

Plan Guinea

Country strategic plan summary for 2004-2019



This document describes how Plan Guinea and its partners will mobilise the different resources to improve the welfare and prospects of vulnerable children. It provides the framework for consistent and continued action from 2004 to 2019.

History

Plan started to work in Guinea in 1989 and its strategy has been a continued process of consultations with focus groups, advisory councils, partner agencies, groups of children and youth and service providers. Its focus over the years has been partnership, transparency and community ownership of the Plan program. This country strategic plan was designed to guide Plan Guinea to address the issues of poverty affecting children in this country.

The climate in which non-governmental organisations, multilateral donors, community leaders, government employees and entrepreneurs operate is that of delay and frustration. The challenge of Plan Guinea and its partners is to find a way to work effectively within this environment and to ensure that the resources entrusted by sponsors and donors are invested effectively for the well-being of Guinean children.

Health

With the high death rate of infants, children and mothers, Guinea has some of the world's worst health statistics. Of its nine million inhabitants, half of the population do not have access to health services and the few services available are of very poor quality. Most people do not have safe drinking water and lack adequate sanitation. Nutritional status is poor. There is a steady increase of HIV infection within the population.

In order to address these issues in the program area, Plan Guinea and its partners aim at ensuring that:

- Children below five are fully immunised.
- Families have access to a community-based primary health care system.
- Adolescents and adults have knowledge of HIV and AIDS through awareness-raising activities.
- Households have access to clean water.
- Families have and use latrines.

We intend to achieve these through training of community health workers and traditional birth attendants, vaccination campaigns, health posts and health centres, contraceptives, potable water, latrines, promotion of good practices related to hygiene and sanitation and support to the Ministry of Health.



A girl fetching water from a drilled well constructed with the help of Plan



Immunisation of pregnant women and all children

Education:

Poverty is the overriding preoccupation of most Guinean families and the life of most of the population is below the poverty line. Consequently, the unmet demand for primary education is enormous. Only half of school-aged children attend school, while recent studies revealed that 75% of the Guinean adult population is still illiterate.

For implementation of this country strategic plan, Plan Guinea and its partners have set the global objectives to ensure that all children graduate from primary school (6th grade) and that a majority of them graduate from secondary school (10th grade). The specific responses will be by increasing:

- Communities' capacity to provide education services
- The number, variety and quality of learning opportunities
- Access to primary and secondary education for girls and rural children
- Early childhood care and development services

Child participation and protection

In Guinea, the extent to which children are allowed, encouraged and supported to participate in decision-making is most often influenced by basic cultural factors that manifest themselves in certain childcare practices. In order to be successful in promoting children's participation, Plan Guinea and its partners intend to focus on:

- Ensuring effective child participation approaches based on how the communities perceive it.
- Defining indicators to measure child participation and protection together with children, families and other community members.
- Involving child-to-child supervisors and others with experience in the field to ensure that there are spaces and opportunities for people to learn in each step of program progress.

The program's main objectives are to:

- Increase children's knowledge on their rights.
- Boost participation of children and youth in identifying their problems and implementing solutions to them.
- Increase knowledge and skills of the communities and other bodies on promotion and recognition of the rights of the child.

Governance and civil society development

Some of the causes of poverty can be attributed to poor governance and lack of decentralisation, a weak civil society and a climate of violence following years of fighting between Guinea and the neighbouring countries.

The civil society bodies in Guinea are young, under-developed and lack the necessary human and financial resources to function properly. Local community-based organisations lack autonomy due to the weakness of structures to conceive, manage and evaluate their own development projects and programs. The ignorance of local leaders and government personnel of their roles and the limited capacities of the emerging bodies have constituted major obstacles to effective development. Not surprisingly, decision-making is characterised by a general lack of transparency and accountability.



Radio campaign on the rights of children

The objectives of this program are to:

- Strengthen community councils' capacities to assume their roles and responsibilities.
- Strengthen the capacity of community-based organisations to assume their roles and responsibilities in overseeing delivery of various services at the community level.
- Strengthen the capacity of service providers to assume their roles and responsibilities in service delivery.
- Strengthen the capacity of marginalised community groups to assume their responsibilities and reclaim their rights.

In summary, Plan Guinea's approach is a community-based approach in which communities themselves decide what to do with the budget allocated to them. This reflects the communities' ownership of Plan's program.