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E-mail: helpdesk@cri-project.eu

COUNTRY SHEET GUINEA

**December
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CRI-country sheets are prepared mainly on the basis of publicly available information, completed with data gathered by local partners in the specific countries, and will be updated periodically.

Our local partners in Guinea are:

- Les Amis de la Santé - a NGO created with the aim to offer medical help for vulnerable families and to improve the quality of medical studies in Guinea
- Centre d'Appui pour le Développement Economique et Sociale (CADES) - a commercial institute for social research

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CHAPTER I

1. Access to the territory (from country of asylum to return area)¹

1.1. Documentation

The information which is published in this chapter is gathered at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Division for the Guineans Abroad), at the Ministry of the Interior and National Security (Head Offices of the Border Police, the “Police Judicaire” and the Territorial Surveillance) at the National airport Conakry-Gbessia, at the head office of the National Gendarmerie in Conakry, at the Ministry of Public Works (National Head Office for the Maintenance of Roads), at the Ministry for Transport (Head Offices of Transport, Civil Aviation and the Merchant Marine), at the National Custom Head Office (Division Research, Control and International Relations), at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Conakry, at several travel agencies and at the National Institute for Public Health.

1.1.1. Required travel documents for returnees²

- Guinean passport or passport of the country of asylum
- Laissez-passer
- Travel document for permanent residents abroad
- Attestation de retour
- International vaccination certificate
- Residence permit of the country of asylum
- “Carte consulaire”

Refugees under the protection of UNHCR³

The Republic of Guinea did not suffer so far from a civil war or a large-scale natural disaster that would have provoked a massive refugee movement towards its neighbouring countries. In consequence there are no Guinean refugees under the protection of UNHCR. Nevertheless, some Guineans who fled neighbouring countries during recent civil wars (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Guinea Bissau) are now living as refugees under the protection of UNHCR. If they intend to return to the Republic of Guinea they need the following documents:

- Entry Visa
- “Visa volant”

1.1.2. Documents needed in the country of return

- Guinean passport
- identification card
- “Certificat de perte de pieces”
- Laissez-passer
- Polling card

¹ Information gathered by the NGO “Les Amis de la Santé” in July and August 2008 for the CRI-II project.

² Interview of “les Amis de la Santé” with the Head of the Police for Civic Aviation and Border Control” in Conakry, M. Valentin Haba, July 18, 2008. Contact information: Tel: (224) 60.21.17.54/64.58.10.44

³ Information gathered at the office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Conakry (July 16th, 2008). Contact information: rue MA 017, BP 729, Tel: +46 8 5663 0944, +46 8 5663 0945. The information is confirmed by the Head of the “Police for Civic Aviation and Border Control”, Mr Valentin Haba

1.1.3.How to obtain the required documents⁴

In the countries of asylum

Guinean passport: The document is issued by the “Head Office of the Police for Civic Aviation and Border Control” (DCPAF) in Conakry and is signed by the Director and his deputy of the DCPAF. However, joint missions of the MAE and the MIS visit periodically Guinean embassies and consulates abroad for issuing passports as soon as the number of Guinean living in this foreign country reaches the number of 500.

The necessary documents are: a copy of the identification card or a copy of the birth certificate, the polling card, a proof of residence dating from less than three months and two passport photographs.

Foreign passport or Residence Permit of the country of asylum: delivered by authorities of the respective country of asylum.

Carte consulaire: issued by all Guinean embassies and consulates. The card is issued for all Guineans of origin or naturalized, listed at these diplomatic representations.

Return certification for Guinea: This is a certificate issued by the Guinean embassies or consulates for returnees after justification of their Guinean nationality (identification card, birth certificate, polling card). Candidate returnees have to send a handwritten request to the ambassador or consul by specifying the reason that motivates their return.

Titre de voyage: mostly issued by European or North-American authorities to illegal Guinean emigrants to vacillate their deportation back to Guinea. Joint missions of MIS and MAE have the mandate to issue travel documents supporting the identity of the Guineans.

Laissez-passer: Issued by the Guinean embassy or consulate in the respective country of asylum in mutual agreement with the authorities of the country of reception.

International Certificate of Vaccination: issued by the health authorities of the country of asylum in accordance with the recommendations of the WHO in prevention of infectious diseases.

Entry Visa: issued to Guineans gained refugee status or other legal residence status in a reception country. The applicant has to send a request for the visa to a Guinean embassy or consulate.

“Visa volant“: Issued to Guineans which gained a refugee status but without a regularisation of their stay. The visa has to be requested via a Guinean embassy or consulate at the MIS (DCPAF) in Conakry, which issues the document and send it back to the embassy/consulate. At the moment of re-entry, the returnee has to deposit his/her passport at the DCPAF (Department for Migration) for issuing an entry visa

In the country of return (Guinea)

Guinean Passport: issued by the DCPAF. The following documents are necessary for issuing: a certificate of nationality, a copy of the birth certificate, a copy of the polling card, a certificate of residence, two passport photographs and a filled in request form.

⁴ Interview of “les Amis de la Santé” (17.07.2008) with Mr N’ Faly KEITA, Chief of the Division for Guinean citizens abroad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tel : +224 60 27 52 42/+224 60 34 63 11. The information is confirmed by the Director of the Police for Civic Aviation and Border Control, Mr Velentin HABA.

National Identity Card: issued at all head offices of the police. All Guineans at a minimum age of 18 can apply for an identity card. The following documents are necessary for the application: an extract of the birth certificate or an auxiliary judgement, a certificate of residence and four passport photographs (preferably taken en place).

Certificate of Lost Documents: issued at all police stations after a written statement of losing documents. The document is just valid for one month and is necessary to gain new travel documents.

Polling card: issued after inscription into the electoral file. The inscription of Guinean citizens with a minimum age of 18 years takes place before every election organised in Guinea.

International Certificate of Vaccination: issued by the National Institute for Public Health, section Prevention, after vaccinations were carried out. A medical team charged with vaccination is also present at the national airport in Conakry.

Time needed for issuing the documents

Passport: officially envisaged is a proceeding time of one month after application but it is possible that the passport is issued after two weeks or after more than a month, depending on the needs of the applicant. On the other hand frequent technical failures can prolong the proceeding time significantly.

National Identity Card: official proceeding time is a week but the issuing is possible after 48-72 hours.

Certificate of lost documents: normally the document is issued immediately after reporting the loss.

Polling card: the distribution of polling cards is carried out before the elections.

International Certificate of Vaccination: the certificate is issued the same day the vaccination has taken place.

1.1.4.Prices of necessary documents⁵

The prices given here are official prices. Extra prices to speed the procedure up (transport, commissions, etc.) are not included.

- Passport: 100.000 GNF⁶
- National Identification Card: 5.000 à 10.000 GNF
- Certificate of lost documents : 10.000 GNF
- Polling card: free of charge
- International Certificate of Vaccination: 30.000 GNF.
- Titre de voyage: 100.000 GNF
- Carte consulaire: prices vary from one country of reception to the other
- Entry Visa: prices vary from one country of reception to the other
- Visa volant: prices vary from one country of reception to the other

⁵ Interview of “les Amis de la Santé” with the Head of the “Police for Civic Aviation and Border Control” in Conakry, M. Valentin Haba, July 18, 2008. Contact information: Tel 224 60 21 17 54 / 224 64 58 10 44

⁶ Franc guinéen, official exchange rate, 21.08.2008: 1 EUR=6.930 GNF. Les Amis de la Santé observed between August 10th and 15th, 2008 exchange rates at the local market of about : EUR 1 = 7.000 GNF à EUR 1 = 7.250 GNF

1.2. Travel to country of origin

1.2.1. By air⁷

At the moment Guinea has no national airline. The air transport to cities in the interior of the country is carried out by the United Nations or humanitarian organizations (PAM, UNHCR, CICR). The flights are non-commercial and reserved for the personnel of these organisations or otherwise registered persons.⁸ Additionally, some mining companies sometimes charter planes to transport their employees/workers from Conakry to the mining areas. Some companies have own small airfields in the mining regions.⁹

All internal flights depart from airport of Conakry.

The following table pictures the situation of the main airfields of the country:

Table: airfields of the Republic of Guinea¹⁰

N°	Lieu	Type	Distance from the city (in km)	Distance from Conakry	Service	Status of operation	Operator
1	Conakry Gbessia	International	13	0	H24	Operational	SOGEAC
2	Labé Tata	Regional	3	245	HJ	Operational	ANA
3	Kankan Diankana	Regional	15	420	HJ	Operational	ANA
4	Nzérekoré Konia	Regional	17	585	HJ	Operational	ANA
5	Kissidougou Kissi	Domestic	5	385	HJ	Operational	ANA
6	Macenta	Domestic	10	391	HJ	Non Operational	ANA
7	Siguiri	Domestic	4	659	HJ	Operational	ANA
8	Faranah Badala	Domestic	1,5		HJ	Operational	ANA
9	Koundara	Domestic	13	320	HJ	Operational	ANA
10	Boké Baralandé	Domestic	4	337	HJ	Non Operational	ANA
11	Sangaredi	Mining airfield		176	HJ	Operational	CBG
12	Kamsar Kawass	Mining airfield	8	67	HJ	Operational	CBG
13	Lero	Mining airfield		178	HJ	Operational	SMD

⁷ Interview of “les Amis de la Santé” with Mr TOLNO Fara, Chief of the section “Air bases and Navigation” at the National Directory for the Civil Aviation. Tel.: +224 60 54 43 24 / 64 44 98 89 / 67 54 43 24. E-mail: tolnofaral@yahoo.fr

⁸ Interview of “les Amis de la Santé” Mr Mamadou Lamarana DIALLO, Chief Travel Agency Guinée, Conakry. BP: 5842 Conakry, Tel.: +224 30 45 19 92 / +224 60 26 05 54 / +224 63 26 01 54. E-mail: guineevoyages@yahoo.fr or dmlamarana4471@yahoo.fr

⁹ Due to the insufficient maintenance of the road network, especially during the rain season.

¹⁰ Interview of “les Amis de la Santé” Mr TOLNO Fara, Chief of the section “Air bases and Navigation” at the National Directory for the Civil Aviation. Tel.: +224 60 54 43 24 / 64 44 98 89 / 67 54 43 24. E-mail: tolnofaral@yahoo.fr

14	Banankoro Gbenko	Mining airfield	3	164	HJ	Operational	ARETOR
15	Beyla	Mining airfield			HJ	Operational	RIO TINTO
16	Kiniero	Mining airfield		478	HJ	Operational	SEMAFO

1.2.2. By land¹¹

In practice, private vehicles constitute all internal traffic on the national road network in Guinea. The prices indicated here are prices after the last major mark-up for fuel at March 31, 2008.¹² Besides the transport run by private entrepreneurs there is also limited public transport, which does not cover the whole country. The main departure location for internal travel is Conakry. There is no formal procedure of booking or reservation of tickets. Travel fees are paid immediately to the driver. The main departure points in Conakry are:

- Bambeto (at the intersection of T2 and the “Route le Prince“)
- Madina (the main market of Conakry)
- Matam (about 2km north of Madina)

Table: Main destinations and travel costs:

Destination	Distance in km	Price in GNF		
		Taxi	Minibus	Bus
Coyah	50	-	7.000	5.000
Dubreka	50	-	7.000	5.000
Kindia	137	20.000	16.000	15.000
Mamou	275	49.000	34.000	31.000
Dalaba	325	65.000	47.000	44.000
Pita	396	73.000	57.000	49.000
Labé	431	81.000	60.000	52.000
Mali	557	103.000	98.000	-
Koundara	680	122.000	114.000	-
Koubia	475	91.000	73.000	-
Lélouma	485	91.000	73.000	-
Tougué	521	91.000	73.000	-
Gaoual	395	106.000	98.000	-
Télimélé	265	62.000	44.000	-
Fria	159	26.000	21.000	-
Boffa	150	26.000	20.000	-
Boké	300	49.000	41.000	29.000
Forécariah	100	18.000	15.000	-
Dabola	430	81.000	77.000	-
Kouroussa	595	122.000	93.000	-
Kankan	690	142.000	109.000	93.000
Madiana	775	158.000	125.000	109.000
Siguiri	771	155.000	125.000	109.000
Dinguiraye	545	106.000	99.000	77.000
Faranah	460	93.000	85.000	68.000

¹¹ Interview of “les Amis de la Santé” with Mr Mamady MARA, Chief of the department for road traffic, Ministry of Transport, Tel : +224 60 29 90 57

¹² Les Amis de la Santé verified these prices at the bus station of Madina (Matam) and of Bambéto.

Kissidougou	601	125.000	101.000	85.000
Gueckedou	674	142.000	117.000	101.000
Macenta	801	220.000	187.000	138.000
N'Zérékoré	954	236.000	203.000	155.000
Beyla	950	228.000	287.000	147.000
Kérouané	831	179.000	147.000	130.000
Lola	999	244.000	207.000	158.000

There is no limitation or official price for luggage. The prices for luggage are often fixed according to the assumed value or according to the social status of the voyager.

1.2.3. By sea¹³

There is no official shipping lines in Guinea and the rivers of the country are not navigable for bigger vessels. The transport to the islands is organised by small pirogues with outboard motors. Prices are a matter of negotiation and vary between 10.000 and 20.000 GNF.¹⁴

1.3. Entry procedure

1.3.1. By air

The only international airport in Guinea is the airport in Conakry. The airport has two terminals (international and domestic) and is served by several international airlines: Air France, SN Brussels Airlines, Royal Air Maroc, Air Sénégal Internationale, DHV-DHL.

All returnees entering Guinea via the airport have to fill in a border police form. The form consists of a declaration of identity and origin of the traveller; his/her travel documents, the purpose of travel and an address of stay in Guinea.

The form and the documents are checked by a member of the border control before filling in the: "seen at arrival.../.../200.".

Body search is not systematically carried out at the arrival in Conakry. A medical team checks the International Certificate of Vaccination before entering.

All pieces of luggage are searched systematically for prohibited products. All the procedures are uncomplicated with the exception of possible harassments by border guards.

¹³ Interview of "les Amis de la Santé" with Mr MAGASSOUBA Souleymane, Chief of the division Transport and Maritime Economy of the National Directory of the Merchant Navy. Tel.: +224 64 21 85 71. Email: magasssouley@yahoo.fr

¹⁴ The safety regulations are insufficient for this type of transport (insufficient life jackets and badly maintained pirogues). A shipwreck of a pirogue at March 15, 2008 costs the life of eleven students from Cameroon.

Returnees to Guinea enjoy a special treatment, sometimes with direct aid by the MIS and MAE in case they are informed beforehand about the arrival.¹⁵

1.3.2. By land and by sea

Both ways of entry are not accessible for returnees from Europe. However naval transport can be used for shipping goods of returnees.

1.4. Impacts of former acts and statuses upon entry

1.4.1. Impact of former refugee or subsidiary protection status

There is no negative impact of former refugee status or subsidiary protection for returning to Guinea if all necessary documents (subchapter 1.1) are present. Returnees enjoy special positive attention by the authorities and the population. This is especially the case at the “National Office for the Coordination of Refugees“, which often reverts to the services of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

1.4.2. Impact of former unsuccessful asylum claims

The repatriation of the persons concerned is mostly organized by IOM and their return is confronted with no difficulties.

1.4.3. Impact of former illegal exit from country of origin

According to article 10 of the Constitution, all Guinean citizens have the right to settle and to move within the territory of the republic and to leave and enter its territories freely. An illegal departure of a Guinean citizen will therefore have no impact on his/her return if the relevant person is in conflict with the law.¹⁶

1.4.4. Impact of crime committed outside the country of origin

All citizens that have committed crimes in foreign countries will be arrested and brought to justice in Guinea or in the country where he/she committed the crime if an official demand of extradition or an official accusation exists. If the respective citizen already served his/her sentence abroad, there will be no arrest of this person during his/her return or afterwards.¹⁷

1.5. Customs regulations¹⁸

The legal framework for the National customs service is fixed in the decree No. 094/PRG/SSG of November 28, 1990 and the decree No. 091/PRG/SGG of January 8, 1991, supplemented by

¹⁵ Information by investigation of “les Amis de la Santé“

¹⁶ Interview of “les Amis de la Santé” with Maître Gabriel KAMANO, lawyer, Tel: +224 60 58 87 49 / +224 64 40 18 73.

¹⁷ Interview of “les Amis de la Santé” with Maître Justin Tambada TOLNO, lawyer, Tel: +224 64 96 50 16 / +224 60 55 98 69. E-mail: tambadah@yahoo.fr

¹⁸ Interview of “les Amis de la Santé” with Mr Pévé TOURE, Customs Inspector, in charge with training at the National Division of Customs, Conakry. Tel: +224 60 34 00 20 / +224 64 35 29 69. Email: tourepeve@yahoo.fr

several orders and service notes.¹⁹ The law authorizes customs officers to control travellers and their goods by systematically searching them upon arrival in or departure from Guinea. However, returnees enjoy in Guinea several benefits like partial or complete tax exemption on imported goods and custom fees.²⁰

In the aspect of custom-taxes Guinean travellers are classified in two categories:

- Guinean citizens that stayed abroad for no longer than a year with a grant for studying or training or for a diplomatic mission;
- Guineans that remained outside the country on their own accord (in a country of asylum) for more than a year.

Both groups are required fill in a statement form stating their personal belongings. The first group of persons has no obligation to declare currencies they carry with of whatever value. The second group has a franchise of currencies up to a value of USD 5.000. Cash values up to this amount must be declared. In both cases the customs officers have the obligation to control but not to confiscate.

The statement pertaining personal belongings has to be filled in independent from the way of entry to the country. Vehicles for personal use of returnees are taxed but an allowance is possible if a specific request is directly addressed to the national Head of Customs, who sends it to the department “Regulation and Analysis”. The allowances vary between 15 and 60 percent.

There is also an allowance of customs tax for all imported goods or belongings of Guinean NGO’s and local authorities. It is possible that some customs officers are not enforcing these laws - either purposefully or due to lack of knowledge.²¹

1.6. Access to return area

1.6.1. Limitations of internal travel

1.6.1.1. Administrative restrictions²²

There is no administrative restriction at all for internal travelling in Guinea. However it is recommended to always carry an identification document even if the number of control posts were considerably reduced in the country with the exception of strategic points, like the main entrance for Conakry (Km 36) where personal identification is obligatory.²³

1.6.1.2. Practical obstacles

¹⁹ Documents handed over after the interview of “les Amis de la Santé” with Mr Pévé TOURE. The documents are also accessible at the website of the customs of Guinea : www.douanesguinee.gov.gn, last accessed December 2008

²⁰ Opinion of Mr Pévé TOURE. However, there is no legal basis of such exemptions. Requests are treated case by case.

²¹ Opinion of “les Amis de la Santé“, whose members are often travelling the country.

²² Interview of “les Amis de la Santé” with Superintendent Valentin HABA, Central Directory of the Police for Civic Aviation and Border Control, Conakry, Tel: +224 60 21 17 54 / +224 64 58 10 44.

²³ Travellers without any identification paper are able to pass anyhow after paying bribes. These bribes vary between 1.000 GNF up to 20.000 GNF during the night.

In spite of considerable progress in building water crossings and asphalt coating of some principal highways, the Guinean road network is badly maintained and in a poor condition. Travelling via roads could therefore last several hours for relatively short distances. This fact should not discourage travellers. The bad state of some roads, however, does favour acts of banditry. In 2007 and 2008 several cases of armed robberies were reported along the highway Conakry - N' Nzérékoré.²⁴

1.6.2. Territories impossible or dangerous to approach

There is no territory in Guinea too dangerous or impossible to approach. However some places of sovereignty, like residences of the president or military compounds, are forbidden to approach.²⁵

1.6.3. Means of internal travel

See subchapters 1.1.; 1.2.2; 1.2.3.

CHAPTER II

2. Physical security (in return area)

2.1. On-going armed conflict

According to inquiries at the Central Direction of the National Surveillance and at the prevention plan of armed conflicts of the NGO “Guinean Human Rights Defence Organization” (OGDH), there is no armed conflict at the moment in Guinea. The country has no serious conflicts with any of its neighbours. The only armed conflict that has occurred in Guinea has been rebel incursions from Sierra Leone and from Liberia in 2001 on the borderland (Kissidougou, Guéckédou, Macenta, Forécariah, Madina Oula in Kindia and Forécariah). Both neighbouring countries were in a situation of civil war and disorder. The Guinean armed forces could master the situation and regained full control of the area in 2004.

However, in January and February a general strike launched by the main trade unions of the country (CNTG, USTG) led to a general uprising against the government of the country. Acts of

²⁴ Interview of “les Amis de la Santé” with Mr Fodé Mamoudou SYLLA, Chief Maintenance of the Internal Streets, National Direction of the Maintenance of Roads. BP: 581, Conakry. Tel: +224 60 32 71 83.

²⁵ Interview of “les Amis de la Santé” with the Commander of the Gendarmerie, Antoine KANKODOUNO, General Secretariat, National Gendarmerie. Tel : 224 60 25 00 72 / 224 64 51 96 70. Information confirmed by Mr Mamadi CAMARA, National Directory of the National Surveillance. Tel: 224 60 21 92 60. E-mail: madica1960@yahoo.fr

violence and the destruction of public and private property occurred and the government had been dismissed (all ministers and governors). Under the mediation of the “Economic Community of West African States” (ECOWAS) a new government of national consensus has been installed. The “Coalition of Organizations for the Defence of the Victims of the Events of January and February 2007”²⁶ identified²⁷ 3.156 cases of human rights violations, among which 186 cases of extralegal executions and killing by bullets, 1.188 severely injured, 940 cases of arrests and arbitrary detentions accompanied by torture, ill-treatment and degrading and 28 cases of rape. The organisation counted 611 cases of looting and destruction of property - either in the responsibility of members of the police forces or of civilians - but the actual number is difficult to establish. Then, in the week of May 26 to June 1st, 2008 a mutiny of the soldiers of the military camp “Alpha Yaya Diallo” took place in Conakry and spread to military bases in Kindia and N’Zérékoré. The soldiers first demanded the payment of all their outstanding salaries. However, the release of comrades - detained in connection to the events of January and February 2007 - also played another important role.²⁸ The rebellion provoked unrest and instability in the three affected cities of the country, but has been solved by governmental concessions. Clashes broke out between soldiers from camp “Alpha Yaya Diallo” and policemen between June 15 and 18, 2008, as the police forces demanded better pay. During the aftermath of the mutiny, the soldiers did not accept the demands of the policemen. The clashes did not erupt in an armed conflict, but are worth mentioning.

2.2. Regions with high security risk

According to staff-members of the “Political Demonstrations” service of the department National Surveillance and to the head of the prevention plan of armed conflicts of OGDH, there risk of insecurity resulting in political tensions, inter-ethnic or inter-religious conflicts in Guinea, is not a high.

2.3. Crime

According to the Head of the “Divisions of Criminal Investigations and the Repression Brigade on Banditry” (BRB), the main reasons which favour the development of crime in Guinea are the following: the trafficking of drugs of Latin American origin (cocaine and heroine) and of cannabis from the neighbouring countries, the multiplication of the debits of drinks, brothels (so called “Motels” situated especially in Conakry at the district Ratoma), widespread poverty and unemployment, individual failures at school, the influx of refugees, the proliferation of trafficking in persons, general underdevelopment, the inefficiency of the security forces and the lack of police in many remote districts, impunity.

Hot spots of crime are found in the cities of Conakry (with a fast growing population), Mamou, Faranah, Kissidougou and N’Zérékoré.

The most common crimes are: assassinations, armed robberies and attacks, hold-ups on roads, rapes, infanticide, unintentional manslaughter on road, smuggling of war weapons and/or drugs, etc.

According to Mr. Mohamed Saïd Haidara, the General Inspector of the judicial services, severe crimes are brought to the main criminal courts, which are situated at the two courts of appeal, i.e. the Court of Appeal in Conakry (to be in charge for the provinces “Basse Guinée” and

²⁶ Members of the coalition: Organisation Guinéenne de Défense des droits de l’Homme et du Citoyen; Barreau de Guinée; Les Mêmes Droits pour Tous; Organisation Guinéenne de Défense des Droits et Devoirs du Citoyen; Association Guinéenne d’Assistance Sociale; et Médecine Légale

²⁷ Coalition of Organisations defending the Victims of the Events of January-February 2007, *Report about the Violations committed in the Republic of Guinea in January and February 2007*, p.4, November 2007

²⁸ News Agency, afrol News, *Guinea bows down to Mutiny*, May 28, 2008, <http://www.afrol.com/articles/29104>, last accessed March 4, 2009

“Moyenne Guinée”) and the Court of Appeal in Kankan (be in charge for the provinces “Haute Guinée” and “Guinée forestière“).

The law (Article 235 of the penal law) orders trials at least every four months, that is to say three sessions per annum and additional sessions in case of demand and need.

However, as a consequence of the chronic under-financing of the judiciary, it is possible that trials are held only once in five years.

The statistical data for the years 2004-2007, published by the Inspection of the judicial services, indicate the following situation:

- 2005: Court of Appeal in Conakry: 109 criminal cases and 51 judged cases; no data for the Court of Appeal in Kankan;
- 2006: Court of Appeal in Conakry, 47 criminal cases and 71 judged cases; no data for the Court of Appeal in Kankan;
- 2007: Court of Appeal in Conakry, 51 criminal cases and no judged cases; Court of Appeal in Kankan, 7 criminal cases and no judged cases.

2.3.1. Regions with extremely high level of crime

According to the Head of the “Divisions of Criminal Investigations and the Repression Brigade on Banditry” (BRB), the district of Ratoma in Conakry is the most affected by crime. This is due to the high rate of consumption of drugs, to the inaccessibility of police forces (Units of Intervention) in the district and the existence of many brothels.

As for the interior of the country, the region around the city of Mamou is the most affected by crime. The city, which is a traffic junction point, is a gathering centre for robbers who organised hold-ups on the highways. This phenomenon formed a serious security problem in 2006 and in 2007 in particular, forcing the authorities to take measures against it. In 2007, after several attacks on travellers, the police forces were able to detain a whole gang of street robbers in Mamou and transferred them to Conakry for prosecution.

According to concordant information gathered from the “Head Office of the National Surveillance” (DCST) and from the BRB, the region of N’zérékoré is as well known for a high criminal rate, accentuated in recent years. The region is affected by crimes that were locally rather unusual in the former years, such as the trafficking of human organs, banditry, consumption of hard drugs and cases of rape. Officials of the law enforcement authorities bring the appearance of these crimes in connection with the arrival of war-refugees from Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast.

According to “Transparency International,” (TI) Guinea is one of the most corrupt countries worldwide. The “Corruption Perception Index 2008 (CPI)” of the organisation ranks Guinea 173 out of 180 countries. Guinea fell therefore five spots in comparison with the CPI 2007.²⁹ TI and officials of NGOs and the government itself stated that the growing problem of corruption is threatening the economic growth of the country, its public services and led to an increase of drug trafficking. According to IT, the government is paralysed in its effort to battle corruption³⁰ - a belief that is shared by the political opposition in Guinea³¹ and the governmental organisation USAID, which is enlarging its anti-corruption programmes for Guinea in 2008 and 2009.³² While the government admit own shortfalls in fighting

²⁹ Transparency International, *Corruption Perception Index 2008*, http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2008, last accessed December 2008

³⁰ UNHCR, *Guinea: Reputation for Corruption Worsens*, September 24, 2008, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/48e085e3c.html>, last accessed December 2008

³¹ International daily “LesAfriques. Le journal de la finance africaine“, *La corruption fait perdre 1 milliard \$*, July 18, 2008, <http://www.lesafriques.com/guinee/la-corruption-fait-perdre-1-milliard.html?Itemid=57&articleid=8089>, last accessed December 2008

³² USAID, *Anti-Corruption Activities in Guinea*, May 29, 2008, <http://www.usaid.gov/gn/news/2008/Anti-Corruption/Anti-corruption.htm>, last accessed December 2008

corruption,³³ it explained the decline in the CPI-ranking mainly as a result of the nationwide anti-government strikes in January and February 2007 led to a dysfunctional administration and judiciary.³⁴ However, the US State Department held President Conté personally responsible for the widespread problem of corruption. One of the main catalysts of the national strikes in January 2007 has been the fact that President Conté personally intervened to suppress charges of corruption against one of his close allies. After his re-election in December 1998, the president replaced many technocrats and reform-oriented members of the Guinean Diaspora from important positions in his government with leading figures from his own Soussou ethnic group. According to the State Department "These changes led to increased cronyism, corruption, and a retrenchment of economic and political reforms."³⁵ The change of politics would have undermined the progress that has been achieved in the battle against corruption since 1996.³⁶ While visiting Guinea, the World Bank's vice-president for Africa, Ms Obiageli Katryn Ezekwesili shared the critique of the US government in September 2008. Ms Ezekwesili declared in Conakry that no single major problem of the country could be solved without seriously fighting corruption.³⁷ The disparity between the facts that Guinea is classified as one of the poorest countries whilst having rich natural resources is - according to USAID - a cause of high-scale corruption alone. The organisation fears a further deterioration as the country moves towards parliamentary elections.³⁸ The elections were originally scheduled for the end of 2007 but have been postponed several times. Governmental officials stated in December 2008 that the elections could now be put off to coincide with the presidential elections, scheduled for 2010.³⁹

2.3.2. Risk of becoming a victim of human trafficking

According to high-ranking officers of the Vice Squad and the "Interdepartmental Task Force on Human Trafficking",⁴⁰ the trafficking in persons is defined as any act in transport by force of human beings with the aim of abuse in form of forced labour or prostitution. In Guinea there is much interference between both forms of human trafficking.

The problematic of trafficking in persons has at least two dimensions in Guinea: an internal and an external dimension:

- For the *internal dimension* of trafficking in persons, young girls of poor families from rural villages are one of the most vulnerable groups. Forced labour in private households and forced prostitution - both especially in Conakry - are the most common form of abuse of the victims. A second vulnerable group is children from pauperised

³³ Guinean daily "Aminata - Les nouvelles de la Republique de Guinée", *Célébration de la journée mondiale de la corruption : mea-culpa du Ministre Souleymane Cissé!*, December 12, 2008, http://www.aminata.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3717&Itemid=769, last accessed December 2008

³⁴ UNHCR, *Guinea: Reputation for Corruption Worsens*, September 24, 2008, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/48e085e3c.html>, last accessed December 2008

³⁵ US State Department, *Background Note: Guinea* (October 2008), <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2824.htm> last accessed December 2008

³⁶ US State Department, *Background Note: Guinea* (October 2008), <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2824.htm> last accessed December 2008

³⁷ Senegalese internet daily "SUDonline", *La Guinée épinglée par la Banque Mondiale*, September 10, 2008, <http://www.sudonline.sn/spip.php?article13690>, last accessed December 2008

³⁸ USAID, *Anti-Corruption Activities in Guinea*, May 29, 2008, <http://www.usaid.gov/gn/news/2008/Anti-Corruption/Anti-corruption.htm>, last accessed December 2008

³⁹ IRIN-UN Humanitarian News and Analysis, *Guinea: Political Players Differ over Further Election Delays*, December 5, 2008, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81840>, last accessed December 2008

⁴⁰ The informants want to stay anonymous. Their names are known by CADES.

families in rural areas that are literally sold as henchmen to small-scale entrepreneurs who are exploiting mines using traditional work methods. This practice of forced labour is widespread in the mining areas of Siguiri (Bouré), Kérouané (Banankoro) and Dinguiraye (Léro).

- For the *external dimension* of trafficking in persons, young women from Mali are one main vulnerable group. Most of the women and girls from Mali are used as housemaids in Guinea have a middleman, who demands a large part of their income for his “services”. For example: a housemaid, who gets officially a salary of 160.000 GNF per month, receives from her middleman just 50.000 GNF per month.

Second vulnerable groups are young women and girls who - whilst trying to reach Western countries via coastal areas - fall prey to middlemen that sell them to brothels abroad where they have to work to repay the travel costs. These travel costs remain non-transparent for the victims. The UNICEF survey “Interdepartmental Task Force on Human Trafficking” and the Vice Squad, indicates a clear coherence between the political destabilisation of the whole region (consequences of the wars/riots in Liberia, Sierra-Leone, Guinea-Bissau and Ivory Coast) and the rise of trafficking in children in Guinea. The most vulnerable group concerning the phenomenon of trafficking in children are the refugees from these countries in Guinea.

According to UNICEF-data and the “Interdepartmental Task Force on Human Trafficking”, 22 children could be saved from slavery at the border with Mali in 2000. In 2007, 10 children were saved on their way to Sierra Leone from the hands of four women who intended to sell them. In 2008, 22 children could be reunited with their families in Mali. They could be freed in the district of Kabayaba, in the under-prefecture of Faranah.

The “National Survey for the Trafficking of Children in Guinea” (ENATEG)⁴¹, the first national survey carried out in Guinea, confirmed the existence of the phenomenon. The survey concluded that crimes were in the most cases committed with the aim of forced labour, forced prostitution and forced military service in neighbouring countries. The survey found no evidence for trafficking with the purpose to sell human organs. The survey distinguishes trafficking of children in the recruitment, the transport, the transfer and the reception of the victims with the goal of their exploitation. The phenomenon becomes manifest in Guinea in two forms:

- The trade in the strict sense: the actions of the criminals like provoking, negotiating, organising and sheltering.
- The activities of middlemen: In this case the child migrates often willingly or by the will of its parents. A middleman further organises the trip, puts the child in labour and makes profit out of its labour. The system has traditionally been dubbed - in misleading sense -: “Child fostering” (“Confiage des enfants”). Details of this form of child abuse can be found in the Human Rights Watch report, “Bottom of the Ladder. Exploitation and Abuse of Girl Domestic Workers in Guinea” (June 2007).⁴²

According to ENATEG, different networks of international traffickers are active in Guinea, using the country as a transit area to the Maghreb and to European countries, especially to Italy, Ukraine, Switzerland and France. Children from Guinea are trafficked to Ivory Coast, the Maghreb and to Europe. The majority of the children trafficked abroad are destined to a life of abuse in sexual exploitation schemes and are also forced into military service in rebel forces. In Guinea itself, children are victims of forced labour in restaurants, bars, mining, domestic work, collecting garbage, begging and prostitution. Unfortunately, the survey do not describe the problem of forced prostitution of children, which is, according

⁴¹ “Ministry for Social Affairs, the Promotion of Women and Children” (MASPEE), *Enquête Nationale sur le Trafic des Enfants en Guinée*, p. 5, paragraphe 3 et p. 6, paragraphe 1 et 3, August 2003

⁴² Human Rights Watch, *Bottom of the Ladder. Exploitation and Abuse of Girl Domestic Workers in Guinea* (June 2007), <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2007/06/14/bottom-ladder>, last accessed May 2009

to agents of the vice squad, is a large problem in at least in Conakry, where many minors could be found in brothels.

Again according to ENATEG, victims of trafficking in child form Sierra Leone and from Liberia could be found in practically every major city of Guinea. They are mostly on their transit to Europe or to the Maghreb. The trafficking is organised mostly by criminals from Nigeria and Ghana, which can in Guinea easily find official documents for their victims.

According to Mr Isidore LAMAH, second director of the child protection unit of UNICEF, Guinea is a country of transit, recruitment and destination for the trafficking of children. For more information, please contact conakry@unicef.org, or see the websites of Unicef (www.unicef.org/french/infobycountry/guinea/html) and Human Rights Watch (hrw.org/french/docs/2007).

2.3.3. Risk of becoming a victim of forced prostitution

According to the Guinean law, prostitutes and their clients are both considered as victims and cannot be legally punished. Only the procurement and stimulation of prostitution is chargeable.

The causes for prostitution in Guinea are linked to two factors:

- Endogenous factors: poverty, abandonment of family, divorce, other abundances of families, etc. can force people into prostitution. Many secondary school students of pauperised families are supported (and abused) by other men. The Ministry of Education “reacts” in collaboration with several NGOs on this social plight so far, and has subsequently launched studies to find ways and means to protect the girls against sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies.
- Exogenous factors: the disability of the Guinean state to fight poverty, guaranty sufficient levels of income and social injustice.

Today, the phenomenon of prostitution in Guinea is becoming increasingly more visible, especially in the mining areas and in Conakry, where networks of pimps are stimulating the demand. The most vulnerable group is pauperised young women from 18 to 30 years of age.

2.3.4 Effectiveness of protection

According to an officer from the “Unit for Intervention and Security” (CMIS) of the police, the main problem of the police forces in his service result from the lack of manpower and adequate equipment; these deficits lead to difficulties - or even circumstantial impossibilities - to re-establish public order. The unit of the informant consists officially of 116 agents, of whom many are detached to other police services. In fact only 80 agents of the unit are operational in whole Conakry, a city of about 2.000.000 inhabitants.

The same situation exists in the whole country and sometimes the “Units for Intervention and Security” do not exist at all. The lack of police forces does expose the population to crime.

Other deficits of the law enforcement authorities are a general lack of adequate practical and theoretical training, especially in the aspect of ethics and deontology.

The overall situation makes the police agents vulnerable of corruption, notably these officers in charge to bring criminals to justice. The judiciary is also vulnerable to corruption.

According to members of the “National Committee Against Corruption”, the widespread corruption of police officers and members of the juridical services compromise the whole law enforcement in their struggle against crime and gives a poor example for other civil servants. The final report of the national survey on corruption of the “National Agency against Corruption and for the Moralisation of the Economic and Financial Activities” (ANLC), “l’Agence Nationale de Lutte Contre la Corruption et la Moralisation des Activités

Economiques et Financières” in February 2005⁴³ indicated that the phenomenon of corruption touches the whole country and all sectors of public and economic life even strategically important sectors. Among the civil services, the Ministry of “City planning and Housing” (l’Urbanisme et l’Habitat) is the most corrupt (64% of all respondents), followed by the Ministries of “Public Functions” (43%), “Youth and Sports” (42%), “Interior and Decentralisation” l’Intérieur et la Décentralisation (42%), “Security” (40%), “Justice” (34%) and “Finances” (33%).

The main reasons of corruption, according to the same report, are the bending of rules and laws in general, the allocation of state contracts - even major ones - in mutual, non-transparent agreements, non-transparent and ineffective management of the state budget and of the civil servants.

The principal practices of corruption are bribes paid:

- To influence legal decisions or to change them;
- To influence criminal prosecutions;
- To influence the closing of a contract or to change its content;
- To obtain access to public services;
- To obtain a public contract;
- To obtain licences and permits;
- To reduce costs of tax payments.

This form of corruption affects all social classes of the society, including high-ranking officials of the state and businessmen.

According to the mentioned report, the bribes paid by firms to the public administration have an estimated value of 10bn GNF (about USD 4m) per year. Private households pay another estimated 104bn GNF (about USD 38m) in bribes.

The statistics on corruption differ per region, however. According to opinions of leading officials of the public administration and several NGOs (domestic and international) the phenomenon of corruption affects the most “Haute Guinée” Province (47%). In the Provinces “Guinée Forestière” (36%), “Conakry” (37%) and “Moyenne Guinée” (35%), the level of corruption is practically the same as the national average (36%). On the other hand, the perception of corruption is by far the lowest in the province “Basse Guinée” (15%). The discrepancy between the provinces is statistically significant (P=0,005).

Regarding the effectiveness of the legal protection of crime victims, high-ranking officials (Mr HAIDARA Mohamed Saïd, General Inspector of the juridical services and Mr Cécé Théa, member of the Court of Appeal in Conakry) revealed that the number of cases treated by the police is far less than instructed by the Judicial Inspection Services. The reason for this incongruity is the corruption of the police and the judicial system.

2.3.4.1. Police forces⁴⁴

The police forces of Guinea are a paramilitary organisation under the authority of the Ministry of Security.

It is composed of personnel in plainclothes (inspectors and commissars) and in uniform (agents and officers) plus personnel in administration and technical and scientific support.

The General Directorate of the National Police was created by the decree no. D/98/001/PRG/SGG of January 6, 1998. It is in charge of coordinating and administrating all polices services in Guinea (article 2).

The police services are in charge of:

⁴³ Agence Nationale de Lutte contre la Corruption et de Moralisation des Activités Economiques et Financière (ANLC), *Rapport Final d’Enquête sur la Corruption et la Gouvernance en Guinée (ENACOG/2003)*, p. 8, paragraphe 3; p. 9, paragraphes 1et 2, p. 10, paragraphe 3 et p. 12, paragraphe 1, February 2005

⁴⁴ Source: Decree N 3062/MS/CAB/98, April 17, 1998, Portant Attribution et organisation de la Direction Générale de la Police Nationale, du Ministre de la Sécurité.

- Maintaining of public order;
- Gathering information in the field of the national security;
- Ensuring safety of the railways, the airports and the ports;
- Controlling of emigration and immigration;
- Maintaining public order public places (markets, theatres, public houses, etc. - vice squad);
- Protecting of persons and property;
- Administrative and judicial police and, more generally, of the application of laws and regulations.

The police are authorized to take action on the whole national territory (article 3).

Organisation:

To carry out its mission, the General Directorate of the National Police is composed of (article 4):

The Head office:

- the director-general;
- one adjutant of the director-general, charged with the general service and with the discipline;
- one adjutant of the director-general, charged with technical questions;
- the central secretariat;
- the particular secretariat.

The Central Directorates:

- one Central Directorate for the public security;
- one Central Directorate of the Judicial Police;
- one Central Directorate of General Information;
- one Central Directorate of the National Surveillance;
- one Central Directorate of the Border Police and the Police for civil aviation;
- one Central Directorate for Road Security.

One attached service:

- The central anti-drug office

Decentralised services:

- The directorates of the Security service;
- The commissariats of the Police.

The institutions of the Directorate:

The General Director of the National Police is the main responsible for the Police services.

Toward the Minister of Security, he is responsible for the proper functioning of the police forces according to their tasks as defined in article 2 of the present decree.

To fulfil this task, the General Director of the National Police is particularly in charge of:

- Supervision of the deontology of the National Police;
- Representation of the National Police;
- Harmonisation of the working methods;
- Coordination and control of the activities of the different services of the police;
- Establishing the technical and professional framework for the personnel;
- Management of the financial sources of his disposition.

The adjutant of the General Director is in charge of general services and the abidance of discipline (he replaces the General Director of the National Police in case of absence).

The adjutant of the General Director is in charge of technical questions is responsible for all technical questions of the administration of the different police services.

The “Salle de commandement” is a unit in charge of the communication of all important information and orders between the General Director of the National Police and all other services of the police, together with the administration of the ministry of Defence and of the Security

The Central Directorates:

The Central Directorate for the Public Security is in charged of all necessary duties to maintain the public order: the protection of persons and property, the execution of the law and the order of the General Police with the exception of the tasks of security maintenance of the road-network (this responsibility falls under the Central Directorate of the Road Police).

The Central Directorate of the Judicial Police is in charge of gathering evidence that, as goal, brings offenders of the law to justice, according to the conditions fixed in the Code of Criminal Proceeding.

A further duty is the nationwide coordination and control of the activities of the criminal investigation departments of the police.

The Directorate participates actively in the struggle against the organised crime, economic and financial delinquency, drug trafficking, etc. The Central Directorate of the Judicial Police includes:

The Division of Criminal Investigation is in charge of the struggle against organised crime and other serious threats to public order. This division supervises and coordinates nationwide the research of serious offences against public order.

The Technical and Scientific Division of the Police, is in charge of the organisation and the implementation of technical and scientific means for the research of crimes and offences.

The Division of the vice squad is in charge of:

- The maintaining of the public order by protecting the inhabitants of the country against illegal activities which would likely undermine the public morality;
- The protection of the public against “attacks on public decency”, such as prostitution, organised gambling, the production and selling of illegal drugs, etc.;
- The maintenance of “public decency” in public places, e.g. cinemas, theatres, brothels, etc.
- To carry out surveys and research with the aim to protect miners.

The Service for Repression of Economical and Financial Crimes is in charge of:

- The centralisation and distribution of legal enactments and regulations concerning trade, industry, craft, fiscal and customs matters, management of public finances, criminal law, etc.
- The investigation of economic and financial offences.

The National Office of Interpol is in charge of:

- The maintenance of relations with international police organisations and primarily with the other National Offices of Interpol.

- The maintenance of relations with the other law enforcement authorities of Guinea concerning issues of international dimension.
- The collaboration on surveys on criminals active on international level.
- The participation in extradition procedures.
- The participation on the work and on conferences of Interpol (ICPO).

The “**Central Directorate of General Information**“, is in charge of the coordination and the organisation of research of information concerning the political, economic, social or cultural situation.

The **Central Directorate of the National Surveillance** is in charge of:

- The investigation and suppression of all attacks on the internal security of the state;
- The surveillance of sensitive points, of suspicious individuals or groups;
- The control of the import, trade and confiscation of arms and ammunition;
- The security of the visits and trips of high ranking officials and their individual protection.

The **Central Directorate of the Border Police and the Police for Civil Aviation** is in charge of:

- The control of the circulation of persons on the national borders, the detention of sought-after individuals and the notification of all sorts of possible offences.
- The issuing of national travel documents.
- The issuing of applications for necessary documents for foreigners, in regards to their entering, their stay and their permanent establishing in Guinea.
- The expulsion or repression of foreigners.
- The maintenance of the safety of railway and maritime transport and of civil air travel.
- The maintenance of information sharing between the different authorities interested and charged with the activities of the national harbours, airports and railway.
- The control of the national border crossings and of foreign bookshops in regard to the confiscation of prohibited publications.
- The signalisation of the entry or transit of high-ranking persons, if possible before their arrival.
- The assistance of other authorities serving at the national borders.

The services of the Border Police and the Police for Civil Aviation are normally placed at the national border crossings. Aside from their controlling of passengers, they employ their observations to gather all information likely being of the interest of the state. The Central Directorate of the Border Police and the Police for Civil Aviation includes:

- Division for administration and judicial;
- Division for emigration;
- Division for immigration;
- IT-services.

The **Central Directorate for Road Security** is in charge of coordination and control of the activities of the different polices services in the field of road traffic. The service maintains the good order on the public roads by the implementation of all measures liable to ensure fluidity and safety of the public traffic and to prevent accidents.

The **Central Anti-Drug Office** is a service connected to the General Directorate of the National Police, and maintains a central administration organ and inquiry services.

Decentralised police services in the administrative regions and prefectures:

- **The directorates of the Security services** in the administrative regions and the Directorate of the urban Security services of Conakry are essentially in charge of the coordination and control of the activities of the different police stations, units of intervention and police post of their district. The directorates of the Security services stand under the command of the Governors of the Regions and are directed by the Directors of the Security services.
- **The Central Commissariats** are in the main town of every prefecture and every municipality of Conakry. They are coordinating the activities of the urban commissariats, the special commissariats and the police posts in their area of their competence.
- **The Urban Commissariats** are police formations in cities and in the major towns of the prefectures. They are in charge of public security.
- **The Special Commissariats:** When a police commissariat is placed at an industrial or mining area, or when its mission is linked to clearly defined activities of public interest or security, it is called "Special Commissariat".

2.3.4.2. Judiciary

The structure of the jurisdiction in Guinea is as follows:

Ordinary or communal jurisdiction:

- Courts of Appeal;
- Tribunals of First Instance;
- Magistrates Courts;

Exceptional jurisdiction:

- Juvenile courts;
- Labour court for the special zone Conakry;
- High Court of Justice;
- Military tribunal;

The Supreme Court formulates appeals and cassations of judgements of all other jurisdictions. It is also in charge of judging the executive authorities.

The Court of Appeals: One court of appeals Conakry, one in Kankan, judge decisions made by:

- Tribunals of first instance and Magistrates Courts;
- Institutions of professional disciplinary;
- Decisions concerning all other jurisdictions as defined by law.

The Court of Appeal receives cases by consignment of the Supreme Court after cassation, and is also responsible for court orders addressed by foreign countries to Guinea.

The Inspection: The first President of Justice and the Public Prosecutor are responsible for the inspection of the jurisdiction and their sphere of power. They are responsible for proper administration of judicial services and correct execution of their tasks. They report to the Minister of Justice twice a year.

The Chambers: Every Court of Appeals is divided in one Civil Chamber, one Economy Chamber, one Chamber of Social and Administrative Affairs, one Chamber of Accusation and one Correctional Chamber.

The Criminal Court: Its competence and structure are defined by the code of criminal procedures.

The Tribunal of the First Instance: Every Appeal Court has different Tribunals of the First Instance and Magistrates Courts. Tribunals of the First Instance are in every administrative region (Conakry, Kindia, Boké, Labé, Mamou).

Magistrates' courts are found in the major towns of every prefecture, where no courts of higher levels are situated. The Magistrates Courts have only one judge that executes the function of the public prosecutor, the investigating judge and of the judge itself. One or several assistant judges can be nominated for the service at the Magistrates Courts.

Ordinary Police Tribunals have also one judge. With the exception of some particular cases, the presence of the Public Prosecutor is not compulsory. The Code of Criminal Procedure fixes the competence, submission and procedure of the Ordinary Police Tribunals.

Tribunals for Children are situated at every Tribunal of the First Instance with the exception of the special zone Conakry. In the framework of criminal procedures, the tribunals judge offences committed by minors.

The Labour Tribunal is situated in the special zone of Conakry. The structure and the procedures of the tribunal are provided by the Labour Code.

The geographical area of jurisdiction:

Appeal Court:

- In Conakry: entitled for Guinée Moyenne and Guinée Basse;
- In Kankan: entitled for Haute Guinée and Guinée Forestière

Tribunal of the First Instance: Conakry, Kankan, Kindia, Faranah, Boké, Labé, Mamou and N'Zérékoré.

Magistrates' courts: Conakry (special zone), Téliimélé, Coyah, Forécariah, Dubréka, Mali Siguiri, Kouroussa, Mandiana, Kérouané, Fria, Boffa, Gaoual, Koundara, Tougué, Koubia, Kissidougou, Dinguiraye, Dabola, Lélouma, Guéckédou, Beyla, Lola, Yomou, Macenta, Dalaba and Pita

The **Penal Institutions** are classified in 26 so called "Central Houses" and in 9 "Civil Prisons".

Advice of the experts (Mr CAMARA Makan Police inspector, Assistant of Adviser responsible for cooperating with the Ministry of Security, Conakry and Mr DIALLO Mamadou Alpha Mariam Lawyer, Chamber Council Guinea, Conakry):

The investigation that we led on the physical security in Guinea, reinforce our conviction about the development of crime in Guinea. Regarding protection, the situation is far from ideal because of insufficient resources, the low level of training of the police and the high corruption of the police and the judicial system.

The state must have a consistent policy in the struggle against crime and insecurity and should invest in more personnel, but also by contributing necessary means, reinforcing training and creating the conditions for quick police intervention even in isolated regions of the country. The state should fight corruption in all sectors of society, but especially in the sectors of justice and security. Primarily, the state should fight poverty with all its might, as this is the source of all these problems.

CHAPTER III

3. Social security and reintegration

3.1. Regions with no reintegration and return opportunities

According to inquiries at leading national and international organizations (UNPD, IRC, UNHCR and the “*Conseil Economique et Social et du Service National des Actions Humanitaires*” - SENAH), there are no regions without opportunities for Guinean returnees. In terms of environmental disasters, the only such occurrence that Guinea experienced in recent years was the environmental damage caused by the rebel incursion, most notably in the Guinée Forestière province. In 2004, the IRC worked together with the UNPD on the identification of the devastated zones with the aim to facilitate the return of refugees by cleaning the wells and by eliciting other humanitarian needs. According to the “National Director for Architecture, Construction and National Heritage” (DACPI) there is a reconstruction programme for infrastructures of the administration, the judiciary, the municipalities and the law-enforcement authorities, especially in the Forestière region. The approximately 3bn GNF long-term program is financed by the European Union, the Islamic Bank of Development and the Guinean government. An interdepartmental committee of the Guinean government manages the fund (Ministries of Housing, Finances and Decentralisation).

There are also several international organizations active on this field of reconstruction of the infrastructure and support on food-security. These are among others “Plan International Guinea”, the “German Technical Cooperation” (GTZ) or the “Organisation Catholique pour la Promotion Humanitaire”(OCHP). As mentioned above, there are no regions in Guinea without any opportunities for the re-integration of returnees. No region of Guinea is affected by famine, though despite this fact, and in a worsening financial and economic situation, the most popular staple food - rice - must be entirely imported. However, the Ministry of Planning conducted a survey titled the “Integrated Survey for the Valuation of the Poverty in Guinea” (EIBEP 2002-2003);⁴⁵ according to the results of the survey, the poorest regions of the country are “Haute Guinée” and “Moyenne Guinée” with poverty rates of 67,5% and 55,4% respectively.

3.2. Housing, accommodation

3.2.1. Property restitution and/or compensation (in former zones of conflict or disaster)

According to information gathered by the “National Directory of Architecture, Construction and National Heritage” (DACPI), the “National Service for Humanitarian Action” (SENAH) and from UNHCR, the only recent major conflict in Guinea has been the rebel incursion from Sierra Leone and Liberia. The displaced population of the affected regions (Forécariah, Macenta, Guéckédou, Kissidougou) returned several months later and took back their property.

The director of the DACPI intended to find a way to stimulate the development of the country by clearing illegally occupied settlements in special state-owned zones. The intention is to stimulate the development in these zones by creating administrative centres. A special technical team has been composed to identify the illegal settlers and their investments for a promised compensation for their expulsion. In the case of the so-called “Kaporo-rails” zone, corrupt civil servants legalised the sale of property, certified illegal deeds of ownership and allowed the construction of houses in state-reserved zones. These illegal settlements have now been systematically cleared with the complete demolition of all houses. The victims faced the destroying of their homes and the expropriation of the land they considered as their own. In spite the fact that a joint commission of the Ministry of Housing was formed to investigate the case and a list of victims is available, so far neither resettlement-programmes nor any compensation took place.

In the aspect of the restitution for areas put in disposition of refugees from Sierra-Leone, Liberia and Ivory Coast, UNHCR facilitated the restitution-process, which has been formalized beforehand by the UNHCR with the Guinean government and the concerned local authorities.

3.2.2. Housing programs by return areas

According to information, received from the DACPI, from the adviser for construction measures of the Ministry for Housing and from SENAH, there is at the moment no special housing program for returnees. Returnees have however equal chances to achieve accommodation like any other citizen of Guinea.

According to the adviser for construction measures of the Ministry for Housing, the government is trying to improve the situation on housing by the reconstruction of public buildings and private houses which where destroyed during the rebel incursions in the beginning of the new century and during the violent riots in January and February 2007. A national plan of reconstruction of the stricken zones is already accomplished and supported financially by the European Union. Among the projects to be rebuilt are the reception

⁴⁵ Ministry of Planning, National Directorate for Statistics, *Rapport final de l'Enquête Intégrée de Base pour l'Evaluation de la Pauvreté (EIBEP 2002-2003)*, p. 75, last chapter and table 5.5

centres and guest-houses of the different regions, prefectures and under-prefectures of the country.

As a further project, the Ministry for Housing started to construct together with private investors and SHELTER-Afrique⁴⁶ 200 social housing units in Conakry. These houses should be accessible for all Guineans, returnees or not. It is also planned to extend the project to other regions of the country.

At the moment there is insufficient housing available in the country, neither in terms of quantity or quality. However no detailed information about the scale of the problem is available. To fill the gap the governmental institution PNUD (Politique National de l'Habitat de Guinée) is planning to carry out an inquiry to determine the quantity and quality of the available housing and to specify the need of new accommodation on national level. The only available data so far were gathered in the framework of the "Integrated Basis-Survey to Evaluate Poverty" (EIBEP)⁴⁷ of 2002/2003. According to these data, there are 1.185.614 accommodations in total and 318.980 in towns and cities. The same survey stated that the majority of the accommodations are in the private property of their dwellers (77,4%), that 14% of the dwellers are lodgers and that 7,6% of the dwellers make use of housing accommodations that are free of charge. There are however differences per region:

- **Conakry:** 31,9% private owners, 54,2% lodgers, 11,6% lodgers free of charges, 2,1% service lodgers;
- **Basse Guinée:** 82,4% private owners, 8,2% lodgers, 7,9% lodgers free of charge, 0,1% service lodgers;
- **Moyenne Guinée:** 92,3% private owners, 3,1% lodgers, 4,3% lodgers free of charge, 0,1% service lodgers;
- **Haute Guinée:** 92,2% private owners, 4,1% lodgers, 3,6% lodgers free of charge, 0,1% service lodgers;
- **Guinée Forestière:** 77,3% private owners, 10,2% lodgers, 11,1% lodgers free of charge, 1,4% service lodgers.

3.2.3. Opportunities of building a house

Inquires at the DACPI, the Society for the Development and Equipment of Urban Milieus (SAETUR), the Guinean Society for Promotion and Property Management (GPGI) and at the research department of the Office for Architecture and Decoration (BAAD), revealed that there are realistic opportunities for building private housing in Guinea.

It is sufficient to have the financial sources for the lawful acquisition of a construction plot managed and distributed by SAETUR, especially in Conakry, or to buy a privately owned building ground. The construction itself can be realised via two ways:

- Financing and monitoring of the construction by the owner or by his trustees (but beware: many Guineans living abroad have been in the past victims of fraud on behalf of their own family members, to whom they entrusted the construction of their houses);
- The construction via a local construction company in charge with the realisation of the whole project. To reach a mutual understanding of all modalities beforehand is advisable.

To realise the construction of a house, the state provides a building licence of the validity of three years.

⁴⁶ SHELTER-Afrique: a Nairobi-based intergovernmental institution for financing and development of housing, created in 1982 by the African governments, the African Bank for Development and the Commonwealth Development Cooperation; contact: info@shelterafrique.org, website: www.shelterafrique.org

⁴⁷ Ministry of Planning, National Directorate for Statistics, *Rapport final de l'Enquête Intégrée de Base pour l'Evaluation de la Pauvreté (EIBEP 2002-2003)*, p. 150, table 8.3

3.2.3.1. Conditions of obtaining land property

According to the coordinator of the construction project of the 200 social-accommodation units of DACPI, there are two possibilities to obtain building ground in Guinea:

The formal way: a request to obtain a building ground at the Ministry of Urbanisation and Housing via SAETUR by specifying the use (private housing, industry, trade, tourism, etc.).

The informal way: by contacting private owners, usually via intermediary middlemen. There are three ways to obtain building ground:

Buying, long-lease: usually on a 99-year term, which gives the leaser the possibility to obtain mortgage, and by **allotment:** done by the government via SAETUR.

The government does not sell plots but allocates them. The purchaser is obliged to carry the expenses of the cession, which is made equivalent to the cost of the land development of the plot (assessed in m²). Private owner can sell their ground or put it in lease. In this case the buyer has to carry the cost of buying, plus the assignment fees.

According to the secretariat of the directory of SAETUR the legal conditions to obtain building ground by the organization are the following:

- A written demand directed to the General Director of SAETUR, who started the procedure by getting a registration number to follow the file;
- Fill in the necessary forms at SAETUR;
- To provide a photocopy of their ID or passport;
- To provide a proof of residence;
- To provide 4 passport photos.

The enrollee will then receive the bank account number of SAETUR (No. 4111243) at the Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea to pay the first in-advance payment. The receipt voucher is issued to the name of the enrollee, but the deposit is paid to the account of SAETUR. The original form of the deposit will remain at SAETUR while the enrollee will receive a photocopy. From this step onward, the enrollee will be on the list of the recorded purchasers, but the whole procedure can last one or two years, according to the pace of development of the building site. The advantage of the SAETUR-procedure is the fact that the applier will receive a building ground well developed and equipped and that the payment need not be paid at once, but in portions. The price of the building ground depends not only on the surface-area and the location, but also in terms of the infrastructure. According to the different areas, building grounds distributed by SAETUR vary from 250 to 600 m² and the prices range from 10.000 to 30.000 GNF/m². However these given prices should be reviewed, due to rising inflation.

Stop of occupation: all costs for establishing the plot are cost of the enrollee and are administered by SAETUR.

In the case that the applicant is a Guinean citizen living abroad, the person has also to name an actual resident in Guinea (in possession of a legal residence permit), who is able to represent him with a sufficient mandate.

Additional information can be purchased directly from Mr. Paquile Monemou, Executive Director of SAETUR, BP: 4885, Conakry, Tel.: +224/60.33.14.50, e-mail: mpaquile@yahoo.fr.

Conditions to purchase a building ground from a private owner or from an owner by common law:

- Inquiry of the morality of the owner and check of the deed of ownership;
- Acquisition by an official act in presence of a notary;

- Legal transfer of the deed of ownership and regularisation of the transfer by the Services for Town planning and Housing of the district in question (Conakry, the regions, prefectures or sub-prefectures).

Regarding the issue of property, the Code of Ground and Commodity of the Republic of Guinea stipulates in its first title, *chapter I: "General principals of owner rights"*, the following:

Article 1: The state can be like other physical or moral persons the holder of property rights of ground and the real estate, which it carries. These rights have to be exercised according to the rules of the civil code and of the present code.

Article 2: The right of possession conveys to its titular the right of use and the free disposition of the property and this in the most absolute terms. It is to practise inside the limits, which are imposed by the general interest or by the legal decisions.

Chapter II: Inscription of property

Article 3: The property is determined by the inscription of the building, which is indebted to the accordant plan of site for every territorial collective: on the level of the urban district or of the rural community. The property has to be registered in the "livre fonceur", held by the services for land conservation. The "livre fonceur" is maintained by the urban- and the rural municipalities and defines all property rights.

According to the quoted sources, there are at the moment no obstacles to purchase land property if the financial sources of the purchaser are sufficient and the described formalities are observed.

3.2.3.2. Relevant approximate prices

There is at the moment no legal framework for the regulation of prices for the private selling and purchasing of building grounds.⁴⁸

On public level, there is the joint decree N° 4074 / MEF / MUH of September 11th, 2000, which fixes the assessment base for the assignment of private ground to public domains of the State, for the cost of regularisation of public domains, the fees for leasing public ground on the basis of limited concessions and for the cost of the technical services of the Ministry of Town Planning and Housing.⁴⁹

On the private market the prices are quite arbitrarily fixed, according to the location of the site (village, border of the road, coast, etc.) and the evolution of the costs of living and to the level of demand. The market is characterised by the nearly complete absence of national programmes for the promotion of social accommodation. Guinea has no banks that specialise in the housing or property sector.⁵⁰

Table: Prices in m² for building ground purchased from the state in different municipalities of Conakry in GNF

Type of activity	Type of location	Kaloum	Matam	Dixinn	Matoto	Ratoma
Commercial	Primary	200.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000
	Secondary	150.000	75.000	75.000	75.000	75.000
	Tertiary	100.000	50.000	50.000	50.000	50.000
Industrial	Primary	100.000	75.000	75.000	75.000	75.000

⁴⁸ Interview of "les Amis de la Santé" with Mr Ibrahima Kalil KOUROUMA, Chief of the Division of Public Domains, Ministry of Public Works, Town Planning and Housing, BP: 846, Conakry; Tel: +224 60 27 14 31.

⁴⁹ Secrétariat Général du gouvernement de la République de Guinée, joint decree N° 4074/MEF/MUH, Septembre 11, 2000

⁵⁰ Interview of "les Amis de la Santé" with Mr Faya Clément TOLNO, Section Chief for Topographic Operations, Ministry of Public Works, Town Planning and Housing, Tel.: +224 60 26 90 88 / +224 64 42 93 69.

	Secondary	75.000	50.000	50.000	50.000	50.000
	Tertiary	50.000	30.000	30.000	30.000	30.000
Professional and handicraft services	Primary	75.000	50.000	46.850	34.375	50.000
	Secondary	50.000	30.000	31.250	22.900	30.000
	Tertiary	30.000	20.000	15.625	11.450	20.000
Housing	Primary	100.000	37.500	37.500	27.500	75.000
	Secondary	75.000	25.000	18.320	18.320	50.000
	Tertiary	50.000	12.000	9.160	9.160	30.000
Other services		Reduction of 30% to 40%				
Social housing		Reduction of 50%				

Approximate prices⁵¹ for allotments

The prices vary according to the location, to the access to water, electricity or telecommunications, to the vicinity of health centres or commerce centres and to the security situation of the location. At the moment the government do not sell allotments, but do lease them. Building ground for housing is done by the state by way of attribution or a lease in form of taxes.

Approximate prices for building ground of private ownership/ownership by common law

According to the association of canvassers (démarcheurs) active in the intermediation of property, the prices for building ground are approximately the following:

Conakry:

Kaloum: street side: 500 m²: 1.500.000.000 GNF

Inside the districts: 500 m²: 500.000.000 GNF

Residential areas (minière-Camayenne) 500 m²: 150.000 USD⁵²

Kipé: 500 m²: 450.000.000 GNF

Lambanyi: 400 or 500 m²: 250.000.000 GNF

Axis Hamdalaye-Cosa-Enco 5:

Street side: 500 m²: 600.000.000 GNF

Inside the districts: 500 m²: 200.000.000 GNF

Haute banlieue (Axis Enco 5-Kagbélen):

Street side: 500 m²: 500.000.000 GNF

Inside the districts: 500 m²: 100.000.000 GNF

Interior of Guinea

Principal towns (Chefs lieux des Préfectures):

Street side: 500 m²: 150.000.000 GNF

Inside the districts: 500 m²: 30.000.000 GNF

Secondary towns (Chefs lieux des Sous préfectures):

Street side: 500 m²: 15.000.000 GNF

Inside the districts: 500 m²: 5.000.000 GNF

All prices are negotiable and can vary in reality considerably according to the financial expectations/needs of the seller and the negotiation skills of the buyer/mediator.

⁵¹ The given information on approximate prices for building ground and for construction material were obtained from the Ministry of Trade and Competition, from SAETUR, from the Association of Canvassers for Housing of Hamdallaye, the association of Protractor of Sand of the Transversale 6 and the Association of Sellers of construction material of Hamdallaye.

According to the contacted specialist in the field of building ground and housing, the given approximate prices taking into account different costs, like costs for professional and financial services.

⁵² The payment in foreign currency is often demanded by sellers whose reasons for sale are linked by exterior factors (living abroad, purchase of imported equipment, etc.). This is the reason to indicate sometimes prices in EUR or USD).

Information on the current exchange rate of the Guinean currency is available among others at: <http://www.bicigui.com/devises.htm>.

The price for the occupation of public ground is fixed by the state and account as follows:

Conakry:

Municipality of Matoto:	2.000 GNF/m ²
Municipality of Ratoma:	12.000 GNF/m ²
Municipality of Dixinn:	14.000 GNF/m ²
Municipality of Matam:	20.000 GNF/m ²
Municipality of Kaloum:	25.000 GNF/m ²

Other cities:

Coyah and Dubréka:	5.000 GNF/m ²
Provincial capitals:	5.000 GNF/m ²
Main towns in the regions Baké, Faranah and Mamou:	3.000 GNF/m ²
Main town of the other regions:	2.000 GNF/m ²

Approximate prices for leasing private land (for duration of 20 years or more):

Conakry:

Municipality of Kaloum:	600-800 m ²	2.000.000 GNF/month
Municipality of Madina:	600-800 m ²	3.-4.000.000 GNF/month
Municipality of Camayenne:	600-800 m ²	2.000.000 GNF/month
Municipality of Lambanyi:	400-500 m ²	250.000.000 GNF/month

For all purchases or leasing contracts that were finalized with the help of a mediator, a commission of 15% must be added: 10% for the seller/owner and 5% for the buyer/leser.

Approximate prices for construction materials:

According to the chief of the department "Prices and Competition" of the Ministry of Economics, the construction materials are classified as "strategic products". However, there is national politic of price liberalism, set in the law L 040/CTRN of December 12th and December 28th, 1994. The principal is lifted only for certain staple foods, where maximum prices are fixed by the state (rice, flour, oil, etc.).

Nevertheless, prices for certain products are fixed by the state. The process of price fixing obeys the principles of convening a special commission of the Ministry of Trade. This commission asks importers to announce the embarkation expenses for imported goods (FOB) and the Ministry of Trade adds insurance and other expenses and sets the CIF-price (Cost, Insurance and Freight).

There are certain costs, which had to add to the CIF-price, like: bank expenses, customs fees, fees for the descriptive import request, maritime consignment, transit, transport and warehousing. The market price is a composition of all these costs and the margin of the different actors (wholesaler, retailer, etc.)

The government does not fix the prices on its own, but in negotiation with the private sector as guiding price.

The approximate current prices for the most common products are as follows:

Construction materials

Cement:

- "Artificial Portland Cement" (CPA) or "Port Cement": 70.000 GNF/50kg
 - "Daily Portland Cement" (CPJ) or "Cement of the Conakry-Works": 60.000 GNF/50kg
- Wood (lumber):
- Type "fromage": length 4m+27-30cm wide+7-8cm thick=42.000 GNF
 - Type "red wood": length 4m+27-30cm wide+7-8cm thick=65.000 GNF

- Type “white wood”: length 4m+27-30cm wide+7-8cm thick=55.000 GNF

Chevron

- Dimension 4cm=11.000 GNF (“red wood”)
- Dimension 4cm=8.500 GNF (“white wood”)

Iron to concrete (*Fer à Béton*) (bar of 12m length):

- Diameter 6mm=20.000 GNF/bar
- Diameter 8mm=35.000 GNF/bar
- Diameter 10mm=65.000 GNF/bar
- Diameter 12mm=95.000 GNF/bar
- Diameter 14mm=115.000 GNF/bar

Iron sheet (2m)

- Simple (4kg)=25.000 GNF/unit and (5kg)=30.000 GNF/unit
- Corrugated iron sheets, coloured (5kg)=37.000 GNF/unit

Counter sheets

- 2,44m/1,22m (4mm)=35.000 GNF/unit and (6mm)=58.000 GNF/unit

Ceiling

- 2,44m/1,22m (9mm)=80.000 GNF/unit and (12mm)=105.000 GNF/unit

Fibreboards

- 2,44m/1,22m, gauge 3,5cm=37.000 GNF/unit and gauge 2,5cm=35.000 GNF

Doors (83cm/2,5m) with frame:

- Massive, gauge 3,2cm=400.000 GNF/unit
- Panel, gauge 3,2 cm=350.000 GNF/unit

Brads

- 4 to 12=11.000 GNF/kg and 2 to 3=11.500 GNF/kg

Paint

- Canister “Fom” of 25kg: for interior use=90.000 GNF/unit and for exterior use=150.000 GNF/unit
- Canister “Fom British” of 20kg=85.000 GNF/unit
- Canister oil-based paint of 20kg=300.000 GNF/unit and 4kg=65.000 GNF/unit

Pushcart SODEFA: 300.000 GNF/unit

Shovels:

- Shovel, square=13.000 GNF/unit
- Shovel, round, black=11.000 GNF/unit
- “Korean” shovel=15.000 GNF/unit

Primary construction material

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Sand: | 1m ³ =120.000 GNF |
| Ordinary gravel: | 1m ³ =100.000 GNF |
| Transport of construction material: | 10m ³ =65.000 GNF |
| Grained gravel: | |
| • 1m ³ (0/10) for the production of bricks=170.000 GNF | |
| • 1m ³ (4/8) for production of flagstones and concrete=190.000 GNF | |

- 1m³ (8/16) for production of concrete=170.000 GNF
Stone blocks: 1m³=10.000 GNF
Transport of stone blocks 8m³=100.000 GNF from Km36 to Hamdallaye and 150.000 GNF from Hamdallaye to Kaloum.

3.2.3.3. Available credits, subsidies and other forms of help

According to information from the Ministry of Housing, there are at the moment no specific credits, subsidies or other forms of support for the housing sector. However, the state intends to create a specialised Bank for Housing, which should have a financial basis of about 12m USD. Certain private promoters intend also to create an investment fund for housing (a capital company with the aim to create a financial reserve to invest in the realisation of housing).

Moreover, according to the International Bank of Trade and Industry in Guinea (BICIGUI) and the Central Society of Banks in Guinea (SGBG), there are special credit lines for housing on the level of the local commercial banks; notably the credit line of BICIGUI with the name “Savings Plan for Accommodation”. The conditions for this credit are the following:

- Debt: 33%;
- Registration of incomes;
- Insurance (disability); mortgage.

More information on: www.biciguinet.net

3.2.4. Opportunities of buying real estate

Real opportunities for the purchasing of housing in Guinea do exist. Purchasing a house or an apartment can be done in two different ways:

- The purchase with the intermediation of middlemen, which are numerous in Conakry and often contacted by owners with the intention to sell their property. The advantage of this option is that the price is negotiable and reductions can be considerable. On the other hand the services of middlemen have to be paid in the form of percentages of the purchase price.
- The purchase of a house or an apartment from an housing association, notably within the construction project for 200 housing units in Conakry, Nongo and Kipé, which are accessible for all Guinean citizens.

According to the director of the “Société Immobilière Guinéenne de Promotion et de Gestion Immobilière” (GPGI), there is the possibility to buy such a house via GPGI. Mr. Camara, construction-coordinator, confirmed that there are at the moment 15 duplex apartments and 4 houses available in Nongo.

GPGI possesses building ground in Kobaya as well, though, as of yet, no certainty exists about which buildings will be built and at what price. The reason for the delay has been mainly the uncertainty regarding a necessary subsidy or credit from the government.

3.2.4.1. Legal conditions

The purchase of housing via peddlers/middlemen

- Inquiry regarding the property (verification of morality and of the title deeds);
- Defining the transfer of property via a notarised cession-form;
- Transfer of property by the respective local public services of town planning and housing (Conakry, Regions, Prefecture or Sub-Prefecture):

The purchase of housing via housing associations

- Make a request addressed to the association;

- Appointing a notary;
- The state plays a the roll of mediator;
- No obstacles exist for any ethnic, social or other group to purchase housing;
- Guinean legislation grants every citizen of more than 18 years of age the right to purchase housing.

3.2.4.2. Eventual obstacles for certain groups

There are no known forms of discrimination against any social, religious or ethnic groups to purchase housing. The only practical obstacle would be insufficient financial means.

3.2.4.3. Relevant approximate prices

Approximate prices for private property:⁵³

Conakry

Kaloum: House of 5 stores (R+5)= USD 1.000.000 or EUR 600.000

Camayenne; House of 5 stores (R+5)= USD 1.500.000 or EUR 800.000

House of 4 stores (R+4)= USD 900.000

Villa=EUR 6-800.000

Minière: Villa=USD 4-600.000 USD

Duplex (R+1)= EUR 400.000

Hamdallaye: Villa=500.000.000 GNF

Duplex (R+1)= 700.000.000 GNF

Kipé: Villa=700.000.000 GNF

House of 2 stores (R+2)= USD 300.000-350.000

Haute banlieu (Axis Hamdallaye-Enco5)

Street side: Villa= USD 6-800.000

Inside the districts: Villa=250.000.000-300.000.000 GNF

Interior of the country

Kindia: Villa=80.000.000 - 100.000.000 GNF

Labé: Villa=150.000.000 - 200.000.000 GNF

Kankan: Villa=USD 70.000

N`Zérékoré: Villa= 200.000.000-250.000.000 GNF

Dubréka: Villa=250.000.000-300.000.000 GNF

Approximate prices of housing, housing associations

Mr Keita Boubacar, president of the association “Promoteurs Immobiliers de Guinée” (APIG), told the local research team of CRI: “I build villas and duplex (R+1) in Nongo. I sold them six years ago (2002): the R+1 for 75.000 USD and the villas for 45.000 USD”: In 2002 there was a strong rise in inflation in Guinea and, as subsequence, foreign currencies gained value. The prices in 2008 remained the same: R+1 would cost 130.000 USD and a villa 75.000 USD.

More information at: www.bicigui.com/devises.htm

3.2.4.4. Available credits and subsidies

At the moment, no specific credit or subsidy exists to assist in buying real estate. The only possibilities are high-price credit offered by commercial banks, such as the aforementioned “Savings Plan for Accommodation” of BICIGUI. Also, as mentioned earlier, a specialised bank for housing with a capital of about USD 12m is in planning.

⁵³ Prices are expressed either in GNF, Dollar or EUR, due to local realities.

3.2.5. Opportunities of renting house or apartment

According to the association of middlemen of Hamdallaye and the associations for housing “Association des promoteurs Immobiliers de Guinée“ (APIG) and “Société Immobilière Guinéenne de la Promotion et Gestion Immobilière“ (GPGI), there are momentarily realistic possibilities to rent a house or an apartment from private owners and through the associations for housing in Conakry.

When searching for a house to rent, it is advisable to address one of the informal associations of middlemen, which are the most informed institutions concerning local availability of housing. Once a request is addressed to the middlemen, they will demand an advance payment for their expenses (mostly transport charges) and they will arrange a meeting with the applicant. In the case a suitable accommodation is found, the middlemen will arrange contact between the owner and the potential lodger and will negotiate the modalities of the contract. In the case of an agreement, the middlemen demand their commission from both parties (normally one month rent by the lodger and ½ by the owner).

3.2.5.1. Eventual obstacles for certain groups

Certain religious landlords - mostly Muslims - do not rent out their housing to singles (men or women). They will also not rent their house out for the use of storage alcohol, or to be used as “maison de passe”, brothels. There are no other known obstacles.

3.2.5.2. Relevant approximate prices

The approximate renting price of housing depends on the location and the average local price level. Some price examples:

Conakry

Kaloum:	apartment (3 rooms)=USD 1.000-1.500/month
Camayenne:	apartment (3 rooms)=USD 2.000/month
Minière:	apartment (3 rooms)=USD 2.000/month
Madina:	apartment (1 room)=60.000-100.000 GNF/month apartment (2 rooms)=120.000-150.000 GNF/month
Gbéssia:	villa=1.000.000 GNF/month
Axis Hamdallaya-Bambéto-Cosa-Enco5:	Villa=1-1.500.000.000 GNF/month apartment (3 rooms)=1.000.000 GNF/month apartment (1 room)=150.000-200.000 GNF /month

Interior of the country

Kindia:	villa=300.000 GNF/month 1 room=30.000 GNF/month
Labé:	villa=300.000 GNF/month 1 room=35.000 GNF/month
Kankan:	villa=350.000 GNF/month 1 room=35.000 GNF/month
Kissidougou:	villa =300.000 GNF/month 1 room=25.000 GNF/month

At the “Residence 2000” in Conakry, the rent for a 2-room apartment is 1.500.000 GNF/month.

3.2.5.3. Available subsidies

There are momentarily no specific subsidies for the renting of housing.

3.2.6. Other middle-term accommodation possibilities (shelter, NGOs, church, etc.)

According to our sources (Ministry for Social Affairs, Vice-president of the “Conseil Economique et Social“, National Directorate for African Integration, the “Organisation Catholique pour la Promotion Humaine” (OCPH), SOS Children’s Villages, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the National Service for Humanitarian Actions (SENAH), there are no other possibilities for medium-term accommodation for returnees.

Before 1996, the Ministry of Social affairs maintained social housing and humanitarian assistance. The “Cité de Solidarité“, a training centre for young disabled persons, to received and accommodated disabled youth for three years to assist their social placement and education. After this training, they would leave the centre to settle on their own. In the course of time, the disabled inhabitants of the centre were not leaving. The centre subsequently became a social accommodation for the disabled. The number of current inhabitants, however, exceeds the capacity of the centre.

In the light of mass repatriation of Guineans, the Ministry of Foreigners’ Affairs (Section Placement and Assistance-SIA) maintain together with the Ministry of Defence, IOM, and the SENAH, a provisory reception-centre for repatriated Guineans. The centre is located at the youth house of the municipality of Matam in Conakry and the nearby annex of the Stadium of the 28th September. Here, repatriated Guineans can stay for a short period of time to organise their return to their regions of origin.

The IOM offer (limited) assistance to Guineans who voluntary return via its return-programme by providing a rented hotel room for one or two days, to enable them to organise their own return to their regions of origin. According to OCPH, Caritas is operating a provisional shelter, accessible to returnees in the municipality of Kankan.

Advice of experts (Mr. DIALLO Habiboullahi, architect and real estate agent, municipality of Kaloum, Conakry and Mr. DIALLO Thierno Ibrahima, real estate agent, municipality of Matam, Conakry).

The housing situation in Guinea is characterised by the obvious disinterestedness of the State to create a specialised bank for housing. Instead, the government stimulates the emergence of housing associations, specialised in construction, tenancy and sale. Indeed, some associations that have recently been established plan to accomplish the construction of 200 housing units on sites made cheap by the state. The project is financed by SHELTER-Afrique, based in Nairobi. However, the number of the associations’ existing housing units is few and meets the demand for housing insufficiently. This is not only the case for the Guineans from within in the country, but also for those returning. The population often chooses to make use of the informal sector when seeking building ground in certain peripheral zones of Conakry, as this route is considerably faster than government-organised assistance. Governmental intervention is indeed slow, and often starts only after housing seekers have already built their homes. Mostly owners and/or owners by common law effectuate the selling of building ground.

On the other hand, there is no formal structure in Guinea that can guarantee housing seekers housing accommodations or the prospect of purchasing of real estate. The state fixes the prices of construction materials, which, in the end, does not benefit commerce. There are certainly no areas lacking any opportunities for returnees in Guinea but poverty is widespread. Since the advent of the second republic (1984), the integration of the younger generations in the professional public and private sector is arbitrary. Consequently, many of the younger generation attempt to leave to Western countries, seeking a better life.

Appendix A: Contact information of the interviewed persons

Ministry of Housing:

Direction Nationale de l’Architecture, de la construction et Immobilier (DACPI)

- Mr TRAORE Sékou Damas, National Director, Conakry, Tel: 60-34-14-07/64-79-24-74, e-mail: damastraoré@yahoo.fr
- Mr DIALLO Alpha Oumar, Head of the section : Monuments historiques et sites classés, Conakry Tel: 60-57-16-83 /64-28-07-92; e-mail: dialloarchitect@yahoo.fr

Direction Nationale de l'Habitat:

- Mr. KEITA Mamadouba, adviser for construction, Ministry of Housing, Conakry, Tel: 60-27-14-18

Project-Coordination, Project 200 housing-units:

- Mr. KALLO Mamady, Project coordinator, Conakry, Tel: (224) 30-47-74-78/64-31-41-95/62-45-93-04, e-mail: kalloarchi@yahoo.fr

Bureau de conservation foncière de Conakry

- Mr CONDE Lansana, conservateur foncier, Conakry, Tel: 60 22 46 50

Société d'Aménagement, Equipement des Terrains Urbains (SAETUR)

- Mme BALDE Maïmouna, secretary of the Directory, Conakry, Tel: 60-33-14-35 e-mail: maïmounafolly@yahoo.fr

Direction Générale du Patrimoine Bâti Public

- Mr Bah Mamadou, General Director Directeur of the patrimoine bâti public, Conakry, Tel: 60-29-06-85

Ministry of Planning:

National Directory for Statistics:

- Mr Diallo Oumar, National Director for Statistics, Conakry, Tel :60/213312, e-mail: oumarbombi@yahoo.fr

Ministry for Decentralisation

- Mr Thiam Alhousseiny, Director for the humanitarian services of the Ministry for Decentralisation, Conakry, Tel: 60-21-80-18

Service National d'Action Humanitaire (SENAH)

- Keita N'famoussa, Head, Research, Training and Documentation, Conakry, Tel: 60-33-09-17, e-mail: nfamoussakeita@yahoo.fr

Associations for Housing/Sociétés Immobilières

Guinéenne de la Promotion et Gestion Immobilière (GPGI):

- Mr. Mamady Cherif, Director, Conakry, Tel: (+224): 64-79-94-35/60-54-92-31/65-58-33-63 , e-mail: gpgi2007@yahoo.fr

Association des Promoteur Immobilier de Guinée (APIG)

- Mr Keita Boubacar, President of APIG, Conakry, Tel : 64-22-58-02 /67-22- 58-02, e-mail: boubapromalo2003@yahoo.com / boubapromalo@hotmail.com

Bureau d'Architecture d'Aménagement et de Décoration (BAAD)

- Mr Barry Boubacar, architect, general administration, Conakry, Tel: 60-34-89-01/60-33-63-36 e-mail: barruyqse@yahoo.fr

Ministry of Trade and Competition

- Mr Camara Sény, Head of the division for prices and concurrence, Conakry, Tel: 60-55-59-39/62-34-49-24

Ministry of Social Affairs

- Mr Doumbouya Aboubacar, chargé de Question de familles, Conakry, Tel: 60-55-75-44

Ministry for the Affairs of Foreigners, for Cooperation, African Integration and for Guineans abroad

- Mr Diallo Alpha Yaya, National Director, African Integration, Conakry, Tel: 60 25 11 61, e-mail: alfayadiallo@yahoo.fr
- Mr Soumah Amara, Chargé d'études à la division des Guinéens de l'étranger, Conakry, Tel: 64-87-04-64

Conseil Economique et Social

- Ms Guilao Josephine, Vice president, Conakry, Tel: 60-27-07-10/ 64-42-46-32

Banque International de Commerce et Industrie de Guinée (BICIGUI)

- Mr Baldé Bella, chargé de Marketing, Conakry Tel: 64-84-65-40

- Mr Diata Kanbaye, chargé de Marketing, Conakry, Tel: 60-33-10-21
Organisation Catholique pour la Promotion Humaine (OCPH)
- Mr Christian Henry chargé de l'urgence et de développement, Conakry, Tel: 64-53-39-38, e-mail: ocphckry@yahoo.fr
SOS Childrens' villages
- Mr Diallo Boubacar, Director, SOS children's village, Conakry, Tel: 60-25-73-61, e-mail: boubacardiallo@sosguinea.org
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Mr. Diallo Abdoulaye, Project officer, Conakry, Tel: 60-33-66-54 / 63-40-65-97 e-mail: adiallo@iom.int/ ADigomba@yahoo.fr
- Ms Marie Louise Haba, project assistant, Conakry, Tel: 63-40-65-97 /60-20-27-79, e-mail: mlhaba@iom.int /habamarievis@yahoo.fr
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Ms Kourouma, née Sarata Kourouma, Intendant, Conakry, Tel: 60 27 27 47
German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
- Ms Diallo Fatoumata, Responsable des Finances, Conakry, Tel: 64 45 10 64/ 62 59 71 19 e-mail: fatoumata.diallo1@glg.de/galefatoumata@yahoo.fr
UNHCR
- Mr. Millimono Faya, Head Information and Public Relations, Conakry, Tel: 63 40 95 18
Association of middlemen for housing
- Mr Abdoul Diallo, President, Conakry, Tel: 64 50 04 03
- Mr Amadou Sow, secretary, Conakry, Tel: 60 41 02 89
Syndicate of the conveyors of building material
- Mr Mamadou Diouma DIALLO, Head of the syndicate section for sable, Conakry, Tel: 60-41-16-49
- Mr Kalidou Diallo, chief secretary of the syndicate section *la Transversale 6*, Conakry, Tel: 60-54-30-03

Association of the sellers of construction material
- Mr Thierno Aliou Baldé, trader, Conakry, Tel: 62-32-53-32
- Thierno Souleymane Bah, trader of wood and chevron, Conakry, Tel: 64-20-31-29
Persons, contacted in the interior of the country
- Mr BAH Alpha Oumar, Project manager, Labé, Tell: (+224) 64 35 83 03, Région de Labé
- Mr FILOI Isaac, director hotel Rama, Mamou, Tel: (+224) 60 57 07 57, Région de Mamou
- Mr TOURE Mory, micro-credit agent, NGO *Maison de l'Entrepreneur*, Kissidougou, Tel: (+224) 64 87 09 49, Régions de Kankan et de Faranah
- Mr BARRY Rouma, NGO *APEK- Agriculture*, Tel: (+224) 60 52 21 54, Région de Kindia

3.3. Livelihood - basic "survival"

3.3.1. Employment

According to information gathered from the "Guinean Agency for the Promotion of Employment" (AGUIPE), the "General Inspection of Labour", the "National Fund for the Placement of the Youth" (FNIJ) and the Ministry of Youth, Guinea went for a quarter of a century through an era of a state-planned economy before opting for economic liberalism from 1986 onward. In this context, the new politics of employment had two major guidelines:

- Rationalism in civil services with the consequence of the dismissal of about half of all civil servants since 1986 (40.000 of the 90.000 in 1986), curtailing new recruitments for more than a decade and the end of the policy for the automatic appointment of graduates from the national formation institutes;

- The formulation and implementation of a whole group of measures in favour of development of an efficient private sector with the goal of creating more productivity and more jobs and reducing unemployment.

After more than two decades of transition to a free market economy, the private sector remains in an embryonic state. The high hopes concerning job creation and reduction of the high unemployment have been not met. The reforms lead concurrently to a retreat of the old state-owned enterprises and an overall withdrawal of the state from the production sector, which resulted in the loss of thousands of jobs. Taking this aspect into account, more than three quarters of the Guinean workforce still works in rural areas and practices subsistence economy with rudimentary adoption of modern technology. The masses of under-employed young people consequentially led to a massive exodus to Conakry and other urban centres, where they hoped to find a better life.

There are at the moment very few specific studies about the employment market in Guinea. The few existing surveys on single topics offer only a fragmentary, irregular image thereof, and most often lacking any updated data.

The joint-Ministry documentation of the “National Support programme for the Employment of Youth” (PEJ-Guinée)⁵⁴ came to the conclusion that unemployment is principally an urban phenomenon in Guinea. According to the “Integrated Basic Survey for the Evaluation of Poverty” (EIBEP 2002-2003) the unemployment rate has been 15% in Conakry versus 0,4% in rural areas. The survey estimated the official unemployment rate for the whole country of about 7%.

Generally there are two types of unemployed persons: persons awarded a diploma (those who followed school) and persons without any diploma. However, the majority of both groups turn to the informal labour market, which offers more possibilities than the official market due to its dynamic growth, especially of services connected with the new communication technologies

Advice of experts: (Mr. CONDE Sory, adviser, in charge of information and documentation at the “Office for the Promotion of Private Investments”, Ministry of Economy, municipality Kaloum, Conakry and Mr TOURE Younoussa, adviser/trainer in development of enterprises, municipality of Dixin, Conakry)

To seek and find employment in Guinea is to follow a stony way, because of the rather small number of private industrial enterprises and the abundance of enrolments in civil service. There is as well a total lack of transparency in the process of recruitment in the case of the seldom cases of vacancies in civil service. However, recruitment at international organisations and NGOs is limited, as they are primarily occupied with the development of the country. There is also a limited demand of highly skilled specialists in the sectors of new technologies of information and communication and statistics. Therefore, possibilities exist for those who are able and willing to search and apply for training courses in field for which demand exists. Nowadays one can search for these jobs in demand from abroad via the internet. On the other hand the official labour market is very limited.

The procedures to formalize enterprises have been simplified and are just as well accessible in Conakry as they are in the interior of the country. With a good business idea, quick development is possible, even with limited financial means.

However, there are many obstacles, such as the weakness of the Guinean judiciary, the corrupt administration, banks that are unwilling to provide credits - but all this did not prevent several entrepreneurs from succeeding. The urgent request in many service sectors create high chances for the success of returnees that bring capital, new business ideas and western enterprise culture with them.

⁵⁴ Ministry for Employment and other portfolios (*Ministère de l'Emploi, de la Fonction Publique et de la Reforme de l'Administration, et Ministère de la Jeunesse, de la Culture et des Sports*), Programme National d'Appui à l'Emploi des Jeunes en République de Guinée, p. 7, paragraphe 4, June 2008

There is no unemployment insurance in Guinea. Employees of enterprises are insured via the “National Insurance for Social Security”, which offers protection in the case of illness, retirement and disability. Private insurances attempt to fill the gap, but do so unsuccessfully, on account of maladjusted products or insufficient promotion.

In the field of education, the access to all public institutions - universities and training centres - are principally open for enrolment if the conditions of admission are met. For those who do not meet the conditions of enrolment, it is possible to study at private universities and training centres.

Vulnerable groups

The most vulnerable group of the population in terms of the labour market is the group of graduates of institutions of higher education, due to the lesser amount of jobs in the private sector. Private companies often prefer directly operational employees, whose competences are often acquired within the enterprises by technical and professional training. Furthermore, graduates of technical and professional training institutions are able to work on private title, while most graduates of higher education institutes aspire to be hired for the sparse amount of jobs with more responsibility.

3.3.1.1. Labour market programs

According to information gathered from AGUIPE, the “National Fund for the Placement of the Youth” (FNIJ) of the Ministry of the Youth and the Autonomous Agency for Integration-Assistance at Enterprises (3AE), there has been till 2006 no structural employment program in Guinea. The absence of such programmes favoured the exclusion of the great majority of young people from the productive system.

The Documentation of the “National Support program for the Employment of the Youth” (PEJ-Guinée)⁵⁵, explained this exclusion of the youth by:

- The dysfunction of the labour market which is characterised by the lack of transparency and the preponderance of personal and family relations before objective factors like technical or professional competences;
- The non-existing or at least weak adequacy between job requests and offers in the formal sector. Every year, instead of many unemployed persons, the formal sector is not able to fill in 30-44.500 vacancies because of the lack of skilled candidates;
- A deficient system of planning and management of employment. There is a general lack of data and information concerning the labour market and no detection mechanism for vacancies or job needs at local or national level.

However, in the last three years certain progress has been achieved, notably:

- The internship programme at enterprises, initiated by AGUIPE as part of the investment programme in qualification-internships at private firms. However, the results are so far behind the expectations and several enterprises received insufficient motivated trainees. AGUIPE stated also, that the government did not mobilise financial resources to support the trainees (enterprises offered only seldom internship with some allowances).
- The promoting of start-ups for small businesses, initiated by AGUIPE in collaboration with the 3AE and several institutions for micro-finances in 2007. The program has been funded with USD 500.000 and aimed on training, support and financial advice for potential entrepreneurs of small businesses. The mentioned fund included as well other programmes, aimed at improving the system of training (operated by the “National Service for Education and Vocational Training” (ONFPP) and promoting businesses with a high intensity of labour force.

⁵⁵ Ministry for Employment and other portfolios (*Ministère de l'Emploi, de la Fonction Publique et de la Reforme de l'Administration, et Ministère de la Jeunesse, de la Culture et des Sports*), Programme National d'Appui à l'Emploi des Jeunes en République de Guinée, p. 9, paragraphe 2, 3 et 4, June 2008

- Recently the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) implemented a pilot plan to promote auto-employment for graduates. The programme is designed for 100 graduates from universities and training colleges in the prefectures of Kindia and Labé. It is aimed to support the creation of small businesses via training and a medium financing per project of about USD 1.000.

The only existing formal labour market programme is that of the “National Support program for the Employment of the Youth” (PEJ-Guinée). The programme’s sole objective is to accomplish the full employment of the youth in Guinea and to contribute to the substantial reduction of poverty by providing nationwide opportunities for vocational training for citizens between 15 years and 40 years of age. The training should improve their chances of employment, their productivity, their wages or their independently generated income. The programme has been running for three years (2008-2011) and is designed for these special groups: de-socialized young persons without any education from 15 years to 24 years of age; unemployed graduates from technical and professional colleges of less than 36 years of age; unemployed graduates from higher education of no more than 40 years of age. The programme includes four elements:

- Element 1: improvement of the ability to work through training and internship in enterprises;
- Element 2: self-employment through training in “entrepreneur-spirit”, management, development of business plans and finally through financial start-up support;
- Element 3: promotion of labour-intensive enterprises to create more jobs for young people;
- Element 4: gathering of specialised information and creating of exploitable statistics.

The budget of the program is composed as following:

- Guinean government: 3.300.000.000 GNF/annual = 10.000.000.000 GNF in total (USD 2,5m)
- Libyan government: 2.000.000.000 GNF (USD 500.000)
- PNUD: 2.000.000.000 GNF (USD 500.000)
- CEDEAO: 7.600.000.000 GNF

Young returnees (between 18 and 35 years of age) can benefit from the “National Fund for the Placement of the Youth” (FNIJ) in the framework of its assistance for young entrepreneurs, from the formation programmes “Creating an enterprise” of CREE and from the programme “Manage your Enterprise better” of GERME. The programme of GERME is created by the “International Labour Organization” (ILO) and is assured locally by organisations like 3AE and other training centres, like “Centre d’Appui pour le Développement Economique et Social” (CADES). For information about the access to this training programs please contact 3AE (pai3ae@mirinet.net.gn) or CADES (cadessgui@yahoo.fr).

Additionally, some other institutions often initiate training sessions aimed to the placement of the youth, especially the embassy of the United States of America. For example an American consulting agent trained together with CADES in the end of 2007 22 graduates from the university in the creation and the management of enterprises. Furthermore, AGUIPE organises a yearly job fair to bring employers and possible applicants together. Information: aguipe@yahoo.fr or kabaguipe@yahoo.fr. Since 2007 the “Youth Forum of Guinea” (FOJEG) organises annually together with AGUIPE as well a job fair, called “SADE”, to promote employment for young graduates. More information about FOJEG and SADE: secretariatfojeg@yahoo.fr and www.fojeg.org.

3.3.1.2. Labour conditions

Working conditions in Guinea are defined by the “Labour Code”, which states at its article 139: (...) that in all private and public institutions the working time per week is habitually 40 hours. The employer and its employee can however sign a contract with less than 40 hours, which is a part-time contract. The employer and its employee can agree as well on a working time higher than 40 hours a week by the application of the rules of equivalence, recovery and modulation of overtime.

At article 143, (...) that the employer can unilaterally add a working time of its employer up to 100 hours per year. Beyond this limit, the employer has to have the authorisation of the work inspector to add more overtime hours for its employee.

At article 145: The effective working time may not exceed 10 hours a day or 48 hours a week.

At article 6: (...) that every employer is required to transmit his work offer to the Guinean Agency for the Promotion of Employment (AGUIPE) before he is undertaking steps to conclude a work contract. He is allowed to do so without informing AGUIPE in the case of occasional work for not more than fifteen consecutive days.

The “Minimum Inter-professional Wage Warranty” (SMIG) is 100.000 GNF/month. The observance of the SMIG is protected by administrative sanctions.

The average salary for employees in Guinea depends on the category of the employee (Employés simples, Agent de maîtrise et Cadres ordinary). At the private sector, the average salary for “Cadres” is about 1.000.000 GNF and more/month, for “Agents de maîtrise” about 600.000 GNF/month and for “Employés simples” about 300.000 GNF/month. There are many differences among the given salaries, according to the different business branches. The financial sector, insurance companies and the telecommunication sector pay the highest salaries.

In the framework of the administration of employment in Guinea, the inspection of work conditions is the duty of the work inspector. His mission is defined by article 357: (...) is made responsible for controlling the application of the law and the regulations for salaries, working conditions, sanitary conditions and conditions of work security in collective negotiation and according to the syndicate rights in the enterprise.

From the point of view of social security, the subscription of every employee to a social security is an obligation. All employers of Guinea are in the obligation to respect the prescriptions of the Labour Code.

3.3.1.3. Accessibility of short-term / occasional jobs

Short-term or occasional work is especially available at the different branches of services and of so called “tâcheronnat”. The need for this kind of work is often made public by institutions that support the development and realisation of training and evaluation or by the enterprises itself, looking for a working force for construction, public work and sometimes in the mines of Boké, Kindia, Dinguiraye, Siguiiri, Banankoro, Beyla and Fria.

Relatively high request of work is at the moment in specific sectors of telecommunications and of other new technologies of information and communication. For the access to practical information about employment it is necessary to permanently contact AGUIPE or to consult announces in the weekly newspapers and several websites, like:

Newspapers: *Horoya*: www.horoyaguinee.net; *Lynx*: www.afribone.net/gn/lynx; *Lance*: www.media.org and *Indépendant*: www.linpendant.gn.info other websites : _guineejob; guinee_emploi; fojeg; guinee.gov.com;

3.3.2. Contact information relevant to the issue of recognition of degrees obtained elsewhere

According to own inquiries, the recognition of graduation certificates is not no longer problematic. Guinea is a member of the “African and Madagascarian Council for Higher Education” (DOPED), which is an organism of coordination for education issues for the

French-speaking countries of Africa and Madagascar. DOPEP (www.cames.bf.refer.org) has 17 member states in Africa and in the Indian Ocean.

The recognition of graduation certificates, obtained abroad, is handled by the section for “Recognition and Equivalence of Degrees, Titles and Grades” at the “National Directory for Higher Education” (Ministry for National Education and Research) in charge. Responsible person: Dr SOUMAH Lanasana, Tél: (+224) 60 28 00 18 ou 62 22 46 95. The idea of structuring the recognition and equivalence of foreign graduation certificates has been initiated by a group of returnees graduated from foreign universities. These graduates noted that many Guineans obtained their PhD from universities abroad were put on the same level (hierarchy B: hiérarchie supérieure sous la première République) like those who had graduated from Guinean Universities.

During the creation of the Hierarchy A, at the advent of the Second Republic, the 20 returnees with PhD addressed a memorandum to the Head of the state, in which they reclaimed their in the meantime occupied positions. In the consequence of their demand the persons concerned were entrusted with responsible positions according to their skills. The incident led to the decree D/96/044/PRG/SGG of April 1st, 1996, concerning the integration and reclassifying of civil servants with a postgraduate diploma: PhD, postgraduate certificates (DEA) and diploma of specialised higher education (DEES). This decree stipulated that all civil servants with a PhD-diploma and all similar certificates have been reclassified to rank V Echelon I and that all civil servants with DEA-certificates and those with DEES-certificates have been reclassified to rank III Echelon I.

Civil servants, who have been already in service, got the recognition of their certificates backdated on the date indicated on the certificate. Civil servants, who enter the service, will get the recognition of their certificates at the date of their commission.

For the recognition and equivalence of certificates, three elements of comparability are taken into account: the length of the training, the accreditation of the institution of training and the certificate itself. In the case of a PhD, the thesis has also had to be presented.

Since 1997, this process has been defined by the decree 044/PRG/SGG of April 1st, 1996. The decree is supported by different agreements with France, Canada, the UK and Morocco and is backed by UNESCO. The decree encourages the return of Guineans, which went for training abroad, to contribute to the development in different structures of their country. An NGO of highly skilled returnees already exists and is in the process of receiving accreditation/legalisation. The NGO oversees a register with information about the specialisation and skills of its member, which is regularly updated.

For the request of recognition or of equivalence of certificates, a special form has to be filled in with the declaration of the identity of the applicant and with information about the training (secondary, professional, higher education, post-graduation, etc.).

The request has to be addressed at the permanent secretary of the “National Directory for Higher Education”. The fee for the request is fixed at 50.000 GNF.

Please find the request form for recognition or equivalence of certificates below in annex.

Guinea is also maintaining the LMD system (licence, workmanship, doctorate) according to the norms of comparability of the UNESCO. The system is based on a point system, counting 180 points for licences, 240 for workmanship and more for higher education up to the level of a doctorate/PhD.

Currently, the granting of certificates is entirely the responsibility of the training and education institutions, contrary to the last years, when the Ministry of Education had been in charge.

Education programmes of the government, private companies or institutions and international NGOs

The education in Guinea consists of two systems:

- The general education: primary school, secondary I (college), secondary II (lycée) and university; Private and public schools existing in the entire country. Whereas public schools are free of access the school fee for private schools varies about 500.000 GNF

to 1.200.000 GNF/year for primary and secondary (I and II) schools and about 1.500.000 GNF up to 4.500.000 GNF/year for universities.

- The technical and professional education, which are composed of national centres of technical and professional training, study courses for among others: agronomy, forestry, veterinarian, plumbing, bricklaying, administration, shipbuilding, health, mechanics, electricity, etc.

The institutions for technical and professional education can be found nationwide in all prefectures of the country. The issued certificate is the so called “Diploma of Higher Technician” (BTS) for students with baccalaureate, which opens the way for the final examination of the 13th year of study - the precondition for university studies.

The length of the education in such institutions is generally 3 years.

Before 2007 there has been two baccalaureates: BAC 1 in the 12th school year and BAC 2 in the final year. But since two years ago, there exists just one BAC.

The “Professional Certificate of Aptitude” (CAP) and the “Elementary Diploma for Professional Studies” (BEP) is available for students enrolled with the “Certificate of Education of the First Cycle” (BEPC), a certificate which has to be gained by the examination of the 10th secondary school year, and for students with a “Certificate of Primary Study” (CEP), a certificate gained after the examination of the 6th primary school year.

The admission to the institutions of technical and professional education depends on passing of national examinations. The schooling is free of charge with the exception of the inscription, which costs from 5.000 GNF to 10.000 GNF.

In the case of private schools, the options for training are more limited and mostly focussed on accountancy, computer science, management and trade. The private schools offer the following diploma: BTS, CAP and BEO. The courses cost from 300.000 GNF up to 1.000.000 GNF/year.

Also, many NGOs are in existence, which offer practical qualification training of a mostly short duration. Among these NGO’s are: “Centre d’Appui pour le Développement Economique et Sociale” (CADES), “Programme Intégré pour le Développement d’Entreprise” (PRIDE), “Centre Africain de Formation pour le Développement” (CENAFOD), 3AE (e-mail: pai3ae@mirinet.net.gn), “Institut Professionnel Moderne” (IPM, e-mail: institutipm@yahoo.fr, website : www.lediplomateguinee.info), “NAKO DIABATE” (e-mail: institutnakodiabate@yahoo.fr; website: www.institutnakodiabate.org ;), the institute for professional education Aïcha Kaba (IFORPAK), tel.: (+224) 63 15 47 96/60 34 52 40/60 33 86 55/64 29 08 40, “International Consulting” (e-mail: guinea_ic@yahoo.com), “Guinean School for New Technologies” (e-mail: egntechconakry@hotmail.com), “Institut Supérieur d’Etudes Economiques et de Gestion” (ISEEG, tel.: (+224) 60 26 13 59, and others. These NGO’s offer courses mostly on entrepreneurship, business management, communal development, project-management, employment-research, accountancy, computer science and English. Some of the course are organised in the form of workshops with a maximum two-week duration. The participation fees lie between 200.000 GNF and 500.000 GNF. Others are running for up to three months with participation fees of about 100.000 GNF up to 200.000 GNF/month.

Also, a number of International organisations offer training courses, such as “Opportunities Industrialization Centres” (OIC), which has one professional training centre in Kénin at the round point “Constantin” in Matam/Conakry. For more information about the activities of OIC please contact: oicigui@miniret.net.gn, or tel.: (+224) 60 27 48 43, or 60 27 42 01, or 67 27 48 43.

Finally, there are representations of Western universities in Guinea, which are offering the opportunity of distance studies, most notably the “Institut Supérieur de Formation à Distance” (ISFAD). Contact: e-mail: isfad_gn-dgae@yahoo.fr, tel: (+224) 60 57 65 21, or 63

98 90 66, or 30 42 29 44, or 60 44 42 46. The costs vary from 200.000 GNF to 300.000 GNF/year with the LMD-system (licence-master-PhD).

Annex: Request form for recognition or equivalence of certificates

N 1: Fiche de demande de reconnaissance ou d'équivalence de diplôme
MINISTERE DE L'EDUCATION NATIONALE REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE ET DE La RECHERCHE
SCIENTIFIQUE

.....
DIRECTION NATIONALE DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT Travail - Justice- Solidarité
SUPERIEUR
Section Reconnaissance et Equivalence des Diplômes
Titres et Grades Universitaires

Photo



DEMANDE DE RECONNAISSANCE OU D'EQUIVALENCE
IDENTITE

Accusée reception Nom et Prénoms:
Date et lieu de Naissance
Fils de: et
Adresse: tél:
Profession:
Nationalité: Matricule:

Avis du GTS **FORMATION:**
A/ SECONDAIRE
Le Diplôme de baccalauréat ou Equivalent
Profil ou série Session
Centre ville Pays

B/ PROFESSIONNELLE:
Avis de la
Commission Diplôme ou Equivalent Mention
Durée date d'entrée date de sortie
Ecole pays spécialité

Motif du rejet
SUPERIEURE :
Diplôme ou Equivalent
Date d'entrée date de sortie
Institution spécialité
Mention pays

POST-UNIVERSITAIRE:
Diplôme ou certificat
Institution
Pays durée de la formation
Mention

- Stamped and registered statutes, notarised or signed in private capacity with a declaration confirmed by a notary;
- Attestation of the bank account of the society;
- Two photos of identity of the manager or managers;
- Photocopy of the identity card or passport of the manager or managers;
- Certificate of good conduct of the manager or managers.

Fees:

- Matriculation=110.000 GNF
- Legal announcement=40.000 GNF

Legal forms of corporations:

- Open corporation, minimum capital=50.000.000 GNF;
- Limited liability company, minimum capital=50.000.000 GNF;
- Groupes d'Intérêts économiques (GIE).

Registration and matriculation at the National Directory for Taxes (Open corporations and limited liability companies) - necessary documents:

- Register of trade;
- Transcript of the constitution of the corporation;
- Statutes of the corporation.

For a new enterprise:

- Payment of the tax revenue (licence to be paid by a enterprise) at the service of taxes of the Service of Taxes of the First Magistrate of Conakry: e-mail: ville_conakry@yahoo.fr or Tel: (+224) 30 41 50 50/30 41 32 03/62 13 87 87/64 99 21 24, BP: 584 Conakry.
- Minimum Tax Allowance (IMF) of 3.000.000 GNF (although not being legislated, this advance payment is demanded as a security of the state against refusal/disability to pay taxes of the created enterprise).
- Official credit approval, signed by both parties.

Fees:

- One stamp: 2.500 GNF
- A fee of 25.000 GNF

In the case that the new company enjoys a regime of reduced taxes, a copy of the decision and the "Number of Tax Matriculation" (NIF) has to be presented.

The NIF-number is also obliged for "physical persons" and NGOs with profitable character for all transactions with banks and with the customs. To get a NIF, it is necessary to pay a minimum advance payment of taxes as following:

Physical persons:

- Construction Sector and Public Works (BTB)=2.000.000 GNF
- Trade=2.000.000 GNF
- Service sector and others=1.500.000 GNF

Legal entities: (all sectors are subjected to VAT):

- Licence: in accordance with the existing legislation;
- Minimum Tax Allowance (IMF)=3.000.000 GNF;
- Payroll reduction (RTS)=400.000 GNF;
- Prepayment of the Allowance (VF)=300.000 GNF;
- Training Tax (TA)=200.000 GNF

Credits/subsidies and their accessibility

The possibilities of access to financing businesses in Guinea are related to the following structures:

- The decentralised financial sector, which is specialised in savings and credits;
- The commercial banks, which are specialised in investment and credits;
- Financial institutions that are specialized in credits, often without asking preconditions in form of savings;
- Embassies, which are allocating financing in form of subsidies.

Their zones of intervention, target groups, types of credits/subsidies, condition of access, rate of interest, duration of financing and the addresses of some of these institutions are the following:

The decentralised financial sector

“Integrated Program for the Development of Enterprises” (PRIDE-Finances)

- Address: 3^e Blvd. Du Commerce 1^{er} étage, building “Zaidan”, quartier Almamya, municipality of Kaloum, Conakry. Tel: (+224) 30 41 39 48, e-mail: pride.finance@biasy.net
- Region of intervention: nationwide
- Target group: Entrepreneurs of micro-businesses
- Organisation form: NGO
- Financial sources: USAID, “French Development Agency” (AFD)
- Type and duration of credits: solidarity (6-12 months), individual (6-24 months), working capital (6-36 months);
- Conditions: capital ceiling: micro-500.000 GNF, type solidarity on short terms - 600.000 GNF and individual and medium terms - 15.000.000 GNF. Possibility of joint financing in collaboration with BICIGUI up to a capital ceiling of 50.000.000 GNF. Solidarity fund: 4%
- Rate of interest: 3,5%/month (linear)

“Rural Credit of Guinea”

- Address: building “Sall”, municipality of Kaloum, Conakry. Tel: (+224) 30 45 43 38/ 30 41 35 71, e-mail: crg@mirinet.net.gn
- Region of intervention: rural and semi-urban areas, nationwide
- Organisation form: Ltd.
- Financial sources: AFD, Guinean government, African Bank for Development (BAD), United Nations Capital Development Fund;
- Types and duration of credits:
 - Credit for farming (8 months)
 - Credit of rural solidarity (12 months)
 - Commercial credit (12 months)
 - Credit for civil servants (3 months for saving, 1 months for repairs)
 - Credit on middle terms (maximum: 24 months)
 - Working capital (6-36 months)
- Target group: Farmer, civil servants, craftsmen, fisher
- Conditions: capital ceiling: micro - 300.000 GNF, credit for farming - 600.000 GNF, credit of rural solidarity - 800.000 GNF and commercial credit - 5.000.000 GNF. Capital ceilings for credits on middle terms: 4.000.000 GNF to 5.000.000 GNF; Association and mutual deposit for larger sums. Mutual aid fund and expenses for files: 6%. Individual contribution: 10% for credits on middle terms;
- Rate of interest: creditor=5-6% between 3 and 6 months, 6% (time deposit), 7% (savings plan), debtor=3,5% (short term) and 3% (middle term)

“Yété Mali”

- Address: municipality of Ratoma, Conakry, Tel.: (+224) 60 26 18 34;

- Region of intervention: Conakry;
- Organisation form: project
- Financial sources: Canadian government, Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea (BCRG);
- Types and duration of credits: working capital, investment fund (productive and non-productive)
- Target group: population with low-income, physical persons and legal entities;
- Conditions:
 - Existing savings or pension;
 - Capital ceiling: micro - 1.000.000 to 3.000.000 GNF;
 - Personal contribution: 20-30% of the credit;
 - Membership: 20.000 GNF; duration: 1 year to 1,5 year;
 - Mutual aid fund and file-fee: 2%;
- Rate of interest: creditor - 5%, debtor - 24%/year (linear)

Commercial Banks

International Bank for Trade and Industry of Guinea (BICIGUI)

- Address: Avenue de la République, municipality of Kaloum, Conakry. Tel: (+224) 30 41 45 15/ 30 41 39 62
- Region of intervention: Conakry, Fria, Boké, Kamsar, Sangaredi, Kindia, Mamou, Labé, Kissidougou, Macenta, N'Zérékoré, Kankan
- Organisation form: Ltd.
- Types and duration of credits:
 - Equipment (3-5 years)
 - Investment (3-7 years)
 - Working capital
 - "Trésorerie"
 - Market deposit
 - "Lettre avale"
 - "Crédit documentaire"
- Conditions to open an account:
 - Two photos of identity;
 - Certificate of residence;
 - Photocopy of identity card;
 - Post Box;
 - Attestation of the employer (for civil servants);
 - Last bill for water or electricity (not older than 3 months).
- Conditions to apply for a credit:
 - Domiciliation of salaries
 - Domiciliation of counts
 - Guaranties: bailment of material or equipment, property mortgage, etc.
- Rate of interest: 21,25% for civil servants, 23,25% for all others;

Islamic Development Bank (BID)

- Address: Avenue de la République, municipality of Kaloum, Conakry. Tel: (+224) 30 41 50 86 ou 30 41 21 08
- Region of intervention: Conakry
- Organisation form: Ltd.
- Types and duration of credits: (1-3 years)
 - Equipment
 - Investment
 - Working capital
 - "Trésorerie"
 - "Caution marché"
 - "Lettre avale"

- “Crédit de campagne
- “Crédit agropastorale” with the support of USAID
- Conditions to open an account:
 - Physical persons: two photos of identity, certificate of residence, photocopy of the ID or passport, deposit of 500.000 GNF
 - Legal entities: statutes and internal regulations, minutes of the last meeting of the board, extract of the register of trade or similar documents, two photos of identity of the manager/s, deposit of 1.000.000 GNF;
- Conditions to apply for a credit:
 - being a client of the bank for at least 4-6 months
 - Domiciliation of salaries or incomes;
 - Presentation of a bankable business file;
 - Presentation of a real guaranty: Property mortgage; personal or united deposit; etc.
 - Monthly or other “échéances”.
- Rate of interest: between 20 and 30%

International Union of Banks in Guinea (UIBG)

- Address: Avenue de la République, municipality of Kaloum, Conakry. Tel: (+224) 30 41 20 96 ou 30 41 43 09
- Region of intervention: Conakry
- Organisation form: Ltd.
- Types and duration of credits:
 - Equipment (2-5 years)
 - Working capital (1 year)
 - Trésorerie” (1 year)
 - “Caution marché” (3 months)
 - “Lettre avale”(6 months)
 - “Crédit de campagne”(1 year)
 - “Crédit agropastorale” with the support of USAID
- Conditions to open an account:
 - Physical persons: two photos of identity, certificate of residence, photocopy of the ID or passport, last electricity or water bill, last salary bulletin for civil servants, deposit of 500.000 GNF
 - Legal entities: statutes and internal regulations, minutes of the constitutive meeting, extract of the register of trade or similar documents, ID of the signatories, deposit of 1.000.000 GNF for an individual enterprise.
- Conditions to apply for a credit:
 - “Lettre d´avale” - fee: 200.000 GNF
 - Fee for the act of deposit: 200.000 GNF
 - Guaranties: material, property mortgage, personal or common deposit, etc.
 - Being a client of the bank since at least 4-6 months;
 - Wage-domiciliation
 - Payment obligation on monthly or three-months terms.
- Rate of interest: less than 26,5%

ECOBANK

- Address: Avenue de la République, municipality of Kaloum, Conakry. Tel: (+224) 30 45 58 76/77
- Region of intervention: Conakry, Basse Guinée, Fria
- Organisation form: Ltd.
- Types and duration of credits: (1-3 years)

- Equipment
 - Investment
 - Working capital
 - “Trésorerie”
 - “Caution marché”
 - “Lettre avale”
- Conditions to open an account:
 - Two photos of identity,
 - Certificate of residence;
 - Photocopy of the ID or passport.
 - Conditions to apply for a credit:
 - Being a client of the bank;
 - Wage-domiciliation;
 - Presentation of a bankable project;
 - Presentation of requested guaranties;
 - Payment obligation on monthly terms;
 - Dossier fee between 50.000 and 200.000 GNF.
 - Rate of interest: less than 17 to 23% (reliant on the sector of activities)

“Banque Populaire Marocco- Guinéenne“ (BPMG)

- Address: Boulevard du commerce, municipality of Kaloum, Conakry. Tel: (+224) 30 41 23 60/30 41 36 93
- Region of intervention: Basse Guinée : Conakry and Kindia
- Organisation form: Ltd.
- Target group : civil servants, traders, employees, organisations, individuals,
- Types and duration of credits (1-7 years):
 - Equipment;
 - Consumption;
 - Real Estate;
 - Financing of Import;
 - Financing of trade;
 - Supplier credit;
 - Commercial discount;
 - Trade bailment;
 - Customs bailment;
 - Other bailment and deposits;
- Conditions to open an account:
 - 4 photos of identity
 - Certificate of residence;
 - Photocopy of identity card;
 - Attestation of employment or trade registration;
- Conditions to apply for a credit:
 - Justification of income - in the case of salary for the last three months;
 - Attestation of work;
 - Order for remittance to the DAAF, to the division chief of the DNB or the DG;
 - Guaranties: order for remittance of salary, recognition of legalised debts, insurance, equipment or other material, real estate, property mortgage, individual or collective deposit;

- Wage-domiciliation;
- Payment obligation on monthly terms;
- Rate of interest: 24% for individuals; 27,25% HT for enterprises;
- **“Société Générale de Banques en Guinée“ (SGBG)**
 - Address: Cité chemin de fer, municipality of Kaloum, Conakry. Tel: (+224) 30 45 60 00 / 60 54 28 76
 - Region of intervention: Conakry, Kamsar, Sangaredi, Labé, Siguiri
 - Organisation form: Ltd.
 - Target group : Enterprises, trade, projects, associations and all other socioprofessional organisations, individuals ;
 - Types and duration of credits (1-7 years):
 - Equipment;
 - Investment;
 - Working capital;
 - Conditions to apply for a credit:
 - No capital ceiling ;
 - Maximum duration : 1-5 years ;
 - Garanties : wage-domiciliation, property mortgage, pledge ;
 - Rate of interest: 23,89% declining

Financial Institutions

African Development Fondation (ADF):

- Address: Camayenne, municipality of Dixinn, BP: 2399, Tel (224) 30 46 75 05 E-mail: adf-gui@biasy.net, Conakry ;
- Region of intervention: nationwide
- Domains of assistance: Production, transformation, commercialisation, services;
- Target group: Guinean companies or companies with Guinean majority capital, organisations and/of unions for producers, farmers, craftsmen, fisher;
- Capital ceiling: USD 250.000, including fees and audits;
- Eligibility criteria: Dynamic business structure, good governance and transparency, available legal documents or in process of acquisition (statutes, internal regulations, amenity). Expected remarkable effects on the surrounding; commitment to contribute to the communitarian reinvestment fund on conditions admitted with ADF.

Guinean - Italian Fund for the Conversion of Dept (FoGuIReD)

- Address: Hamdallaye Carrefour; municipality of Ratoma; Tel (224) 30 42 28 62/ 30 25 02 66; Conakry
- Region of intervention : area of Conakry, up to de regions of Kindia and Mamou ; area of Kankan ; area of N’Zérékoré ;
- Domains of assistance: Health and education, privileged access for people in need; farming, micro financing, stock breeding;
- Target groups: local NGO’s; non-profit associations and institutions; groups with economical interest (GIE); institutes of research and instruction; religious institutions and organisations; local collectives;

- Capital ceiling: For less structured stakeholders: 10.000.000 GNF - 50.000.000 GNF, with 15% equity contribution; For structured stakeholders: 50.000.000 GNF - 400.000.000 GNF, with 15% equity contribution;
- Eligibility criteria: being eligible are: structured stakeholders (NGO's, unions, federations, religious institutions, local collectives, institutions of research and instruction, etc.) and less structured stakeholders (groups, cooperatives, local associations, etc.); Criteria: respecting the mode of presentation of project proposals and of submission of plans (available at the FOGUIRED-office);

“Agence Autonome d'Assistance Intégrée aux Entreprises (3 AE)“

- Address : Quartier Almamy 3^{ème} Bld, 8^{ème} avenue, municipality of Kaloum; BP: 5488, Tel: (224) 30 45 47 27/Fax: (224) 30 45 47 26, E-mail: pai3ae@miniret.net.gn;
- Region of intervention: nationwide
 - Domains of assistance:
 - agriculture, stock breeding, housing, fishing, service and commercial infrastructure;
 - Investment credits (duration: 2-5 years)
 - Working capital (duration: 1-10 months)
- Target groups: local promoters (urban and rural PME/PMI)
- Capital ceiling: 50.000.000 GNF for BID-funds and USD 25.000 loan-ceiling;
- Eligibility criteria: Equity contribution of no less than 15% for medium-term loans; rates according to the capacity of the receiver; guaranties for medium-term loans: material, UGAR-insurance; experience of the promoter; solvency and integrity of the promoter; profitability of the business plan, dossier fee: 1% or often a fixed sum of 1-3 months of rate;

Embassies, allocating financing

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany (fund for micro-projects)

- Address: 2^{ème} Blvd, Kaloum; BP: 540, Conakry; Tel (224)30 41 15 06/30 45 15 08
- Region of intervention: nationwide
- Domains of assistance: Fishing; health; education and training; production; all project of public utility;
- Target groups: NGO's, associations and organisations;
- Capital ceiling: 7.500 EUR
- Eligibility criteria: project has to be realizable within 3-4 months; equity contribution; no financing of salaries; There is no special application form, but the presentation of a detailed written description of the project and a financial calculation of the project are expected. There are no deadlines for applications.

Embassy of Japan (donations for small local projects)

- Address: Service micro-projects, Embassy of Japan, Coléah municipality of Matam, BP: 895, Conakry, Tel (224) 30 46 85 10/30 46 85 11/30 46 85 12
- Area of intervention: nationwide
- Domains of assistance: Education; health; small development projects; promotion of women, environment;
- Target groups: local collectives; associations of fisher or other associations;
- Capital ceiling: -
- Eligibility criteria: Being a national non-profit organisation and being non-politic; being recognized by the administration; presentation of the project;

Embassy of France

- Address: Service for cooperation and cultural actions, Embassy of France, Blvd. du Commerce; BP: 570, Conakry; Tel (224) 63 35 11 23/ 63 35 11 24/63 35 11 25
- Area of intervention: nationwide
- Domains of assistance: education/training; health; environment; rural development; youth; sport, cultural activities;
- Target groups: local collectives; cooperative associations;
- Financial conditions: Project cost more than 10.000 EUR; Equity contribution between 10-30%; financing of FSD; General fees less than 6%; Operating costs lower or equal to 20% of the total investment:
- Eligibility criteria: Generative plan of incomes and of creating jobs. The applier has to be a non-profit, non-political Guinean association or a region with autonomy in its decisions. The organisation has to support a NGO for at least three months (obligatory). The capacity of plan-management and already implemented projects on own initiative. A vision of communal live and implementation of voluntary work into the organisation. Capabilities of dialogue, exchange and cooperation. Presentation of the project-plan and following other documents: statutes and internal regulations of the organisation, copies of the amenity and registration of the association, technical description of the project and of every type of investment and of potential benefits of other sources, the opinion of local and prefectural authorities about the plan, certification of community participation, certificate of provision of ground and request-form of financing by the Embassy of France.

Embassy of the United States of America (“Self-Help Fund” SSH)

- Address: Coordinator of the project “Self-Help”, Tel.: 30 41 15 20/30 41 15 21/30 41 15 23
- Area of intervention: nationwide
All questions about the access to the project, the domains of intervention, the procedures to follow and all other issues can be addressed to the Coordinator of the project “Self-Help” at the Embassy of the United States of America.
- Deadlines: All applications have to be received by the Embassy between October 1st and December 31st of every calendar year. Between June 1st and July 30th of every calendar year, the projects are chosen by a selection commission and approved by the Ambassador. Between October 1st and September 30th the responses on the applications will sent after the meetings of the committee.

Moreover, the Embassy disposes about the National Fund for the Insertion of the Youth, which supports young people with start-up credits. Selection criteria are: convincing business plan, bankable profile and profitable business idea.

3.3.4. Social security

3.3.4.1. Unemployment benefit and access to it

There is no unemployment insurance in Guinea. All firms active in Guinea are in obligation to procure social security for their employees. The employees who are registered in the “National Fund of Social Security” (CNSS) are insured against illness, disability and for pension. The CNSS provides the following benefits:

- Family benefits;
- Benefits in the case of accidents at work and occupational illness;
- Predictions in case of retirement, disability or in the case of the deceased of the insured person in support of the bereaved.

The access to the services of CNSS depends on the matriculation of the individual employee by its employer and the payment on monthly terms of 23% of the salary. For all information about the services of CNSS, please consult: www.cnss.org.gn, or contact Mme SYLLA Astou FALL, Director of Human Ressources (e-mail: astoutalgn@yahoo.fr, Tel: (+224) 60 55 62 93/64 62 69 71)

Private insurance societies try to fill in the demand but their products are inadequate or not known. Among others, the “International Insurance Company Guinea” Ltd. (guinea_ic@yahoo.fr), with a capital of 3.000.000.000 GNF is worth to mention.

The company is offering the following insurances:

- Multiple professional;
- Multiple office;
- Multiple business;
- Multiple housing;
- Transport of goods;
- Car;
- International travel insurance;
- All other sorts of property insurances and insurances of civil liability;
- Family.

The company guaranties for the insured businessmen their property and the covering of the approved credits.

Besides the “International Insurance Company Guinea” there are other societies with similar products, among others: “Guinean Union of Insurance and Reinsurance” (UGAR), www.ugarassurance.com; the “Guinean Society of Mutual Insurance” (SGOAM), e-mail of the administration: amapathe@yahoo.fr, Tel.: (+224) 60 21 21 89, or the “Mutual of the Workers of Guinea (MUTRAGUI).

3.3.4.2 Other benefits in the social welfare system

The Guinean government collaborates on the issue of illegal immigration to the West with the European Union. In the framework of the collaboration there are several insertion programmes for returnees. For example there is a convention between 3AE and the Order of Malta about the financing of the integration of 13 returnees in collaboration with the National Association of Reception of Foreigners and Migrants (ANAEM) (mlehoux.anaem@cefib.com). The budget is 7.000 EUR per returnee. 3AE assures assistance for these returnees by supporting the creation of new enterprises and by training. The conditions for joining the program are: being Guinean, voluntary return from France, having a business idea. At the moment of writing, 11 dossiers have been finalized and approved (preferred business activities: transport and trade).

The French institution “Programe Solidarité - Eau” (PS-Eau) (www.pseau.org/pmie) has had an assistance program for returnees, by a subsidy of 40.000.000 GNF per promoter. Caritas International collaborates together with 3AE in returnee assistance via an amount of EUR 700 per promoter/returnee.

The program of IOM aims to prevent illegal immigration by favouring employment for young potential migrants in Guinea. For 2008, IOM has a financial ceiling for about 150 young participants.

There are only few charity organizations active in Guinea. However, there are some structures, which intervene at specific domains of action, most notably at the protection of children and underprivileged social classes. The NGO “SOS Children's Villages” is such one (contact: e-mail: sos-no@sosguinea.org, Tel: (+224) 60 21 24 51/60

59 67 39/60 26 11 43). The Guinean branch of “SOS Children's Villages” has been created in January 1997 with the aim to put villages for children into function and to create supporting projects. The NGO is an organisation in the spirit of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The different projects of “SOS Children's Villages” in Guinea try to give the underprivileged children in Guinea education, health care, protection and training by creating for them a new basis of life.

The structures of the NGO are at the moment:

- The National office in Conakry, which coordinates the activities of the NGO and assures the principals, the policy and the minimum standards of SOS - Kinderdorf International.
- Children's Villages in Conakry, N'zérékoré and Kankan. The community of these villages takes care for the food, the accommodation, health care and education of the children until they reach the age of 23 years.

The different villages work under the supervision of the “father of the village”, who is responsible to guide the children and to coordinate the different “mothers” of the children. He should give them protection, development, love, self-confidence like every good father. The “mothers” of the villages are the head of family units and they are responsible for the wellbeing of their “family”. Every child's village is an integral part of the local community and maintains close relations with the state in the domains of health care, education and admission of children.

- **The children's village of Conakry:** The village has been inaugurated as first of its kind at May 16, 1990. The first children were received in 1989. The village has a capacity of 110 children and has eleven family houses, one house for the father of the village, one polyvalent room, one ward and playgrounds.
- **The children's village of N'zérékoré:** The second SOS village is situated in a forest zone, 4km from the city of N'zérékoré. It has been inaugurated at September 23, 2002 and has thirteen family houses, one house of the aunts, one guesthouse, one house for the father of the village, one ward, one large “African hut” as meeting place and playgrounds.
- **The children's village of Kankan:** Inaugurated at March 8, 2005, the village is located in the province Haute Guinée in the village of Kankan. It has twelve family houses, one house of the aunts, one house of the director, one house for the father of the village, one guesthouse, one ward, one large “African hut” as meeting place and playgrounds.

International schools “SOS Hermann Gmeiner” in Conakry, N'zérékoré and Kankan:

The schools are by principal open for the children of the SOS-villages and for the children of neighbouring communities. The schools are part of the official national education program. However, their infrastructure, their equipment and their educational policy makes of them reference centres for education in Guinea.

- **International SOS Hermann Gmeiner School in Conakry:** Inaugurated in September 1990 as primary school. Today the school has as well a college, a computer centre and a library.
- **International SOS Hermann Gmeiner School in N'zérékoré:** Inaugurated in September 2001 on the compound of the village. The school maintains today two levels: primary and secondary school. The school has also a computer centre, a library, a polyvalent room and a canteen.
- **International SOS Hermann Gmeiner School in Kankan:** Inaugurated in October 2004 on the compound of the village. The primary school is since 2004 in function,

the secondary school since 2006. The school has also a computer centre and a polyvalent room.

Youth house Conakry

The youth house is situated outside the SOS village. It is a centre for the education and development of teenagers. It is the on goal of the centres to confront SOS children and teenagers with the external life and to guide them into an independent life. The youth house was opened on June 3, 1995.

Young SOS-adults are at the age of 18 years being reinstalled at their biological families or at reception families. The reintegration of the young adults is the culmination point of a long process. However, the young adults receive further assistance on all levels from SOS.

No financial aid is provided in the final reintegration phase but training and health care. The SOS adults will always benefit from advice and moral support of SOS. Today, already 58 young people have been reintegrated into the society in several sectors of activities.

Reinforcement programs for families in Conakry and N'zérékoré

Centre for alphabetisation and handicraft training

In collaboration

The "SOS Children's Village" in Conakry opened in collaboration with the association "Femmes pour le Développement de Enta Nord" (AFDEN) a centre for alphabetisation and craft training on its compound. The centre aims to reinforce the chances of young women and girls not send to school, by their alphabetization and training of craft skills which enable them to support their families financially. The centre was opened at October 25, 2003.

The reinforcement program for families

The program as a new strategy of "SOS Kinderdorf International" is the first of its kind in Guinea. It aims on the reinforcement of pauperized families preventing therewith the abandonment of their children. The children of these families (primary beneficiaries), benefit from assistance in education (submission and support in schools), nutrition and health care. Their parents (secondary beneficiaries), benefit from a support fund and from training to improve their income-possibilities. The program focussed principally on the surroundings of the following "SOS Children's

- N'zérékoré: The program was launched at the CRD of Samoè in September 2005 with the participation of 28 families with 125 children and 58 adults. In 2008 350 children participate.
- Conakry: The program was launched at the district "Enta Nord" in May 2007 with the participation of 67 families with 399 children and 214 adults.
- Kankan: The program started here in 2008 with the participation of 355 children.

3.3.5 Useful data to calculate the cost of living

Price of staple food (August 2008)

Nourishments:

Rice:

Domestic rice: 6.000 GNF/Kg (retail sale) and 285.000 GNF/50 Kg (whole sale)

Imported rice: 4.200 GNF/Kg (retail sale) and 200.000 GNF/50 Kg (whole sale)

Cooking oil

Vegetable oil: 8.700 GNF/litre (retail sale) and 170.000 GNF/20-litre can (whole sale)
Red oil: 6.500 GNF/litre (retail sale) and 124.000 GNF/20-litre can (whole sale)

Corn (grains): 4.500 GNF/kg
Fonio (sorghum): 6.500 GNF/kg
Meat: 16.500 GNF/kg (Conakry) and 13.000 GNF (interior of the country)

Fish

Smoked fish: 8.000 GNF/kg (Conakry) and 10.000 GNF/kg (interior of the country)
Fresh fish: 12.000 GNF (Conakry) and 16.000 GNF (interior of the country)

Onion: 6.000 GNF/kg
Potatoes: 4.000 GNF/kg
Cabbage: 5.000 GNF/kg
Carrots: 4.000 GNF/kg
Avocado: 4.000 GNF/kg
Tomatoes: 6.000 GNF/kg

Sugar: 3.500 GNF/kg
Concentrated milk: 10.000 GNF/kg
Bread: 3.000 GNF (loaf of 1kg) and 1.500 GNF (loaf of ½ kg)

Fuel

Petrol: 7.000 GNF/litre
Fuel oil: 7.000 GNF/litre
Kerosene (lamp oil): 7.000 GNF/litre

Transport

Urban

Taxi: 1.300 GNF/trip of about 5 km
Minibus: 1.000 GNF/trip of about 5 km
Bus: 800 GNF/tip of about 5km

Inter urban

Conakry-Coyah: 5.000 GNF (minibus); 6.000 GNF (taxi)
Conakry- Dubréka: 5.000 GNF (minibus) ; 6.000 GNF (taxi)
Conakry- Forécariah: 15.000 GNF (taxi) ; 13.000 GNF (minibus)
Conakry- Boké: 50.000 GNF (taxi) ; 40.000 GNF (minibus)
Conakry- Fria: 26.000 GNF (taxi) ; 20.000 GNF (minibus)
Conakry- Kindia: 13.000 GNF (bus) ; 18.000 GNF (taxi)
Conakry- Mamou: 35.000 GNF (taxi) ; 25.000 GNF (minibus)
Conakry- Faranah: 93.000 GNF (taxi) ; 80.000 GNF (minibus)
Conakry- Kankan: 110.000 GNF (bus); 140.000 GNF (taxi)
Conakry- Labé: 80.000 GNF (taxi); 70.000 GNF (minibus)
Conakry- N'Zérékoré: 160.000 GNF (taxi);140.000 GNF (minibus)

Housing

Housing (high standard): 500.000 - 800.000 GNF/month (Conakry); 200.000 -300.000 GNF/month (interior of the country)
Housing (middle standard): 300.000 - 400.000 GNF/month (Conakry); 100.000-150.000 GNF/month (interior of the country)
Housing (low standard): 50.000 - 150.000 GNF/month (Conakry); 15.000 - 50.000 GNF/month (interior of the country)

Current exchange rates accessible at: www.bicigui.com/devises.htm or <http://www.xe.com/ucc/>.

3.3.6 References

Period of inquiries: Wednesday, July 30th - Saturday, August 16th, 2008

Location: At the offices of the interviewed persons.

List of sources and addresses of the interviewed persons:

Ministry of Justice:

Tribunal First Instance

- Mr FOFANAH Alseny, Chief clerk of the court, Conakry, Tel: 60-27-06-50
- Mr Alfred MATOS, Notary, Conakry, Tel: 60 20 34 76/ 64 38 09 38

Ministry of Finances:

National Directory of Taxes

- Ms Hadja SAMPIL, Chief of office, services of matriculation, Conakry, Tel: 60 43 19 44/ 64 64 21 35

Ministry of Youth

- Mr BALDE Boubacar, advisor of the Minister, Conakry, Tel: 60- 29- 80- 30
- Mr NABE Mohamed, Executive director of the National Fund of Placing of the Youth (FNIJ), Conakry, Tel: 60 23 29 69

Ministry of Higher Education

Dr. Lansana II SOUMAH, Chief of the section recognition and equivalence of certificates, Conakry, Tel: 60-28-00-18

Ministry of Labour

Guinean Agency for the Promotion of Employment (AGUIPE)

- Mr KABA Mohamed, Charged with research, planning and monitoring of employment, Conakry, e-mail abaguipe@yahoo.fr; Tel: 60 55 30 15;

Financial sector

Société Générale des Banques en Guinée (SGBG)

- Mr BARRY Thierno Mamadou, in charge op client relation with enterprises, Conakry, Tel: 60 21 24 04

Union Internationale des Banques en Guinée (UIBG)

- Ms Agnès Camara, Chief financial services, investments, monitoring and supervision of enterprises (FISEE), Conakry, Tel: 62 35 00 70

3AE

- Mr CONDE Sadou, Chief financial services, investments, monitoring and supervision of enterprises (FISEE), Conakry, e-mail pai3ae@mirinet.net.gn

Caisse Nationale de la Sécurité Sociale

- Ms Faye Astou SYLLA, Director Human Resources, Caisse Nationale de la Sécurité Sociale (CNSS), Conakry, e-mail: astoutalgn@yahoo.fr

Insurances

Société Guinéenne des Assurances et Réassurances (SOGAM)

- Mr DIALLO Souleymane, Agent, Conakry, e-mail: soul_f16@yahoo.fr, Tel. (+224) 60 41 11 99

International Insurance Company (IIC)

- Mr DORE Gue Georges, Technical Director, Conakry, e-mail guegeorges@lire.fr; Tel: 67 98 92 46/64 40 05 55

Mutuelle des Travailleurs de Guinée (MUTRAGUI)

- Ms NABE Alama CONDE, Director Human Resources, Conakry, e-mail: mutragui@yahoo.fr, Tel: (+224) 30 49 07 71

Institutions of Higher and Professional Education

Institut Supérieur de Formation à Distance (ISFAD)

- Mr DRAME Abdourahaman, Regional Director, Conakry, e-mail isfad_gn_dgea@yahoo.fr, Tel: (+224) 60 57 65 21/ 30 42 29 44

Institut Professionnel Moderne (IPM)

- Mr BALDE Ibrahima Diogo, Director, Conakry, Tel: (+224) 60 26 26 25/64 89 03 85

Institut Nako Diabaté

- Mr LANIKPEKOUN Ismael, Director, Conakry, Tel: (+224) 63 54 11 57/ 30 01 06 88/ 30 01 03 25

Opportunities Industrialization Centers- Guinea (OIC-Guinée)

- Ms BARRY Fatoumata, Accountant, Conakry, Tel: (+224) 60 ou 67 27 48 43

Gouvernorat de Conakry

- Mr CHERIF, Chef Tax Services of the City of Conakry, Tel: (+224) 60 33 33 97

Others

- Ms Adama Camara, tradeswoman, market of Madina, Conakry, Tel: 60-99-62-47;
- Mr Sidiki KABA, member of the association of the conveyors of the street port of Matam, Conakry, Tel: 64-36-58-23;
- Mr Amadou Tham CAMARA, journalist of “Guineenews”, Tel: 60 55 01 23

3.4. Health

3.4.1. General health situation by regions

The problematic health situation in the country increases the poverty of the population because of its impact on the labour force.

The “Comparative Analyse of the Results of the Demographic and Health Survey” (EDS) of 1999 and 2005 allows an estimation of the impact of governmental and non-governmental planning and policies in the health sector.⁵⁶

Guinea has a high infant mortality rate. The main health risks for children are respiratory infections (IRA), especially pneumonia, malaria and dehydration as a result of diarrhoea. The rate of maternal mortality is also very high with a ratio of 980 for 100.000 living births in 2005.

⁵⁶ Strategy document for the Reduction of Poverty in Guinea II (DRSPII, Novembre 2007)

Slight progress has been achieved between 1999 and 2005 in the problematic of vaccination of the population. The PEV-vaccination Program (Programme Elargi de Vaccination) reached in 2005 37% of the children compared to 32% in 1999. The percentage of children, which never received any vaccination decreased from 21% in 1999 to 14% in 2005. The vaccination with antigens increased between 1999 and 2005 generally: BCG (76% vs. 79%), DTCoq (46% vs. 51%) and Polio 3 (43% vs. 50%). The exception is the vaccination against measles, which remained stationary (50%).

Among children under 5 years age and women, deficiency of iodine and anaemia is widespread. More than 77% of the children between 6 and 59 months of age and more than half of the women (53%) are suffering of anaemia.

The nutritional situation of children under the age of 5 years degrades between 1999 and 2005 significantly with all consequences regarding their health situation and the infant mortality. The percentage of children suffering chronic malnutrition increased from 26% in 1999 to 35% in 2005 - that is an increase of 35% in just 6 years. The phenomenon of the increase of malnutrition affects all provinces of Guinea although in different severity: Haute Guinée (+53%); Moyenne Guinée (+43%); Conakry (+32%); Basse Guinée (19%) and Guinée Forestière (+17%). The situation on severe malnutrition remained stationary at around 9% of the children.

The deteriorating nutritional situation can be explained by the security problems in Guinea from the year 2000 on and the macroeconomic crises since 2003. The situation has not been improved since 2005: a recent survey in Conakry (2008) indicated that 55% of the households in the capital are not able to afford three meals a day.

Endemic diseases like malaria and tuberculosis continue to be serious threats for the public health situation of Guinea. Malaria is the first reason for medical consultation in the country (33%) and for hospitalisation (25,4%) with a rate of impact of 108,3 on 1.000 inhabitants. The mortality rate in the hospitals is 15%. 26% of the victims are children of less than 5 years of age.⁵⁷

It is strongly recommended to sleep under the protection of a mosquito net and to use mosquito repellents like DEET.⁵⁸

Concerning tuberculosis, the infection rate is estimated at 75 cases for 100.000 inhabitants. The annual rate of new infections with pulmonary tuberculosis is estimated at 50 cases for 100.000 inhabitants in rural areas. The mortality rate among infected persons is 8% and 9% of the patients losing their sight. It is important to mention that the screening for tuberculosis and the access to chemoprophylaxis is in all training-health centres of the country free of charge.⁵⁹

Concerning the pandemic situation of HIV/AIDS, surveys show that 1,5% of the population is infected. Women are more affected by HIV/AIDS infections than men (ratio: 1,5% of the women, 0,9% of the men). The access to anti-retroviral drugs improved in the last years via the significant reduction of costs from 720.000 GNF in 2002 to 35.000 GNF since 2005.

Following the example of most other African countries, Guinea gets involved in lowering the access for anti-retroviral drugs and of more awareness-rising campaigns especially among poorer classes of the population.⁶⁰

Since 2007, the antiretroviral treatment is made free of charge as well as the cure of opportunistic infections. Unfortunately the latter treatment is hindered by the regular lack of ARVs⁶¹. Worthy to note in this context is that 90% of the financial burden of the struggle

⁵⁷ Survey on Demography and Health (EDS) 2005

⁵⁸ Interview of "les Amis de la Santé" with Dr Foromo Justin Guilavogui, Specialist for infectious diseases, National Donka Hospital (CHU de Conakry), Tel : 00224 60 54 33 08/ 00224 64 32 67 18

⁵⁹ Annual report 2005, National Program of the Fight against Tuberculosis.

⁶⁰ EDS 2005

⁶¹ Interview of "les Amis de la Santé" with Dr Foromo Justin Guilavogui, Specialist for infectious diseases, National Donka Hospital (CHU de Conakry), Tel : 00224 60 54 33 08/ 00224 64 32 67 18

against HIV/AIDS and other sexual transmitted diseases (STDs) is carried by international development partners.⁶²

STDs (HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C, etc.) are common in Guinea and protection measures are strictly recommended.⁶³

Guinea faces regularly cholera epidemics and of other high infectious diseases both in the cities and at rural areas. In the cholera epidemic of 2007, a total of 8.546 cases have been registered with 310 fatal cases, which is a mortality rate of 3,6%. 4.064 cases have been recorded in Conakry alone with 124 fatal cases, which is a mortality rate of 3,1%⁶⁴.

Between January and June 2007 54 cases of meningitis have been registered in Guinée Forestière at the districts Lola, Guéckédou and N'Zérékoré of which 8 cases were fatal.

3.4.2. Drinking water and sanitation by regions; heating systems

The access to potable water has been significantly deteriorated since 2002 in the cities of the country, especially in Conakry - and this as well in terms of the daily allocation per capita as in the aspect of water quality. There are actually only few districts in Conakry benefiting from a regular water supply. Only a few districts in Conakry are benefiting from a regular supply of water.

The public water supply is weakened by a low productivity of the sector (less than 40%), the insufficient use of the production capacities of less than 60%, the insufficient quality control and the lack of financial sources to pay a sufficient, well trained staff and to finance necessary maintenance, development and modernization of the network.⁶⁵ On the other hand the implementation of many small scale projects lead to an improvement of the number of water supply-points on local level, especially drilled wells which are in rural zones the main source of potable water supply. Wells are covering 34% of the demand of potable water on national level compared to 45,6% on rural level.⁶⁶ This is as well the case in many administrative regions: Faranah (58,6 %), Kankan (about 55 %), N' Zérékoré (45 %) and Boké (40 %). The investment in water supply-points on local level improved the access of private households to potable water from 51,2% in 1994 to about 62% in 2002.

On the other hand, the situation of the water supply via the central network deteriorated. Most of the private households in Conakry (90,6%) and many in other urban centres in the country (52%) depend on this source of supply of potable water. While the daily allocation of drinking water has been an average of 47 litres per capita in 1999 and 2000, the supply dropped until 2004 in Conakry to 20 litres per capita and in the other urban centres to just 7 litres, per capita a day.⁶⁷ The main reasons for the decline in the central water supply is the insufficient use of the existent capacities in Conakry (70%) and most of all inside the country (just 23%), the quick pace of urbanization and insufficient equipment. The given percentage correspond with the average water production of 30 million m³ per year of which 25,8m m³ allot on the capital alone and just 3,9m m³ on the other urban centres. The deterioration begun slowly in 2001 in Conakry and affected all municipalities of the capital with the exception of Kaloum. The same deterioration affected all other cities of the country.

⁶² DRSP II, November 2007

⁶³ Interview of "les Amis de la Santé" with Dr Foromo Justin Guilavogui, Specialist for infectious diseases, National Donka Hospital (CHU de Conakry), Tel : 00224 60 54 33 08/ 00224 64 32 67 18

⁶⁴ Source: Statement of Dr Aboubacar Nassagbè DIAKITE at the 5th Medical Competition of Scientific Communications (2008), organised by in collaboration with the medical faculty.

⁶⁵ DRSP II, November 2007

⁶⁶ Joint Survey for the Evaluation of Poverty (EIBEP/2002-2003)

⁶⁷ DRSP II, November 2007

In the low-water period of 2004/2005 not all districts of Conakry have had access to potable water and even the households who did have access, had it only for about three or four hours per day. In rural areas, wells and rivers serve increasingly more as primary water source as opposed to water taps, which currently form severe health risks.

The water sector faces the following main problems:

- Insufficient technical equipment which is not able to cope with the expansion of the urban centres;
- Inadequate use of the existing capacities;
- Insufficient productivity of the sector of about an average of 35% in the period between 1997-2007 (=on every 100 litres of produced water, the sector is just capable to recuperate the value corresponding to 35 litres);
- The high level of corruption (approximately 13% of the productivity) which limits the commercial performance of the sector;
- The ineffective administration of the National Water Society (SEG - Société des Eaux de Guinée) limits its own financial autonomy;⁶⁸

Access to wastewater/solid waste treatment

Even Guinean cities lack sufficient wastewater management and no sufficient deduction of rainfall, wastewater or solid waste. One of the direct consequences of this situation is the increasing pollution of the environment and a direct health risk for all citizens.⁶⁹

The capital Conakry produces about 1.600 m³ of waste every day, which need to be collected, removed and deposited, demands collections, removal and depositing at the dumpsite in the Dixinn-district. Three actors are involved in this task: SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises), which are collecting waste inside the different city districts, the five municipalities of the capital, which are responsible to pick up waste along the streets and public places and the SPTD (*Service Publique de Transfert des Déchets*) which is in charge of collecting the waste from the two other actors and transfer it to the dumpsite. But in practice every season of the year constitutes different problems for the public waste-management. The dumpsite is for example not accessible during the rainy season. Even worse, the citizens of the city refuse en masse to inscribe themselves with the SMEs to collect their waste and use heavy rainfall to dump their garbage along the gutters or simply on the road. These nuisances aggravate the situation and constitute a serious problem. The huge amount of natural organic waste increases the amount of waste, which has to be collected and transported out of the city.⁷⁰

Wastewater is generally discharged via broad irrigation or simply via pits in the soil. It is poured into gutters, streets and on open areas. There is no wastewater management or canalisation network with the exception of the commune of Kaloum where a sewer network exists.⁷¹

In this context it is necessary to mention that there are no public latrines in the country with the exception of some around the markets, coach stations and administrative buildings. All other urban centres have practically no public management of latrine effluents. In spite of the high density of population, latrines are left to private responsibility. Only 2,1% of Guinean households uses toilets with water flush.⁷² These types of toilets are found exclusively in high-income households in the capital (9,2%). The

⁶⁸ DRSP II, November 2007) ; Interview of “les Amis de la Santé” with Dr Fofana Salifou (General Directory SEG: Tel.: 00224 64 23 37 76/ 00224 62 29 72 30) and Mr Ismaël Camara (Technician, General Directory SEG : Tel.: 00224 64 19 68 30)

⁶⁹ DRSP II, November 2007

⁷⁰ Inter Press Service IPS, Environnement Guinée: L'incinération des ordures à domicile aggrave le problème, 27.06.2008, http://ipsinternational.org/fr/_note.asp?idnews=4129, last accessed December 2008

⁷¹ DRSP II, November 2007

⁷² EIBEP/2002-2003

effluents are let to self-made latrines, which are often joint-ones. These types of latrines use two out of three households (66,8%) in Guinea. Only 44,1% of the latrines is covered ones. 27,1% of the households has no toilet or access to any latrine at all. In urban milieus this ratio is even 37,6%.

In the aspect of solid waste, the most common way of disposal of domestic garbage is to litter it in open areas, rivers, the sea, gutters, etc. This practice is used by 77% of all households - 18,1% in Conakry, 64% in other urban centres and 93% at the countryside.

The collecting of public and domestic garbage is organised only in Conakry and concern there 55,4% of the households. The collection of garbage counts for 10,5% and the waste incineration for another 6,1%. Besides Conakry, Labé is the only city with a communal dumpsite. In all other cities there are only “wild” - uncontrolled - dumpsites and the transfer of evacuation of garbage is insufficient.

Concerning the industrial and toxic solid waste (polluted waste by hospitals, laboratories, industry, the mining sector, slaughterhouses, etc.), they are dumped on not controlled dumpsites, in nature, into rivers or into the sea. Nevertheless, the two “National Hospitals”, Donka and Ignace Deen, dispose of waste incineration plants.

3.4.3. Healthcare system

3.4.3.1. Healthcare infrastructure by regions

The financing of the health sector is insufficient and represented in 2006, 6% of the overall budget of the government (0,4% GDP). The financing is either sufficient to guarantee a countrywide health service neither in quality nor in quantity. Many priority programmes of public health, like the struggle against HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted infections (STI’s), tuberculosis, onchocerciasis (“river blindness”) is dependent on external donors.

In Guinea⁷³, 1.364 public health structure-units existing according to different types:

Type of structure	Number	in bad condition, in %	absence of potable water, in %
“National Hospitals” (Hôpitaux nationaux)	2	100%	100%
“Regional Hospitals” (Hôpitaux régionaux)	7	0%	29%
“Prefectural Hospitals” (Hôpitaux préfectoraux)	26	38%	58%
“Chirurgical Medical Centres” (Centres Médico Chirurgical-CMC)	7	14%	86%
Improved Health Centres (Centres Santé - CS)	4	0%	50%
Public Health Centres (CS)	388	28%	14%
Health Posts (Postes Santé -PS)	906	No data	No data
“Delivery Houses” (Maisons d’accouchement)	9	No data	No data
“Prefectural Maternity	1	No data	No data

⁷³ Based on the report “Study on the actualisation of the health card by including the private sector”, accomplished by the Association of Environmental Researchers (ACE)
BP: 030 BP 710, Conakry. April 2006. Main consultant: Dr Boubacar SERE DIALLO, Tel.: 00224 60 33 21 14/ 00224 60 33 2112.

Wards” (Maternités préfectorales)			
Walk-in-clinics (Dispensaires)	8	No data	No data
Anti-tuberculosis Centres	1	No data	No data
Wards	3	No data	No data

The analysis of the geographical disposition of the public health institutions allow to make the following principal conclusions:

At the interior of the country, 96% of the public health structure consists of “Health Centres” (Centres Santé - CS) and “Health Posts” (Postes Santé-PS). Just 3% of the health infrastructure is situated in Conakry - 44 units, consists of 2 “National Hospitals”, 5 “Chirurgical Medical Centres” (Centres Médico Chirurgical-CMC), 27 CSs, 8 PSs, one anti-tuberculosis centre and one ward of the police. Together, PSs and CSs constitute 80% of the overall public health structure in Conakry.

According to WHO-standards, an acceptable public-health structure has to fulfil at least the following conditions:

- Satisfying physical condition of the infrastructure;
- Access to potable water;
- Access to latrines in function.

The analysis of the state of the facilities showed that 28% of the CSs in the province “Haute Guinée” are worn out and that 38% of the “Prefectural Hospitals” (hôpitaux préfectoraux) do not fulfil the minimum WHO-standards. These are the hospitals in Boffa, Gaoual, Kouroussa, Kérouané, Beyla, Lola, Yomou, Macenta and Kissidougou. The infrastructures of the “Regional Hospitals” (hôpitaux régionaux) were renovated between 1998-2005, and are at the moment in general satisfying conditions. The latrines of the hospital in N’Zérékoré are modern ones and consist of a cemented pit. As far as the PSs are concerned, 23% of these facilities are not functional.

3.4.3.2. Eligibility criteria and access to healthcare services

The question of accessibility to the health services is determinate by the time in which a potential patient is able to reach the nearest facility. The health service has in general terms a good accessibility when individuals are able to reach the nearest facility in less than 30 minutes. In these terms, the access of the population to services is relatively limited, given the fact that just 40,8% of the population have -according to this definition - good access. In rural areas just 30,6% of the population enjoy good access to health institutions in contrast to 65,2% in urban areas. The situation is relatively the best in Conakry (64,2%), while the regions of N’Zérékoré (48,3 %), Kankan (45,7 %) and Boké (42,3 %) mark the national average. At the contrary, the regions of Mamou, Faranah and Labé have the worst access to health institutions.⁷⁴ Moreover, a study on the impact of the public expenditures on the health sector⁷⁵ revealed the social injustice of the accessibility to health services, showing that the poorest households usage of health services is far less than households better off. Besides, they use services of less quality (the care of PSs is cheaper for the government than the standard care of hospitals). This means that the allocation of the public expenditures for health tends to favour mostly the well off and urban population. Or, more generally, public allocations continue to favour secondary and tertiary care as well as the central health service administration in disadvantage to the detriment of the primary care.

⁷⁴ Survey of Basic Indicators of Welfare (QUIBB)

⁷⁵ World Bank (Public expenses on Health)

It is necessary to mention in this context that patients in Guinea have to carry all financial burdens - from the consultation to the purchase of the medication. In this sense the system liberates the access to the health services totally.

The overall financial sources remain also limited and the availability and the operational personal vary strongly from region to region according to the financial resources.

Table: Number of health staff-members per region ⁷⁶

Category	MSP	Ckry	Boké	Fara	Kkan	Kind	Labé	Mam	N'Zé	Total
Doctors	69	371	38	38	44	60	41	23	58	742
midwives	2	265	11	14	12	29	7	12	28	380
health assistances	8	467	69	64	58	76	41	28	143	954
Agents Technique de Santé (ATS)	23	491	196	241	469	323	238	194	442	2.617
Dentists	1	8	0	1	1	2	3	1	1	17
Technicians (odontology)	3	8	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	16
Technicians (radiology)	0	5	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	9
Biologists	15	18	10	4	5	15	3	6	12	88
Laboratory technicians	0	63	7	11	6	23	6	16	17	149
Pharmacists	23	48	7	6	6	11	7	7	10	125
Total	145	1.735	340	273	602	541	339	289	717	5.097

The city of Conakry counts 34% of all health workers of the country, followed by the region of N' Zérékoré with 14%. The concentration on the capital is even stronger if the fact is taken into account that 90% of the medical workers of the private health sector are working in Conakry.

3.4.3.3. Costs of healthcare

⁷⁶ Based on the report "Study on the actualisation of the health card by including the private sector", accomplished by the Association of Environmental Researchers (ACE), BP.: 030 BP 710, Conakry. April 2006. Main consultant: Dr Boubacar SERE DIALLO, Tel.: 00224 60 33 21 14/ 00224 60 33 2112

In Guinea, an average of 53,7 % of the beneficiaries of the health services (about 46% in Conakry and 46,2 % in the urban centres of the interior of the country and 56,8 % on the countryside) are not satisfied with the given service. The main reasons are the high costs of the services, the quality of the treatment and the lack of medicines.⁷⁷

There are official fees for consultations, which have to be paid at the administration of the health facilities: 5.000 GNF in a “National Hospital”, 2.500 GNF in CMC’s (Centres Médico Chirurgical-CMC) and in “Prefectural Hospitals” and 1.000-1.500 GNF in CSs. But beside these fees the patients have generally paid special fees directly to the doctors, which vary according to the status and the skills of the doctor from 10.000 GNF to 30.000 GNF. At private facilities these fees vary from 5.000 GNF to 50.000 GNF. Denominational health structures offer more accessible rates for consultation and treatment. The patient is subsequently free to obtain the necessary medical prescriptions wherever he wants. Given the fact that the scale of illicit medicines is high and self-medication is popular, the accompanying public-health risk is immense.

In the case of necessary laboratory or radiological consultation, the patients have the choice to do this in public structures, which are less expensive but concurrently less technically equipped (with the consequence of sometimes unreliable results), or at private structures, which are much more expensive but mostly better technically equipped and with more reliable test-results.

The costs of surgical interventions are fixed by the state, but in reality the actual price has to be negotiated with the surgeon in charge, and it is sometimes two or three times more than the official one. It is worthy to note, that in 2007, caesarean sections (=abdominal deliveries) have been made free of charge but even in this case some doctors continue to demand extra fees before the surgery.

Interventions in private structures are generally more expensive than in public ones.⁷⁸

3.4.3.4. Discrimination in healthcare system⁷⁹

The health system in Guinea does not know any particular form of discrimination. There is however a certain favouritism in the system, especially in public facilities. Some categories of patients benefit from a particular attention from the doctors. These are:

- Family members of the medical staff or patients recommended by the head physicians;
- High ranking officials of the state and well-off patients;
- Patients with health insurance.

3.4.3.5. Services of non-state agents in healthcare⁸⁰

Beside the public health sector, there are healthcare infrastructures provided by religious confessions, NGOs, associations and private enterprise.

Private health infrastructure

72% of the private facilities have buildings adapted to WHO-norms. 83% of the institutions have sufficient illumination, 77% an adequate ventilation system but only 50% appropriated toilettes.

Equipment

⁷⁷ EIBEP (2002/2003)

⁷⁸ Own research (physicians of “les Amis de la Santé”)

⁷⁹ Own research (physicians of “les Amis de la Santé”)

⁸⁰ Based on the report “Study on the actualisation of the health card by including the private sector”, accomplished by the Association of Environmental Researchers (ACE)

BP.: 030 BP 710, Conakry. April 2006. Main consultant: Dr Boubacar SERE DIALLO, Tel.: 00224 60 33 21 14/ 00224 60 33 2112

71% of the private facilities possess sufficient technical equipment. But only 3% of the institutions have implemented necessary control procedures concerning the reliability of their equipment, which would require regular maintenance. This figure points out that the quality of equipment is in this sector on the whole questionable. It is further striking that some licence holders do not possess their own structures. In the case of existing structures simple health stations operate under the name of specialised health centres - a confusion, which is voluntarily maintained.

The private sector represents on a national level 20% of the total health structures, with a peak in Conakry with 87% of all health structure in private hands but just 4% in the interior of the country. The sector is indeed almost exclusively concentrated in Conakry.

Table: The private health sector in Guinea

Type of private health structure	Conakry	Interior of the country	Total	Conakry in %	Interior of the country in %
Cabinets of midwives	2	2	4	50	50
Polyclinic	12	1	13	92	8
Associative medical cabinets	3	0	3	100	0
Clinics	10	2	12	83	17
Dentist cabinets	11	0	11	100	0
Denominational health centres	11	0	11	100	0
Nurse cabinets	3	14	17	18	82
Walk-in-clinics	8	14	22	36	64
Associative health centres	22	0	22	100	0
Sub-total	117	43	160	73	27
Pharmaceutical sector					
Pharmacies	138	60	198	70	30
Biomedical laboratories	9	1	10	90	10
Distributors	25	0	25	100	0
Sub-total	152	13	165	92	8
Total	269	56	325	83	17

It is to be added, that this data do not include the many structures which operate without any licences.

3.4.3.6. Diseases which cannot be effectively treated in the country⁸¹

Although Guinea disposes specialised health structure, it is to mention that certain diseases cannot be treated in the country. These are among others:

- Cancer: with the exception of cervical cancer in-situ, for no other form of cancer an adequate treatment - neither radiotherapy nor chemotherapy - is guaranteed;
- All diseases which require an organ transplantation;
- Certain cardiovascular diseases, which require surgeries;
- HIV/AIDS: in spite of the fact that the treatment for HIV/AIDS patients is free of charge, there is a lack of anti-retroviral drugs in the hospitals and insufficient laboratory-infrastructure to follow-up the diseases.

3.4.3.7. Supply with standard medicines

There are at the moment two principal sectors on the field of supply with pharmaceuticals: the public one and the private one.⁸²

⁸¹ Interview of "les Amis de la Santé" with Dr Aly Fancinadouno (paediatrist, CHU Conakry, Tel.: 00224 64 21 13 26) and Dr Mohamed Dioubaté (paediatrist, CHU Conakry, Tel.: 00224 62 39 43 30)

⁸² Network for Medicines and Development, www.remed.org, last accessed December 2008

The public or non-profit pharmaceutical sector

The main representative of the sector is the Central Pharmacy of Guinea (PCG), established by the decree nD/92/333 of December 17, 1992. Its mission and statute is defined by article 4 of the accompanying abatement A/2002/.6270/MEF/MSP/SGG: *“The Central Pharmacy of Guinea fulfils an industrial and commercial mission in the general interest and in the interest of the public health-services. It assures the supply of high quality health-products, the supply for health structures, the supply for NGO’s, which participate on public services, the supply for bilateral and multilateral cooperation projects, the supply for universities and the supply for other pharmaceutical facilities, which are authorized by the Ministry of Health of the public sector.”*

The Central Pharmacy possesses the status of a “Public Facility of Industrial and Commercial Character” (*Etablissement Public à Caractère Industriel et Commercial -EPIC*) and has 5 enterprises on the level of the regions. Its commercial data for 1997 and 1998 (no newer data accessible) have been 1,2bn Fcfa, respectively 1,5bn Fcfa.

Beside the main enterprises of the Central Pharmacy of Guinea there are as well other channels and structures of purchasing and distribution. In the case of vaccines, the stocks and the purchasing is managed by PEV, the anti-retrovirals by the PNPCSP (*Programme National de prise en Charge sanitaire et de prévention*), the anti-Malaria drugs by the programme “Palu”, the anti-tuberculosis drugs by PNLAT and the anti-leprosy drugs by PNLL.

A logistical manual has been recently worked out to optimize purchasing and distribution by centralising these tasks at the PCG itself. The integration of all logistical functions at the PCG should help to increase the acceptance of partners and donors by creating one single institution of contact. However, the manual is not yet implemented. At the public sector it exists as a second structure, which manages the supply of medicines: the cell for essential medicines of PEV/SSP/MISS, which has its own network for distribution and the supply of health centres. There is however a decree since 2002 (n°A/2002 2855, June 26, 2002), which orders the integration of the cell into the structure of the PCG but this has not happened yet.

The private pharmaceutical sector

The private pharmaceutical sector plays an important role in the supply of medicines in the country. The sector consists of 19 wholesale societies, 273 dispensaries (213 alone in the capital) and 17 promotion agencies.

Table: The private pharmaceutical sector

	1992	1994	2006
Pharmacies	185	205	-
Depots	-	40	-
Number of wholesales	7	7	19
Number of pharmaceutical industries	1	0	-

Selection of medicines and of other pharmaceutical products⁸³

A governmental commission compiles regularly a list with essential medicines.⁸⁴ There were in 1994 227 essential medicines on the list (no newer data accessible). There is as well a formal procedure of homologation of medicines and a homologation commission.

⁸³ Source: Central Pharmacy of Guinea: <http://pcguinee.com/>, last accessed December 2008

⁸⁴ National List of Essential Pharmaceuticals (1994). List obtained at the Ministry of Public Health, departement of Pharmacies and Laboratories, 25.07.2008.

The number of homologized medicines has been 1.446 in 1994 (no newer data accessible).

Supply

The PCG stocks up medicines under the DCI by a call for offer on short-listed suppliers. There is a system of monitoring of the suppliers. Samples of the medicines are sent in for quality control. The laboratory in charge with the quality control is attached at the INSP. The system of supply is defined by the decree n 10943/MSP/SGG (December 13, 2004). However, the quality control does not work effectively - a defect, which forms a major risk for the public health.

The costs of medicines and the politic of prices

The prices for medicines are regulated by the state. The margin of both, wholesaler and retailers, is above 35% of the selling price of the manufacturer. There are initiatives to force the private sector to sell MEG's more cheaply. The pharmacists are authorized to replace standard medicines by generics. However, there is no system at all of price control for medicines.