in Kindia because people would rather sell their fish in the capital. Interviewees also noted a lack of modern agricultural development, saying that the traditional methods of farming only allow for very basic food security. Land tenure also emerged as an issue in the agricultural sector, with many feeling that, with no written contract, they had no recourse when land they rented was given to someone else.

One participant did note that factories in Forécariah, such as the pineapple juice factory, receive tax breaks, which was helpful for the local population. Credit is also accessible to some, though not all, of the population and there are many financial services in the area, such as MUFFA, MC2, *Yètè Mali*, *Crédit Rurale*, and ASF. Microcredit was cited as something that can be helpful, but some felt that it was marginally successful since loans were not always paid back on time. Some participants felt that a particular vulnerability in this regard was the fact that, while some women can access credit, women generally have few sources of income and without access to loans or financial capital, have no viable means to support themselves or their families.

Population and Demographics

Participants in the Kindia region related that poor infrastructure was a key vulnerability, while social cohesion was a source of resilience despite political disagreements. Many felt that the infrastructure--including poorly maintained roads, unreliable electricity, understaffed schools and limited access to healthcare facilities--was negatively impacting the local economy, youths, and women.

Participants reported that while public schooling was free, they were dissatisfied that schools were poorly staffed. One perception was that due to poverty and the poor state of schools, youth were leaving school to work in the mines. Respondents highlighted youth unemployment as a particularly important issue, and some participants expressed concern at the high rate of illiteracy, particularly among women. These participants felt that this contributed to the lack of women involved in politics. Some respondents voiced their worry about the higher rate at which women drop out of school, saying that this leaves them vulnerable to prostitution and related health risks.

Respondents also reported that family planning was poor, with some mentioning that it was understood by some and not others. In this region, one participant noted that women have an average

of four children and early pregnancy is a frequent occurrence. Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) persists, despite participants reporting that policies are in place and awareness campaigns are carried out on the radio and by civil society. While participants reported greater health awareness and better practices such as handwashing due to the Ebola crisis, some also mentioned that, while healthcare is easily accessible in bigger towns, it is difficult to access for many rural areas. Furthermore, while public healthcare is said to be free, participants report that families are charged for the instruments and medical supplies used for caesarian sections and births.

Politics and Governance

While interviewees expressed continued concern about the uncertain political environment, since the Agreement on Inter-Guinean Political Dialogue of 20 August 2015 and the election of Alpha Condé, there has been more confidence in the political system. For this agreement, the UN brought together the government and opposition parties to confirm the 11 October 2015 presidential election and the need to hold local elections.[116] However, local elections have not yet been organized and many participants expressed frustration with the continual postponement. While some were satisfied with the government's effectiveness in Condé's first term, noting that political leaders were able to collaborate to repair roads, some participants felt he was less successful in his second term and that not enough had been done to improve the political system.

Some participants felt that politicians were using existing ethnic cleavages to their advantage, exploiting a lack of unity among citizens and worsening ethnic tensions. Participants also noted that there are not enough women in decision-making positions. Many also felt that civil society could do more to educate and hold politicians accountable, while also noting that there are not enough grants for local civil society organizations to be adequately effective.

Participants also expressed frustration that, while administrative positions in the region are held mostly by the ruling party, locally most of the posts are held by the UFDG and subsequently dominated by one ethnic group. This frustration is extended to the lack of regularly held local elections that were promised by the Agreement on Inter-Guinean Political Dialogue of 20 August 2015. Many mentioned that election delays are common and were concerned that the military will return to power if the election agreement is not upheld.

Security

The main vulnerabilities participants expressed were criminality and inadequately staffed and armed security forces. While many participants mentioned they were concerned about terrorism in general in Guinea due to the proximity to the Malian border, none seemed concerned for Kindia specifically. Most of the participants mentioned that banditry was a primary concern in the region. Many also reported that motorcycle taxi drivers are most often the victims of robbery and murder, at least one instance of which led to mob justice. Respondents reported that the gendarmerie and the police provide security, but they felt that there were not enough security forces or weapons to make them effective.

Rule of Law

Participants in the Kindia region reported that there is a perception that the justice system is corrupt, but many also mentioned reforms that are improving the system. One participant mentioned that a new judge who people trust had been appointed, and that has improved the perception

---

[116] "Situation of human rights in Guinea – Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights", UN High Commission for Human Rights, January 2016.

of corruption. Other participants also mentioned that reforms seem to be working, and more judgements seem fair and transparent, especially when they are made public. However, some of the respondents felt that there was inequality between litigants, with the individual with greater resources often winning the case despite evidence or other factors.
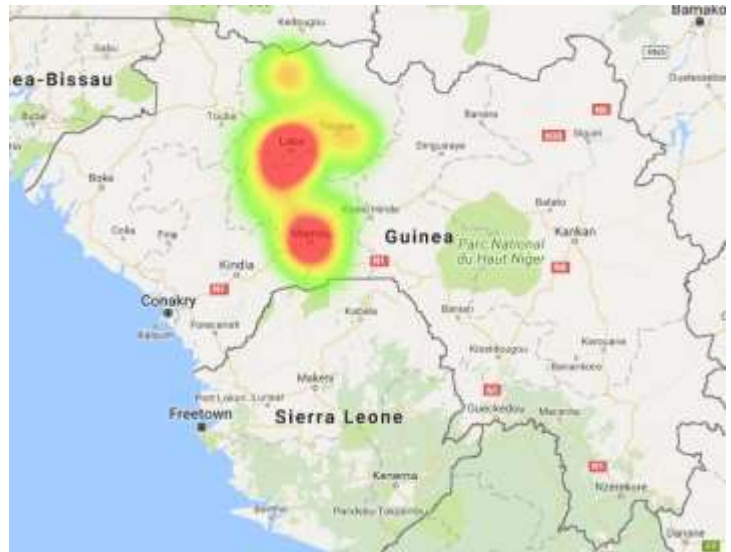
Social and Institutional Resilience Factors

Despite the vulnerabilities discussed by the participants, they also mentioned many resilience factors within the region. Multiple factors that encourage social cohesion were highlighted. Interviewees mentioned that imams would often preach about social peace, and Christians and Muslims in this region coexist peacefully. Between ethnic groups, participants also cited "joking relationships", or *cousinage à plaisanterie*, that ease ethnic tensions. Though many felt women were underrepresented in politics, respondents mentioned that women were actively involved in the community and in fact held a good number of prestigious positions. Respondents also felt that women and young people were more engaged in healthcare after the Ebola crisis. Also, though the reports of banditry are high, participants mentioned the group that seems to be most vulnerable to these attacks, the motorcycle taxi drivers, have formed unions to ensure safety. Finally, neighborhood councils and traditional and religious leaders play an important role in dispute resolution in the region.

Mamou and Labé Regions

The Mamou Region is in central Guinea, along the shared border with Sierra Leone. As of 2014, the region had a population of around 732,000 people.[117] The Labé Region is in north-central Guinea, along the shared border with Senegal and Mali. As of 2014 the region had a population of nearly one million people.[118] Both regions are predominately home to the Fulani (Peulh or Fula) ethnic group.[119]

Structural Vulnerabilities	- Poverty - Lack of job opportunities, especially for youth - Demographic changes: population growth and rural-urban migration - Limited access to health and education systems - Land/resource competition - Group divisions along religious/ethnic lines - Political stagnation - Lack of a formal police force - Perceived corruption and impunity within the judicial system - Early marriage - Perception of marginalization by the current regime
Event-Driven Risks	- Protests related to elections - Conflicts related to land competition - Criminality - Sexual and domestic violence; Female genital mutilation
Social and Institutional Resilience Factors	- Inter-marriage between ethnic groups - Religious leaders - Sensitization campaigns by civil society organizations - Strong culture of environmental protection (forests) - Limited circulation of small arms and light weapons

---

117 "Mamou", Guinea Data Portal
118 "Labé", Guinea Data Portal
119 "Guinea", U.S. Department of State

Economics and Resources

Agriculture and informal trade dominate the economy in both Mamou and Labé. Participants in the fieldwork cited poverty, a lack of job opportunities, and commodity price volatility as key economic vulnerabilities in the regions. They also emphasized that youth are particularly vulnerable, as they lack vocational training and job opportunities. During a Key Informant Interview (KII), a development worker highlighted the need to invest in agriculture by providing tools and training, as well as improving and maintaining road infrastructure. During the women's Focus Group Discussion (FGD), participants discussed women's active role in informal trade. There are some microfinancing options available in the regions, but they are difficult to access and lack adequate financial resources to have a significant positive impact. Several interviewees discussed the issue of rising prices and worsening currency exchange rates, stating that prices continue to increase even when currency exchange rates improve. During a KII in Labé, a development worker stated that people are beginning to emigrate from the region in search of more economic opportunities.

Population and Demographics

Interviewees cited youth unemployment, population growth, and rural exodus as key demographic vulnerabilities in both regions. Family planning is generally not practiced due to religious and cultural reasons, and population growth has become an increasing concern. Participants in the men's FGD discussed the lack of opportunity for youth, especially in rural areas, leading to increased migration out of the regions in search of jobs. Interviewees noted that there has been emigration to Europe from Labé and Mamou.

The women's FGD discussed the marginalization of women, especially in relation to inheritance issues. Some religious leaders and other members of society claim that women have no inheritance rights. Early marriage, sexual assault, and domestic violence are rampant, despite being illegal. A participant in the youth FGD discussed the cultural factors that contribute to the marginalization of women, saying that women believe that if they remain silent about domestic violence, their children will be blessed. Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) is reportedly widespread in Mamou and Labé, despite laws prohibiting the practice. Interviewees stated that it is practiced openly with little or no consequence.

During an FGD, participants expressed concerns over social services, especially education, stating that many villages still lack teachers or school buildings. Teachers are not transferred according to the needs of communities and illiteracy rates are high in Mamou and Labé. Health infrastructure is also a concern; one interviewee noted that while the health system infrastructure has improved following the Ebola crisis, there are still gaps in service.

Several participants in the fieldwork discussed religious divisions between Christians and Muslims in Mamou and Labé. During a KII in Labé, an interviewee stated that Christians have been prevented from building churches by Muslim authorities. There have also been reported incidents of churches being burned down. Interviewees also cited divisions within Islam, specifically between the Wahhabi and Tidjani sects, as a vulnerability in the regions.

Interviewees also discussed social stratification as a vulnerability in some communities in the region. During a KII, a development worker described these divisions, saying that parts of society are divided into "nobles" and "slaves." A participant in the men's FGD specified that this is especially a vulnerability in the Fouta Djallon area in Labé. Members of different social groups will not pray in the same mosques, or marry each other. Interviewees stated that there are significant socio-political and economic inequalities between the social groups.

Politics and Governance

Political stagnancy was cited as a key vulnerability in both Mamou and Labé. There is widespread disappointment with the failure of the government to deliver on campaign promises, such as promises to alleviate poverty and increase provision of basic social services. There is also concern that President Condé will run for a third term. Interviewees also discussed the 2018 legislative elections, expressing concerns over lack of planning and the potential for violence. The absence of municipal elections has led to many Guineans to become politically disengaged. During a KII in Pita, a religious leader said that local populations do not trust local government due to the failure to implement basic social services effectively. Furthermore, the political agreements of 2016, which included the release of political prisoners, compensation of victims, and the audit of the electoral register, have not been implemented due to a lack of political will. Several interviewees discussed growing perceptions of corruption within the government. During one KII, a participant expressed concerns over separation of powers, citing the significant political influence the executive holds over the other branches of government.

Interviewees also discussed the manipulation of ethnic identity for political gain, which has exacerbated inter-communal conflicts. During a KII in Labé, an interviewee stated that strategic positions in government are held almost exclusively by the President's ethnic group, the Malinké. Social stratification also contributes to political vulnerabilities, with those belonging to the "noble" group voting for the Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea (UFDG), while the "slaves" vote for the Rally of the Guinean People (RPG).

Security

Participants in the fieldwork cited criminality, an under-resourced police force, and perceptions of corruption within the security forces as key vulnerabilities in the regions. Interviewees discussed perceptions of impunity regarding the conduct of the public security forces, citing incidents of bribery and collaboration with criminal gangs. During a KII, an interviewee stated that there have been multiple escapes from prisons in the regions, reportedly due to the complicity of security forces. Another interviewee highlighted the brutality of security forces, saying that there have been incidents of lynching and that there has been the use of live ammunition during protests. Armed banditry, especially along roads and on public transit, was cited multiple times throughout the fieldwork as an ongoing vulnerability. Due to an inadequate police force, communities have begun to create volunteer neighborhood watch groups to fill the gap. For example, in Labé, a surveillance group called the *Tandé* was created to fight criminality.

Other security concerns that emerged in the fieldwork included border insecurity and famer/herder conflicts. The border between Guinea and Sierra Leone is porous, and participants emphasized a need to improve border security. During an FGD, a participant stated that there has been an increase in drug trafficking in Mamou due to its proximity to Sierra Leone. Interviewees also discussed conflicts between herders and farmers and conflicts related to land issues. During a KII, one participant noted that these conflicts are rarely fatal, and are often resolved amicably.

Rule of Law

Interviewees from the Labé and Mamou regions discussed a widespread mistrust in the judicial system, stemming from a lack of implementation of court decisions and perceptions of corruption and impunity. Slow processing times, inadequate staffing. and the need for widespread reforms were also raised as concerns during the fieldwork. Several FGDs and KII participants stated that there have been multiple prison escapes and that the system needs improvement.

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors

Religious leaders were identified as a source of resilience, as some have played an important role in promoting peace and encouraging social cohesion. Civil society organizations and NGOs were also cited as sources of resilience, specifically for the role they have played in improving the health system.

Microfinancing and other financial services have been a source of economic resiliency when they are available, but interviewees noted that both regions need long-term investment and more options for vulnerable populations, such as women and youth.

Inter-marriage between ethnic groups was cited as a resilience factor that contributed to cohesion and peace.

Nzérékoré Region

Nzérékoré Region is located in the *Forestière* region of south-eastern Guinea, along the shared borders with Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. As of 2011, the region had a population of over two million.[120] Approximately 67 percent of the population live below the poverty line, compared to the country average of 55.2 percent.[121] The main sources of livelihood are rice, palm oil, coffee beans, and cassava.[122] Islam, Christianity, and indigenous religious beliefs are all practiced in the region.[123] In Nzérékoré, there are an estimated 24 languages spoken.[124]
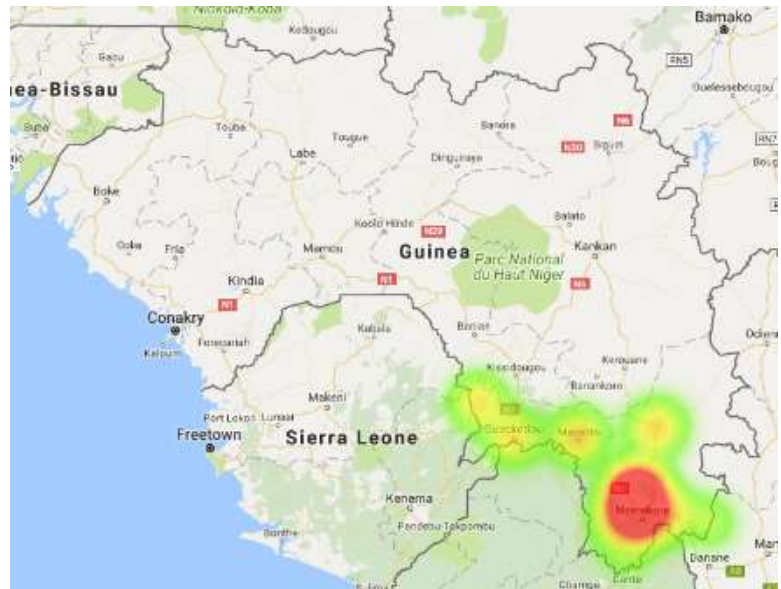
Structural Vulnerabilities	• Climate pressures; drought and wild fires • High unemployment • Corruption in natural resource governance • Low levels of education around health and family planning • Disenfranchisement with political system
Event-Driven Risks	• Fluctuating food prices • Deforestation and environmental degradation • Criminality and banditry • Inter-communal violence over access to resources and land tenure, often with ethnic or religious overtones • Pastoralist conflict, including farmers killing herder's livestock • Political demonstrations
Social and Institutional Resilience Factors	• NGOs focused on the health sector and reducing FGM/C • Council of Aloua, focused on mitigating pastoralist violence • Civil society supporting victims through the justice system and advocacy around human rights • Religious and traditional leaders involved in conflict resolution • Women's groups • Youth groups

---

[120] "Nzérékoré", Guinea Data Portal
[121] Ibid.
[122] "République de Guinée – Zones de Moyens d'Existence", USAID
[123] "Guinea", U.S. Department of State
[124] "2013 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Guinea", U.S. Department of State, February 2014.

Economics and Resources

The *Guinée Forestière* area is home to abundant natural resources with forestry and mining operations for iron-ore, diamonds, gold, and uranium. For some community members, there is a perception that some of the larger mining companies have contributed positively to development through employment, infrastructure and boosting the local economy. However, as a youth leader suggested, corruption is common with royalties often siphoned off by local officials. Perceived favoritism over local hires in the companies was also noted as a key grievance in some Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). The exit of several major mining companies in the region, including Rio Tinto, over contract disputes with the government, has been seen to negatively impact communities. For example, one civil society leader noted that it had increased unemployment, leading to criminality, banditry and drug-use.

Unsustainable practices in the forestry industry were also noted as a vulnerability – particularly those of a company called Strong Forest - leading to environmental degradation and deforestation. During one Key Informant Interview (KII) with a women's leader, she noted "Trees that should not be cut are cut. All this is done because the authorities are corrupted by money. The forest has almost disappeared to give way to the savanna." A number of interviewees noted the lapse of state authorities in monitoring or enforcing environmental regulations to prevent the issue, which was mostly attributed to corruption.

"Companies such as Strong Forest cut trees, but do not reforest. It negatively affects the environment through deforestation."

- Youth Leader, Nzérékoré

Environmental pressures such as poor rainfall and wildfires, have also affected agricultural outputs, such as coffee, sugar and rice. This has been compounded by soil degradation caused by deforestation, driving up food prices and the cost of living for many local communities, many of whom already fall below the national poverty line.

"The arrival of Malian herders (Bamako) has led to the decline in the practice of agriculture (cassava) and the recurrence of conflicts between herders and farmers."

- Youth focus group discussion, Nzérékoré, Beyla & Lola

Different microfinance options are available from groups such as MUFFA (short repayment period), FINADEV, *Crédit Rurale*, and CAFODEC, for farmers and other community members, which can help sustain production cycles. However, many respondents noted concerns about the high reimbursement rates for the microloans – and lack of access by youth to these programs. Underinvestment in women's skills and entrepreneurship in the region was also highlighted as a gap by women's groups and civil society interviewees. As one civil society leader expressed, "The women of Nzérékoré lack material and financial support, especially since Plan International, which supported women's groups, has decided to reorient its activities in other areas such as education with the establishment of school canteens. Their conditions have become more difficult."

Population and Demographics

As diverse multiethnic region, Nzérékoré's main ethnic groups include the Kpele, Konia, Mano and Malinkés. For many respondents, ethnicity is a driving factor of inter-communal conflict, as well as political grievance. Fissures along religious lines – between Christians, Muslim and traditional beliefs - was also highlighted as an area of conflict risk,

which can exacerbate tensions related to land tenure and access to resources.

Competition for natural resources, particularly in border areas of Guinée Forestière region with Côte d'Ivoire, has caused pastoralist conflict between herders and farmers. Regional migration during the dry season – heightened by climate change - has seen herders come through to Nzérékoré in search of grazing lands, with herder groups reported from Mali and other West African countries. During a Youth FGD, they highlighted incidents in Karala and Foumadou of farmers killing herders' livestock in retaliation for grazing on their land. One of the resiliencies identified for mitigating some of the tension between herders and farmers was the Council of Aloua, which establishes designated grazing areas.

Limited access and local knowledge around family planning, as well as early marriages, have contributed to population growth in Nzérékoré. As one youth leader in Nzérékoré noted, there is a perception that family planning is the sole responsibility of the woman. The lack of education around reproductive health issues has also led to widespread practices of FGM/C, which is often exercised with impunity. While the practice remains common in the region, one civil society leader in Nzérékoré suggested they has seen a decrease in FGM/C, with more instances of perpetrators being publicly denounced, and successful education efforts by local government and NGOs.

"Family planning is not respected. It is not uncommon to see family fathers warning their women in charge of family planning. Female genital mutilation is still current and is practiced in the eyes of all. It is practiced without any fear of punishment."

- Youth Leader, Nzérékoré

The Nzérékoré region was one of the most affected areas in Guinea during the Ebola crisis in 2014 –

2015, and was further impacted by the porous border with Liberia. The epidemic highlighted the deep mistrust toward the government and modern medicine within communities, with many of these perceptions still prevailing today. For example, during a KII with a Women's Leader noted concerns about the disease being part of a government conspiracy to prevent elections.

"According to what we have seen, Ebola was a (natural) disease, but we have our doubts about the infection. We are afraid that it will come back because we are told that it was the government that sent this disease to prevent the elections in this period."

- Women's Leader, Nzérékoré

Development programs targeted towards improving health were highlighted as a resilience in the region. For example, one Women's Leader highlighted the work of one NGO on child health, who proved effective before curbing its programming; "An NGO called Alima came to take care of the restoration and the health costs of the children of 0-14 years, but after 6 months of their project it reduced the scope to 0-6 years and then ultimately the project ended in July 2017. Alima has played an important role."

Politics and Governance

There is a deep dissatisfaction with politics in the *Guinée Forestière* region. As one youth leader related, "Political party platforms and programs matter little. In the forest region people have a poor opinion of politics". Ethnocentrism in politics was identified as one of the main reasons for communities' disenfranchisement with politics. For several interviewees, there was a perception that political appointments are made based on ethnicity rather than merit. Lack of application of political agreements, election delays, corruption, and limited inclusivity (such as women and youth) were

also highlighted as key issues undermining credibility of the political process in the region. As one women's leader described of delayed mayoral elections, "The mandate of the mayors has expired and they have lost legitimacy in the eyes of the population." In a KII, another women's leader noted that "Normally it is said that the structure goes from the bottom up, not the opposite. If the populations do not elect the leaders of their neighborhoods themselves, who can? It is the people who know who is good for them." Political disenfranchisement has reportedly led to political demonstrations and road blockades.

> *"The ethnic group of President Condé is trying to monopolize power. 80 percent of the posts are occupied by Malinkés. For future elections I believe that other ethnic groups will not allowed them to do so. Condé's party will not be supported at Guéckédou."*
>
> *- Men's focus group discussion, Guéckédou*

Civil society remains actively involved in peacebuilding and awareness-raising around political and governance issues. As some interviewees highlighted, they played an important role in bringing political actors to dialogue in Nzérékoré.

NGOs and international agencies were also identified as an important group of stakeholders in helping to deliver governance and education programs. As one civil society leader highlighted, "Organizations such as WHO, Plan Guinea, UNDP, Search For Common Grand etc. accompany the existing structures, in particular the women's groups, the media, the NGOs, and the prefectural warning offices. They often finance interactive programs that are well monitored by the population to sensitize them in various fields, notably in the fields of health, combating Female Genital Cutting, and enrolling children and keeping them in school."

Security

Criminality is one of the major drivers of insecurity in the region. High levels of unemployment, especially after the closure of several major mining companies, and porous border regions have contributed to high levels of banditry and crime. For example, multiple interviewees highlighted the killing of motorcycle taxi drivers.

A number of participants noted that violence – whether it be criminality or communal clashes – frequently take places without intervention or investigation by public security services. As one youth leader described, "The Guinean military can be armed and see the people kill each other without reacting and then say there was no order to intervene." Gender based violence was also highlighted as a prevalent trend. One women's leader in Nzérékoré noted cases such as the rape of a girl by her father in Yomou, who then forced her to terminate the pregnancy. While cases are reported to regional authorities, resources for investigation and prosecution remains limited, contributing to an ongoing culture of impunity.

To address the gaps in enforcement, there is a need for continued Security Sector Reform (SSR). Past SSR efforts have reportedly resulted in some improvements in relationships between security forces and local populations. As the Governor of Nzérékoré suggested, "When tensions rose in 2013, in an unprecedented move, local populations rushed to military camps to seek refuge. This shows how much more the people trust security forces, unlike before. Another reason

> *"Security services are apparently weak, given all the dead bodies we find. And no investigation ever results in the discovery of the perpetrators. And even if the culprits are arrested, no follow-up is announced. Lynching is frequent."*
>
> *- Youth Leader, Nzérékoré*

accounting for this, is the fact that you do not see law enforcement agents walking around everywhere with their firearms anymore."

Inter-communal conflict was highlighted as another major driver of insecurity in the *Guinée Forestière* region. Conflicts around land tenure, and access to resources – particularly between herders and farmers – take on ethnic and religious dimensions, which fuel group grievance and undermine social cohesion. Inter-generational grievances – such as between Koniankés and Kpelès - can be marked by flash points which trigger violent clashes. Conflict between herders coming from Côte d'Ivoire and other countries, and farmers has resulted in violent confrontations and killing of livestock. Another conflict issue highlighted was in the forest areas over traditional religious beliefs – with Muslim and Christian communities opposing the traditional practices. Traditional and religious leaders were noted as an important resiliency in conflict resolution.

"The social fabric is really torn in Guinée Forestière. The ethnic groups do not live in cohesion. They are not tolerated at all. Conflicts exist between farmers and herder. My observation is that Guinea has become violent. People do not hesitate to take up sticks and to take justice into their own hands."

- Women's Leader, Nzérékoré

Cross-border issues were highlighted as a driver of insecurity, for example clashes over Bkeyaba farmland areas between Lola and Côte d'Ivoire communities. Cross-border movement of people and goods for neighboring countries also remains a key concern of many local community members. Interviewees from the region reported frustration with the regional integration approach to immigration, which allowed free movement of people and illicit goods, such as weapons, into the country. For one interviewee, they mentioned a

suspicious case of a young foreigner with multiple passports. Despite group-based grievances and criminality, however, interviewees suggested that terrorism was not a major risk factor in Nzérékoré.

Rule of Law

The frequent reports of lynching and mob justice in the *Guinée Forestière* region underscore the gaps in the rule of law and law enforcement capacity. As one youth leader in Nzérékoré suggested, "When an alleged thief is caught, citizens directly believe that it is not necessary to refer him to a police or gendarmerie because no favorable response will be recorded. Hence the idea of doing justice themselves would be the only solution." In the absence of law enforcement in some areas, another interviewee described how the youth organize themselves to act as security in emergency situations.

"A woman has been lynched by youth in July due to a misunderstanding over market access fee… The woman in question is a sanitation worker at the local market. She was asking to be paid for her services where she was attacked by children and friend of other party who owed her money."

- Civil Society Leader, Guéckédou

Linking into a broader dissatisfaction and mistrust of governance and politics, there is low confidence in judicial institutions in the region. This is partly due to perceptions of corruption among judicial officials, as well as slow outcomes as a result of limited resources within the court and prison system. Traditional mechanisms for mediating disputes through community and religious leadership was highlighted as an effective conflict mitigation tool.

NGOs and civil society that have been increasing awareness around gender based violence issues, including the practices of FGM/C, have been

crucial to applying pressure to hold perpetrators to account – and to implement the national legislation which prohibits the practice.

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors

The multi-ethnic and multi-religious society that makes up the *Guinée Forestière* region, can be both a risk factor and also a resiliency. There are a number of examples that point to shared experiences – such as organized civil society groups and traditional and religious leaders that have rallied around issues of political and human rights, and conflict mediation around pastoralist issues.

In the face of limited provision of services in security and rule of law, communities have navigated the challenges by setting up local peace committees, and focusing on traditional structures for dispute resolution. International organizations and NGOs such as WHO, Plan Guinea, UNDP, Search for Common Ground, and Women's Network of the Mano River have also been identified as having a stake in building resiliency

through education, health and peacebuilding programs. These programs – working closely with local civil society actors - have made progress in areas such as FGM/C awareness raising and support for gender-based violence survivors in the formal court system.

"There is a prefectural committee for the promotion of gender that has been set up to promote and defend the cause of women and children. This committee [has] sometimes planned to accompany certain victims to the courts for having been the victim of violence."

- Youth Leader, Nzérékoré

"Female Genital Mutilation is decreasing in the area. This is the result of the work done by NGOs and local authorities, notably through the prefectural warning offices."

- Civil Society Leader, Nzérékoré

Conclusion and Recommendations

Guinea is a vibrant and diverse multi-ethnic and multi-religious society. Its local social resiliency factors, from traditional and religious conflict mitigation platforms, to its partnerships between local civil society and international organizations to enact governance reforms and peacebuilding – are a major contributor to maintaining peace in the country. Since electing its first democratic government in 2010, the country has struggled to build resilient institutions, particularly in areas such as rule of law, security, emergency management and environmental protection. These gaps have eroded the trust of local communities – many of whom perceive the government and political process to be corrupt and rife with cronyism – as well as the business community and investors. Lack of community education and

government oversight has led to the overexploitation of natural resources through unsustainable logging and mining practices. This has contributed to widespread deforestation, which in turn is impacting food security and fueling conflict over access to arable land.

The vast natural resources that Guinea has represent a significant opportunity to bring sustainable development to the population, of which half live below the national poverty line. Sustainable development of these resources - such as minerals, timber, and agricultural goods – depend on strong oversight from transparent institutions, which can ensure protections for the environment and local communities. Without economic reforms, high unemployment rates will

continue to rise, along with poverty rates and food insecurity. Investment in infrastructure, especially roads linking the vast geographical regions to the capital, has the potential to spur new local economies and youth entrepreneurship through new trade routes. Provision of public services including electricity, water, sanitation, health and education must also be strengthened to meet the pressures of a growing youth population.

While security was not identified as the most vulnerable area for the country within the human security pillars, there remain risk factors around group grievance, criminality and communal violence. The fissures along ethnic and religious lines can exacerbate conflict over land tenure and resources and are linked to political polarization. Poorly trained and resourced public security forces have enabled an environment of criminality and mob justice/vigilantism to prevail in rural communities, as well as gender-based violence and FGM/C. There are effective local stakeholders that are working to mitigate conflict – including the development of peace committees, alternate dispute resolution mechanisms by traditional leaders, and conflict mediation by community and religious figures, and peacebuilding by civil society organizations. These approaches should be highlighted and replicated more widely across Guinea by the government and its partners.

Strengthening the political processes – including addressing outstanding issues around legislative and presidential elections, as well as civic education at the local level, and encouraging more diverse representation in political decision making with women and youth – is a key to reducing disenfranchisement. With a young population that is keen to be productive and engaged in the building of a sustainable and peaceful future Guinea, the government, regional institutions, and international partners can all play a role in helping to strengthen the economic and governance structures to move forward.

Economics and Resources

- Support and expand microfinance programs and provide training, particularly for women- and youth-led initiatives
- Lend greater support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and strengthen/formalize the informal sector
- Support macroeconomic activities intended to diversify the Guinean economy
- Develop infrastructure to process raw materials
- Increase governance in the mining sector and support the regulation of environmentally detrimental practices surrounding both large- and small-scale mining operations
- Within the mining sector:
  o Strengthen land tenure legislation to protect vulnerable populations from forced displacement
  o Ensure that large-scale mining companies are adhering to international best practices on business and human rights, with mechanisms in place for affected communities to seek redress
  o Promote community dialogues with government and private sector representatives

Population and Demographics

- Support the promotion of culturally sensitive programming around family planning, gender-based violence (GBV) and female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C)
- Finance and expand reforestation programs to combat environmental degradation

- Promulgate and enforce environmental policies
- Develop health emergency preparedness and response mechanism to address disease outbreaks
- Engage local actors, including youth and women's groups, in ongoing education around health and hygiene best practices
- Build and maintain a sustainable reliable waste management system
- Support social and economic initiatives to engage Guinea's youth population, particularly vocational training and job creation programs
- Sensitize the population on customary and classic law on land tenure and ownership

Politics and Governance

- Reform and de-politicize the election management institutions
- Promote civic education initiatives targeting youth and women
- Encourage and promote good governance initiatives
- Promote the implementation and enforcement of gender policies including best practices to increase political representation of women and youth

Security

- Support bi- and multi-lateral training collaboration to enhance the institutional and operational capacity of the security and defense forces
- Encourage collaboration between CSOs, security forces and local communities to enhance peace and security
- Partner with regional and international partners to address larger regional trends of insecurity

Rule of Law

- Support traditional mechanisms for conflict resolution, including training for religious, traditional and community leaders
- Support mediation initiatives for conflict resolution
- Develop/support prison reform initiatives to bring detention processes and prison conditions into compliance with international standards
- Provide adequate resources (financial, material and human) to the judicial system for enhanced capacity
- Enact and strengthen legislation and law enforcement for the prosecution of gender-based violence (GBV) crimes
- Strengthen and build capacity for law enforcement agencies to efficiently address cases of human rights violations
- Support programs to raise awareness around GBV and mechanisms for redress in both the formal and traditional justice systems
- Improve access to justice for vulnerable populations, particularly women

Appendix A: Data Sample

Phase	Dimension	Source	Metric	Sample
Phase 1: Desktop	Resilience	SNA	Survey	46 Peace/Security Actors
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	ECOWARN	SitReps	890 reports
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	Global Integrity	In practice, the agency/agencies mandated to organize and monitor national elections is/are protected from political interference	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	Global Integrity	In practice, the agency/agencies mandated to organize and monitor national elections make/s timely, publicly available reports before and after a national election.	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	EIU Democracy Index	Electoral process and pluralism	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	EIU Democracy Index	Political Participation	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	EIU Democracy Index	Functioning of Government	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	IDEA	Average Voter Turnout Parliamentary	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	Transparency International	Corruption Perception	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	BTI	Political and Social Integration	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	Freedom House	Political Rights	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	World Bank Data	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	Mo Ibrahim Index	Personal Safety	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	UN, ECOWAS, AU	Peace Operations	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	ACLED	Conflict Fatalities per capita	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)

Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	UPPSALA	Presence/Conflict with Non-State Armed Groups	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	PTS	Political Terror Scale – Amnesty	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	PTS	Political Terror Scale – State	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	PTS	Political Terror Scale – HRW	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	UNHCR	Refugees by country of origin per capita	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	UNHCR	Refugees by country of origin (difference 2015-2014) per capita	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	UNHCR	IDPs by Country of Asylum per capita	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	UNHCR	IDPs by country of asylum (difference 2015-2014) per capita	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	Global Integrity	In practice, the independence of the judiciary is guaranteed.	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	Global Integrity	In practice, national-level judges give reasons for their decisions/judgments.	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	Global Integrity	In practice, allegations of corruption against senior level politicians and/or civil servants of any level are investigated by an independent body.	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	Global Integrity	In practice, the body/bodies that investigate/s allegations of public sector corruption is/are effective.	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	Global Integrity	In practice, the mechanism for citizens to report police misconduct or abuse of force is effective.	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	WB Human Rights and Law Report	% of Women on Constitutional Court	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)

Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	WB – Women, Business, and Law	Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	WB – Women, Business, and Law	Does the law mandate nondiscrimination based on gender in hiring?	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	WB – Women, Business, and Law	Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	World Bank Data	Gini coefficient	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	World Bank Data	Gini WYD	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	World Bank Data	Income Share Held by Highest 10%	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	World Bank Data	Population with Improved Sanitation (Urban-Rural Difference)	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	World Bank Data	Population with Improved Water Source (Urban-Rural Difference)	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	UN Stats	Children under 5 moderately or severely underweight, percentage	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	World Bank Data	Depth of the food deficit (kilocalories per person per day)	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	World Bank Data	Prevalence of Underweight, weight for age (% of children under 5)	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	World Bank Data	GDP per capita, PPP (current international $)	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	UN Stats	Literacy, 15-24, Women	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	World Bank Data	School enrollment, primary and secondary (gross), gender parity index (GPI)	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	World Bank Data	Employment to population ratio, ages 15-24, female (%) (modeled ILO estimate)	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)

Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	UN Stats	Median Age	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	World Bank Data	Population Growth	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	UN Stats	Prevalence of underweight, weight for age, female (% of children under 5)	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	World Bank Data	Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate, per 100,000 live births)	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	World Bank Data	Contraceptive prevalence, any methods (% of women ages 15-49)	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	World Bank Data	Life expectancy at birth, female (years)	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Vulnerability	WB – Women, Business, and Law	Percentage of women aged 20-24 years old who were married or in a union before age 18	15 (all ECOWAS member states normalized and scaled)
Phase 1: Desktop	Risk	ECOWARN	IncReps	475 (after reducing for duplicates and relevance)
Phase 1: Desktop	Risk	ACLED	Incidents	356
Phase 2: Field Research	Risk and Vulnerability	Focus Group Discussions	Broken out by Men, Women, and Youth	30
Phase 2: Field Research	Risk and Vulnerability	Key Informant Interviews	Prominent individuals and local experts, including gvt officials	52

Appendix B: Vulnerability Index

Index Data Sources

Based on the five human security pillars, a series of indicators were identified based on relevance and measurability. Data sources were then identified from recognized institutions such as the World Bank, United Nations, as well as universities, research institutions, and think tanks. A full list of data sources is attached in *Appendix A.* During selection and testing of the index, the availability of data was assessed to ensure an even distribution of scores.

Process: Calculating the Scores

The index is scored on a scale of 1-10, with 1 representing the highest level of vulnerability, and 10 the lowest level of vulnerability. Each raw data set is normalized and scaled, before being integrated into the indicator and pillar scores.

1. Normalization

An index, by definition, integrates and compares data sets with very different curves and distribution. As a first step, therefore, it is necessary to normalize the data so that it can be properly compared. Without framing the data within the context of the wider group of numbers, its meaning can become skewed. Therefore, the process of finding the mean and calculating the Standard Deviation (SD) of the data set, then using those elements to approximate a normal distribution, can be used to provide this meaning. The Gaussian normalization formula is outlined below.

Where μ is the mean

σ^2 is the variance

$$f(x, \mu, \sigma) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\,\sigma}\, e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

SD is the quantity calculated to indicate the extent of deviation for a group of numbers as a whole. Normal distribution is then used to find how the variables are approximately normally distributed. In the context of this tool, it will help to understand where countries sit in relation to each other within the group distribution of a particular data set.

For raw data sets that have gaps (e.g. data is unavailable for some countries but not others), country data points are left blank. This ensures countries are not provided with an artificial score, where data does not exist.

2. Scaling

To create an index where countries are scored within a defined range, the data sets must be scaled so the scores can be integrated. This process of scaling transforms the normalized data into a number between 1 and 10, with 10 representing the lowest level of vulnerability. The below formula was applied to standardize the distribution values from [min, max] to [MIN, MAX], matching the new scale of values both for the highest and lowest edges of the distribution.

$$X = MIN + \frac{(MAX - MIN)}{(max - min)} \times (x - min)$$

3. Aggregation

Each indicator may be made up of either one or multiple data sources. In cases where multiple data sets were used to make up the one indicator, the data sets were each scaled to preliminary index scores (1-10), as outlined in the above steps. The average was then taken of these scores to reach a final index score for that indicator. This process was repeated at the pillar level, first averaging, then scaling the indicator scores.

Appendix C: Additional References

Barma, N.H., Huybens, E. & Viñuela, L. 'Institutions Taking Root: Building State Capacity in Challenging Contexts', World Bank Group, September 2014 http://elibrary.worldbank.org/doi/book/10.1596/978-1-4648-0269-0

International Crisis Group 'Guinea: Reforming the Army', 2010. https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/west-africa/guinea/guinea-reforming-army

Kodila-Tedika, O., Simplice, A. 'State fragility, rent seeking and lobbying: evidence from African data', International Journal of Social Economics, 2016, Vol. 43: Issue 10 http://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/abs/10.1108/IJSE-11-2014-0234

Médam, B. and Abouya, B. 'Conflict Analysis Report: Guinée Forestière', Search for Common Ground, 2013 https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1860/situation-analysis-guinee-forestiere.pdf

NZAID 'Conflict-Risk Assessment Guideline' 2008 http://www.gaportal.org/resources/detail/nzaid-conflict-risk-assessment-guideline

OECD ' States of Fragility 2016: Understanding Violence', 2016 http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/development/states-of-fragility-2016_9789264267213-en#page1

SwissPeace 'BEFORE Conflict Assessment to Guinea', 2008 http://www.swisspeace.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf/BEFORE/BEFORE_Guinea_Conflict_Assessment_FINAL.pdf

UNDP 'Assessing the Socio-Economic Impacts of Ebola Virus Disease in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone: The Road to Recovery', 2014 http://www.africa.undp.org/content/dam/rba/docs/Reports/EVD%20Synthesis%20Report%2023Dec2014.pdf

USAID 'Interagency Conflict Assessment Framework (ICAF)', 2008 https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/187786.pdf

Woolcock, M. 'Engaging with Fragile and Conflict-Affected States ', Harvard Kennedy School, August 2014 https://www.wider.unu.edu/publication/engaging-fragile-and-conflict-affected-states

Appendix D: Matrix of Vulnerabilities, Risks, Resilience Factors, and Recommendations by Human Security Pillar

GUINEA	Vulnerabilities	Risks	Resiliencies	Recommendations

Economics & Resources	➤ Inflation and rising food prices
	➤ Dependence on primary commodities
	➤ Poverty
	➤ High youth unemployment
	➤ Undiversified economy (reliance on mining of raw materials/and subsistence agriculture)
	➤ Weak governance of the natural resources
	➤ Corruption
	➤ Poor infrastructure (roads, electricity, water, sanitation)
	➤ Reliance on imported commodities
	➤ Weak currency
	➤ Capital flights Underdeveloped private sector and SMEs
		➤ Fluctuations of global commodity prices
		➤ High cost of living
		➤ Economically-driven social grievances/ tensions
		➤ Protest as a result of the poor governance of the mining sector
		➤ Tensions between communities and mining and logging companies
			➤ Vibrant informal sector
			➤ Reform of the mining sector
			➤ Subsistence farming
			➤ Available micro-finance institutions
			➤ Abundant water resources
				➤ Support and expand microfinance programs and provide training, particularly for women- and youth-led initiatives
				➤ Lend greater support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and strengthen/formalize the informal sector
				➤ Support macroeconomic activities intended to diversify the Guinean economy
				➤ Develop infrastructure to process raw materials
				➤ Increase governance in the mining sector and support the regulation of environmentally detrimental practices surrounding both large- and small-scale mining operations
				➤ Within the mining sector:
				  • Strengthen land tenure legislation to protect vulnerable populations from forced displacement
				  • Ensure that large-scale mining companies are adhering to international best practices on business and human rights, with mechanisms in place for affected communities to seek redress
				  • Promote community dialogues with government and private sector representatives

Population & Demographics	➤ Deforestation and environmental degradation ➤ Land- and resource-	➤ Disease outbreaks ➤ Social tensions/unrest ➤ Poor sanitation	➤ The "joking relationship" (*cousinage à*	➤ Support the promotion of culturally-sensitive programming around family planning, gender-based violence (GBV) and female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C)

	based conflicts ➤ Lack of social infrastructure ➤ Poor access to social services (including healthcare and education) ➤ High Emigration of youth ➤ Rural-urban migration ➤ Cultural barriers to family planning ➤ FGM and child marriage ➤ Large unemployed youth population ➤ Development gap between rural and urban areas ➤ Lack of adequate waste management system ➤ High illiteracy rate	➤ Unplanned urbanizatio n ➤ Shortages of electricity and potable water ➤ Flooding ➤ Road accidents ➤ Gender-based violence ➤ Crackdown on the media ➤ Farmers/he rders conflicts ➤ Communal conflicts	*plaisant erie*) ➤ Inter-marriage s ➤ Strong social cohesion ➤ The role of religious and tradition al leaders ➤ Vibrant civil society ➤ Presenc e of regional and internati onal organiza tions	➤ Finance and expand afforestation programs to combat environmental degradation ➤ Promulgate and enforce environmental policies ➤ Develop health emergency preparedness and response mechanism to address disease outbreaks ➤ Engage local actors, including youth and women's groups, in ongoing education around health and hygiene best practices ➤ Build and maintain a sustainable reliable waste management system ➤ Support social and economic initiatives to engage Guinea's youth population, particularly vocational training and job creation programs ➤ Sensitize the population on customary and classic law on land tenure and ownership
Politics & Governance	➤ Ethnic polarization ➤ Perceptions of corruption within the political system ➤ Underreprese ntation of women and youth in political decision-making ➤ Weak institutions ➤ Corruption ➤ Bad governance	➤ 2018 legislative elections and 2020 presidential elections ➤ Attempts to extend presidential mandate ➤ Coups d'état ➤ Electoral violence ➤ Impunity ➤ Ethnic tensions ➤ Demonstrati ons ➤ Polarization along	➤ Civil society groups, including NGOs and women's and youth groups ➤ Civic educatio n initiative s ➤ Political dialogue ➤ Support from the internati onal	➤ Reform and de-politicize the election management institutions ➤ Promote civic education initiatives targeting youth and women ➤ Encourage and promote good governance initiatives ➤ Promote the implementation and enforcement of gender policies including best practices to increase political representation of women and youth

	➢ Lack of separation of powers ➢ Contentious and politicized electoral management Institution ➢ History of military coup d'états ➢ Weak implementation of decentralization policies	political and ethnic lines	including regional actors ➢ Influence of religious and traditional institution	
Security	➢ Abuses by security forces ➢ Inadequate resources and training for security forces ➢ Porous borders ➢ Proliferation of small arms and light weapons	➢ Land- and resource-based conflicts ➢ Conflicts between ethnic groups ➢ Violent political protests ➢ Land conflicts ➢ Security crackdown during protests/demonstration ➢ Communal conflicts ➢ Drug trafficking ➢ Self-defense groups ➢ Criminal activities	➢ Traditional and l ➢ religious leaders ➢ Joint border cooperation with neighboring countries ➢ Security sector reforms ➢ Religious tolerance ➢ Alternative dispute mechanisms	➢ Support bi- and multi-lateral training collaboration to enhance the institutional and operational capacity of the security and defense forces ➢ Encourage collaboration between CSOs, security forces and local communities to enhance peace and security ➢ Partner with regional and international partners to address larger regional trends of insecurity
Rule of Law	➢ Lack of trust in the formal justice system ➢ Lack of adequate resources and staffing within judiciary Perception of corruption within the judicial system	➢ Incidents of corruption within the court system ➢ Mob justice ➢ Violation of human rights ➢ Backlog of court cases including long period	➢ Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms ➢ Role of religious and traditional institutions	➢ Support traditional mechanisms for conflict resolution, including training for religious, traditional and community leaders ➢ Support mediation initiatives for conflict resolution ➢ Develop/support prison reform initiatives to bring detention processes and prison conditions into compliance with international standards ➢ Provide adequate resources (financial, material and human) to the judicial system for enhanced capacity

➢ Lack of infrastructure for the judicial system ➢ Impunity ➢ Failure to respect due process ➢ Lack of judicial independence	of detention without trial ➢ Interference in legal processes ➢ Poor prisons and detention conditions	➢ The role of right organiza tions ➢ "Le Mediate ur de la Républiq ue" ➢ Lega laid services	➢ Enact and strengthen legislation and law enforcement for the prosecution of gender-based violence (GBV) crimes ➢ Strengthen and build capacity for law enforcement agencies to efficiently address cases of human rights violations ➢ Support programs to raise awareness around GBV and mechanisms for redress in both the formal and traditional justice systems ➢ Improve access to justice for vulnerable populations, particularly women