

United Nations HUMAN RIGHTS



Support to the Human Rights Office in Guinea

Global funding proposal

Total budget needs for 2 years (estimate): 1,001,180 USD

Implementation period starting on 1st December 2023

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WHY CONTRIBUTE TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS' COUNTRY OFFICE IN GUINEA

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights) in Guinea was established in 2010 with a **full-fledged mandate** covering human rights technical cooperation, advocacy, monitoring, analysis, and protection functions. Over the years, UN Human Rights has continuously provided critical support to State and non-State actors and international partners towards a culture of human rights respect in the country. It has succeeded in driving the Republic of Guinea to establish close working relations with international and regional human rights mechanisms as illustrated in the country's adherence to almost all human rights treaties. By securing the commitment of the Head of State, the Prime Minister and other senior officials to the pursuit of human rights reforms, UN Human Rights has successfully established itself in the country as decisive United Nations player in the advancement of peace, security and sustainable development anchored on human rights.

This proposal outlines the **mid- to long-term vision** for the work of the UN Human Rights Office in Guinea. Funding this proposal will allow UN Human Rights to promote and protect human rights in Guinea and build on its reputation and achievements of the past decade to further its support to the Government, Civil Society Organizations, private sector, and other actors in transforming the challenges into opportunities for the effective promotion and protection of human rights. In particular, contributions will help to:

Promote integration of human rights into sustainable development in Guinea, with a commitment to leave no one behind, through support for national policies and joint UN actions based on international human rights standards; and address inequalities and discrimination in Guinea affecting women, minorities, and other specific groups.

Increase implementation of the outcomes of human rights mechanisms, including the recommendations of UN and regional treaty bodies, Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review addressed to Guinea.

Support human rights-based reforms in Guinea, focused on legislative and policy reforms in the areas of extractive industries and rule of law sectors, and women's participation in decision-making with a view to **strengthening the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations in Guinea**.



BACKGROUND

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was established in Guinea in 2010. Its establishment was recommended by the report of the International Commission of Inquiry into the massacres of 28 September 2009 in Conakry.

It has a comprehensive mandate covering technical cooperation, advocacy, monitoring and protection functions in the field of human rights. Over the more than a decade, OHCHR has consistently provided support to State and non-State actors and international partners in fostering a culture of respect for human rights. OHCHR has succeeded in strengthening the Republic of Guinea's working relationship with international and regional human rights mechanisms, as evidenced by the country's ratification of almost all human rights treaties and increased protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Despite the progress made in recent years in the promotion and protection of human rights, the Republic of Guinea still faces a number of challenges regarding the effectiveness of many fundamental rights.

Since 5 September 2021, Guinea entered in a political transition marked by a shrinking civic and democratic space. Since May 2022, the restriction to the freedom of peaceful assembly in public spaces has been imposed by the junta. Some major opposition political figures are either in prison, or in exile for alleged economic crimes. More than two dozen young people have died on the sidelines of political or social protests over the past two years, while the majority of the authors are enjoying impunity.

The judiciary is facing a lot of gaps, inter-alia excessive long pre-trial detention time, the slowness of judicial proceedings as well as the lack of legal aid for vulnerable people. Prison conditions are in some prison inhumane due to overcrowding, lack of hygiene, food and health care, resulting in deaths and severe illnesses.

Since 2021, UN Human Rights Guinea in partnership with the government has been engaged in the promotion of the right to development in a context where Guinea has a leading role in the chairmanship of the 77+China group; thus, positioning Guinea as the first country in the world with a special project on the operationalization of the right to development.

The mining sector generates most of the country's income. With the beginning of production of several mining companies, particularly in the Boké bauxite zone in Lower Guinea, the country's revenues have increased considerably.

In mid-2023, the IMF classified Guinea as a middle-income country. The junta has taken the opportunity to accelerate many development projects, particularly in the road, real estate, and energy infrastructure sectors. This has led to a significant improvement in the living conditions of the population in some parts of the country, including Conakry and several cities in Lower and Middle Guinea. However, with the drastic reduction of external financing in the wake of the military coup, combined with the war in Ukrain, cost of basic necessities and fuel increased

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making the living conditions increasingly difficult for the majority of the population. The improvement in macroeconomic aggregates is still slow to be felt in the lives of households. There are many socio-cultural obstacles to the optimal implementation of the right to development and economic, social, and cultural rights.

In submitting this proposal, OHCHR aims to build on its reputation and achievements over the past decade to further assist the Government institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, and other actors in translating challenges into opportunities for the effective promotion and protection of human rights.

ADDED VALUE OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS

OHCHR is recognized in the country and internationally as the sole UN agency to have a lead in human rights in Guinea. It is also the key reference for the international community in human rights analysis and the provides advisory and technical services to the State institutions, civil society, and community-based organizations.

UN Human Rights in Guinea is a key member of the UN Country Team. As such, it continues to raise the profile of the UN as a standard-bearer of international standards and co-works with all other UN entities through a variety of joint projects. OHCHR provides a unique expertise to the Government and United Nations entities in the pursuit of the right to development and in the integration of the human rights-based approach in the drafting of programmatic and strategic documents such as the United Nations Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development and the country's economic and social development plan, with special attention to special groups with vulnerabilities, including persons with disabilities, women and children. Similarly, OHCHR assistance to the Government has helped fill the gaps in reporting to human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism.

STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS

The UN Human Rights Office plans to take actions on the theme of “promotion and protection of human rights and the fight against impunity” considering the gender aspect and the inclusive participation of women. Overall, the community approach which favors community participation in the basis of actions and in achieving results will be used.

Collaboration with stakeholders (Ministry of Mines and Geology, the Chamber of Mines and the Higher Institute of Mines and Geology of Boké), NGOs as well as the SNU agencies involved, will make it possible to better achieve the objectives of considering community rights in general and the rights of women and young people impacted by the activities of extractive industries.

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Mainly, the implementation of this project will be carried out in mining areas, particularly in the regions of Boké, Kindia and Kankan. The promotion of the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) and Leave No One Behind (LNOB) will also be pursued as Guinea continues the drafting process of a new UNSDCF and accelerates the achievement of the SDGs.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS GOALS AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The overall objective of this project is to operationalize UN Human Rights Guinea Country Strategy for 2023-2025 and ultimately improve the human rights situation in Guinea. To that end, this project shall make pragmatic proposals for action, including:

- Through programmatic activities, enhancing partnerships and cooperation with UN agencies, programmes, and non-UN stakeholders already working on the human rights agenda.
- Strengthening the partnership with the Mining Sector: Further work on inequalities, economic, social, and cultural rights, and the right to development through community engagement

The activities will be structured around the following axes:

- 1) Strengthening the rule of law
- 2) Integration of human rights into sustainable development
- 3) International human rights mechanisms

OUTCOME 1: STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY.

Building upon points of convergence, develop a constructive dialogue and meaningful engagement with Guinean institutions and other key actors to generate a political will and commitment to strengthening the national justice system, promoting respect for human rights and advancing the accountability agenda.

This will involve supporting the Guinean State in strengthening the legal and institutional framework through the development and harmonization of national laws with international and regional human rights instruments and support for the strengthening of institutions. state enforcement of these laws.

Output 1.1: the law on the repression of FGM/Excision, GBV and women rights are known by local populations, and magistrates are more motivated and inclined to apply international standards and national law , and to resist social pressures while taking legal decisions

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- **Activity 1.1.1.** *Organization of four awareness and advocacy workshops in Kindia, Labé, N'Zérékoré and Kankan with 144 people (72 magistrates, 36 NGO staff, 36 social action staff) for the effective repression of perpetrators and accomplices of FGM/Excision*
- **Activity 1.1.2.** *One-day awareness campaign with image box in 20 rural localities in the 4 natural regions (5 per region) on GBV and women's rights and installation of GBV focal points in these localities.*
- **Activity 1.1.3.** *Popularization of the law on the repression of FGM/Excision through the production of a 10-page FGM booklet in 20 copies including a summary on the practice and its consequences annexed to the copy of the law on the repression of FGM.*

Output 1.2. The courts, including mobile courts, hearing are organized for the prosecution of crimes, including female genital cuts and the process of seeking the truth is launched.

- **Activity 1.2.1.** *Institutional technical and financial support 10 First instance tribunal in the organization of criminal hearing, including FGM cases.*
- **Activity 1.2.2.** *Support the judicial inspection for the realization of field missions on prisons and courts.*
- **Activity 1.2.3.** *Support for the establishment of a "Truth and Reconciliation Commission" to deal with the most complex cases of Guinean historical liabilities that require special treatment.*

OUTCOME 2: INTEGRATING HUMAN RIGHTS INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The human rights-based approach in national laws and policies contributes to social, economic, environmental, and cultural sustainable development. The implementation of ESCR has progressed within communities through the reduction of inequalities while leaving women and youth behind, especially in the extractive and land fields.

The UN Human Rights Office has supported the transitional authorities in considering human rights, including the right to development, in their National Programme for the achievement of the SDGs.

On this pillar OHCHR will focus on supporting state institutions and non-state partners, including businesses, civil society for the consideration of human rights, including ESCR in the planning and implementation of community development plans.

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Output 2.1 local leaders, artisanal gold diggers organizations, local elected officials from 12 rural communities bordering mining operations areas are informed about mining regulations and the communities rights in Guinea.

- **Activity 2.1.1.** *Organization of a day of dissemination of Local Content (community rights) to 12 communities bordering mining zones and forestry companies through the community meetings and documents sharing.*
- **Activity 2.1.2.** *Production of radio and television broadcasts, including on community stations as well as production of public reports for advocacy*

Output 2.2. Cases of ESCR violations are shared to the national authorities and magistrate's capacity is strengthened and can address cases of violations of Economic Social and cultural rights.

- **Activity 2.2.1.** *Two two-day training workshops for 90 people (36 magistrates, 27 CCLM, 27 NGO actors) in the localities of Kankan, Siguiri, N'Zérékoré, Faranah, Kissidougou, Kindia, Mamou, Labé and Boké on the justiciability of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.*
- **Activity 2.2.2.** *Institutional support to 8 NGO partners in monitoring ESCR on mine sites and reporting*
- **Activity 2.2.3.** *Monitoring in mining sites to identify human rights violations due to mining operations.*

Output 2.3. A continuous dialogue between actors involved in the mining sector (government, communities, mining companies) and the socio-professional, researchers and civil society organization exists.

- **Activity 2.3.1.** *Carrying out a study on the impact of bauxite mining activities on the rights of local communities.*
- **Activity 2.3.2.** *Organization hybrid international symposiums on the contribution of the extractive industry in the realization of to the right to development*
- **Activity 2.3.3.** *Exchange and information workshops on the human rights dimension of the extractive industries with a view to the adoption of laws and policies in line with international standards to strengthen the normative framework for human rights in the mining sector.*

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- **Activity 2.3.4.** *Collaboration with the Ministry in charge of Mines: Strengthening of capacities of the structures of the ministry in the promotion of human rights in the Guinean mining sector.*

OUTCOME 3: INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

It will consist of supporting the Guinean State, in particular the Interministerial Committee for Drafting Reports, as well as national NGOs to produce national and alternative reports on time and in a qualitative manner intended for international human rights mechanisms.

The national reporting and monitoring mechanism composed of representatives of ministerial departments is responsible for the preparation of reports to treaty bodies and the implementation of UPR recommendations. To date, 22 reports are pending, the interministerial committee envisages the gradual updating of Guinea in the field of human rights reporting to the treaty bodies and other mechanisms. The national reporting mechanism for 2023-2024 envisages to submit at least seven reports by the end of 2024 to the treaty bodies. Thus, the Interministerial Committee on Human Rights, as well as national NGOs will draft national and shadow reports for submission to the United Nations treaty bodies and the UPR.

Output 3.1. At least seven state and shadow reports are submitted to international and regional human rights mechanisms including treaty bodies and UPR.

- **Activity 3.1.1.** *Institutional and logistical support to the committee for the drafting the state reports: internet connection, capacity strengthening, office supplies.*
- **Activity 3.1.2.** *Supports Exchange and sharing best practices experience sessions with members of the Interministerial Committee in charge of drafting and reports submission to treaty bodies.*
- **Activity 3.1.3.** *Two training sessions and institutional support to 4 NGO partners for the drafting and submitting shadow reports to UN mechanisms.*
- **Activity 3.1.4.** *Institutional support to 04 NGOs for the dissemination and monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms.*
- **Activity 3.1.5.** *Briefing sessions with the diplomatic corps on the follow up of the UPR recommendations.*

GENDER DIVERSITY AND MAINSTREAMING

Guinea's commitments made to the principle of non-discrimination and gender equality remain a struggle in the strategy for integrating gender into all national laws and policies. A transversal gender approach will be considered in the execution of this project through the effective contribution of women and young people on the institutional level, development and fundamental rights and freedoms:

- UN Human Rights, as part of its mandate to promote and protect human rights, has made the policy of integrating gender perspectives a priority in the implementation of its activities, including monitoring and evaluation of projects.
- To support the efforts of the Transitional Government in the fight against GBV, the Office has amplified its actions against gender-based violence and in particular rape through the publication of two advocacy notes for zero tolerance and break the silence and indifference regarding rape and gender-based violence in the Republic of Guinea. UN Human Rights also supported the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights in the organization of criminal hearings in the prefectures of Beyla Siguiri, Labé, Lélouma with the aim of providing a multisectoral response to the scourge of rape. and the fight against impunity.
- The work of the trial monitoring of the events of September 28 carried out by UN Human Rights has made it possible to note that most victims who are plaintiffs in the trial are victims of rape and sexual violence. To this end, the office has organized series of training sessions to strengthen the capacities of judicial personnel (magistrates, lawyers), journalists, NGOs on human rights in general and, in matters of sexual violence particularly. It is also a question of strengthening the capacities of its judicial actors to better consider the psychosocial dimension in the treatment of sexual and gender-based violence.

COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

OHCHR maintains a strong working relationship with the Office of the UN Coordinator and other members of the UN Country Team in Guinea. Currently, UN Human Rights is leading the social cohesion project with UNDP and UNFPA. Likewise, it is implementing the human security project with IOM, and intends to work with UNODC on strengthening the capacities of defense and security forces. With a view to expanding its reach and expertise, OHCHR will ensure that support for human rights in Guinea is mobilized through collaboration and partnerships, including with the United Nations country team and relevant United Nations entities operating in the country. OHCHR will play a leading role in ensuring that UN efforts in Guinea are based on a robust human rights-based approach, taking into account the principle of accountability, the fight against impunity and cooperation for sustainable development, while reassuring that no one is left behind. The United Nations and UN Human Rights are in the process of strengthening a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. For UN Human Rights, this will allow it to play an

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important role so that mining can take place by respecting the principles of the United Nations on human rights and business, including mining.

To support UN efforts, OHCHR will work with the UN country team to:

- Increase the capacity of the UN to enforce the right to development and ESCR in all “leave no one behind” programs and activities, as well as the fight against impunity and accountability for violations of human rights 'man.
- Ensure that human rights remain at the heart of UN efforts to promote the rule of law, justice and accountability and participation.
- Ensure that UN support to national security forces, law enforcement agencies and non-state actors integrates human rights and is consistent with the human rights due diligence policy. of human rights.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights signed an Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Guinea on 4 May 2010 in Geneva, establishing the Guinea country office, on the margins of Guinea's first appearance before the UN Human Rights Council under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). UN Human Rights enjoys an open-ended host agreement in Guinea and cordial working relations with the host authorities. The sustainability of this project is therefore ensured.

BUDGET NEEDS

UN Human Rights seeks voluntary contributions totaling **USD 1,001,180 for the period 1st December 2023 to 31 December 2025** in support of all of its activities in Guinea as outlined below:

OUTCOME AND STAFF COSTS	BUDGET NEEDS 1st year (USD)	BUDGET NEEDS 2nd year (USD)
Outcome 1: Strengthening Rule of Law and Accountability for Human Rights Violations	75,000	83,000
Outcome 2: Integrating Human Rights into Sustainable Development in the mining sector	118,000	150,000
Outcome 3: Institutional capacity and international human rights mechanisms	90,000	90,000
Staff cost and equipment and vehicle*	160,000	120,000
Programme Support Costs @ 13%	57,590	57,590
TOTAL	500,590	500,590
GARND TOTAL	1,001,180	

* The staffing concerns the recruitment of two international UNVs and the provision of one vehicle.

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REPORTING

OHCHR will submit its Mid-term and Final Report to the donors, specifying all revenues by source and total expenditures for activities implemented during the year. The Office will also submit a financial report, following OHCHR's financial reporting template, which will be prepared in accordance with UN reporting standards and UMOJA.

EVALUATION

OHCHR regularly evaluates the work of its different field presences and programs following the United Nations Evaluation Group norms and standards. The financial resources for evaluations are usually costed as a percentage of the programmed budget. For synergy purposes, a cluster evaluation may be conducted to cover several projects with similar geographical or thematic scope.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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