



Guinea

Republic of Guinea

Africa

Geography

Area 245,857 sq km on Africa's west coast, between Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	10,323,755	2.29%
2020	13,467,039	2.60%
2030	16,896,954	2.20%

Capital Conakry 11,653,495. **Urbanites** 35.4%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 43%. **Life expectancy** 57.3 yrs.

Peoples

About 40 ethnic groups.

West Atlantic 45.8%. Fulbe(3) 39.2%; Kissi 4.4%; Wassoulounke 1.0%; Baga(5) 0.5%; Landoma 0.2%; Konyagui 0.1%; Bassari 0.1%.

Mande 42.7%. Malinke 25.1%; Susu 11.1%; Konyanke 2.0%; Yalunka 0.9%; Kuranko 0.9%; Sankaran 0.8%; Many 0.6%; Lele 0.4%; Mandéni 0.3%; Jakanke 0.3%; Mikifore 0.1%.

Mande-Fu 9.2%. Kpelle 4.7%; Toma 2.0%; Kono 1.3%; Mano 1.0%.

Other 2.3%. Refugees: Liberian/Sierra Leonean, other smaller groups; European, Lebanese, others.

Literacy 41%. **Official language** French.

Major vernacular languages Fulbe, Malinke, Susu, Kissi, Guerze and Toma. **All languages** 38.

Indigenous languages 34. **Languages with Scriptures** 1Bi 10NT 12por 10w.i.p.

Economy

Guinea's huge mineral deposits, along with fertile and plentiful land and water, offer potential riches. Inept and corrupt governance have reduced it to subsistence and poverty, leading to occasional riots and demonstrations.

HDI Rank 170^a /182. **Public debt** 88% of GDP. **Income/person** \$439 (1% of USA).

Politics

French colony until independence in 1958. President Touré led the country into a Marxist experiment that virtually destroyed it. This regime was swept away in a military coup in 1984. The succeeding president led the country for 24 years. His passing was followed by a military junta seizing control; then the head of the junta was shot by an aide. Regional powers, including Burkina Faso's leader, stepped in to help the remaining junta members accept a transition to a civilian government, which culminated in democratic elections in 2010.

Religion

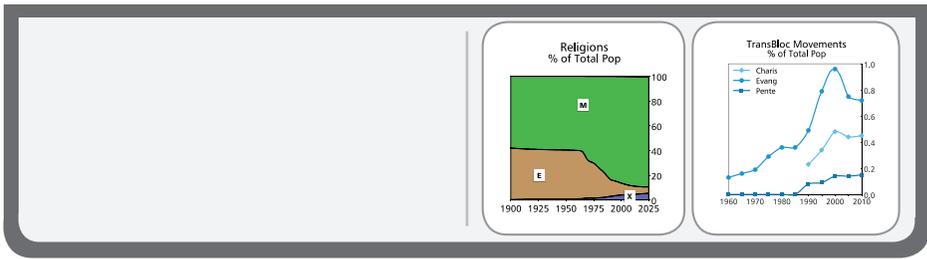
There is relative freedom for Christian witness and missionary activity. In recent years, intolerance by Muslims has increased in certain areas.

Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Muslim	88.33	9,118,973	2.5%
Ethnoreligionist	6.90	712,339	-0.9%
Christian	4.47	461,472	3.4%
Non-religious	0.30	30,971	6.1%

Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	18	0.63	65,000	1.1%
Independent	9	0.16	17,000	0.9%
Anglican	1	0.01	1,000	-0.8%
Catholic	1	1.84	190,000	2.1%
Marginal	1	0.03	3,000	0.7%
Unaffiliated		1.80	186,000	3.7%

Churches	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Catholic Church	C	50	110,465	190,000
Evang Protestant Ch	P	900	7,714	54,000
New Apostolic Church	I	25	2,000	6,000
Shekinah	I	70	1,720	4,300
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	31	1,240	3,100
Church of Pentecost	I	46	2,083	3,000
Assemblies of God	P	39	1,083	2,600
Pente Assem of Canada	P	30	1,136	2,500
Seventh-day Adventist	P	6	750	1,875
Anglican Church	A	8	481	1,300
LCMS	P	49	394	1,300
Bethel	I	9	429	1,200
Other denominations[18]		70	2,360	4,695
Total Christians[30]		1,330	131,855	275,870

TransBloc	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelicals			
Evangelicals	0.7	74,526	1.5%
Renewalists			
Charismatics	0.5	46,914	2.9%
Pentecostals	0.1	15,030	3.7%



Answers to Prayer

1 Praise God for the major improvements in the country since 1984:

- Relatively stable for 20 years.** Guinea has much room for improvement, but nevertheless has been a place of refuge for other nationalities fleeing strife and war in their own countries.
- Religious freedom,** a reaction against the Marxist-Muslim years of terror, which made Muslims more receptive to Christianity. This liberty is being progressively eroded, however, especially in major towns outside the forest region.
- The presence of more than 20 evangelical missions** and evangelism intensifying to the unreached. Out of more than 40 people groups, only a handful still have no church planting effort, and almost all of them number less than 10,000. The increase in work among Muslim peoples is particularly encouraging.

2 **The vision for missions deepens.** Guinea's foreign mission groups show an incredible level of unity, strategic coordination and quality of research. There is also an indigenous mission movement, which is still quite small and young but showing many encouraging signs. Mission training courses are held for Guinean believers, and mission mobilization congresses are planned for pastors and Christian students. A few Guineans already serve cross-culturally.

Challenges for Prayer

1 **The Christian population is still a small minority** and concentrated in Conakry and the southeast forests. It is overwhelmingly Kissi, Kpelle and Toma in composition. The Evangelical Protestant Church (EPEG) – primarily affiliated with the **CMA** and **MPA** – has long been the largest Protestant group. Pray that their influence might be toward Spirit-led godliness, outward focus and genuine unity. Over 37 peoples are still unreached; pray for their evangelization.

2 **The Church suffered serious numerical setbacks** in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Some established denominations shrank significantly, and evangelism and church planting slowed – probably largely due to nominal Christians falling away. Pray for believers who will persevere, and pray against the enemy who seeks to destroy these young or weak Christians before they can grow.

3 **Leadership training for pastors and laymen is a great need.** Guinea has three Bible schools, two run by EPEG/CMA and one by AoG. Six leadership training schools for laymen are run by the EPEG for the Kissi, Toma and Kpelle churches. PAoC and EPEG/CMA/MPA both run TEE programmes. Despite all of this, there is still an overall lack of leaders in most areas, which delays church growth and evangelization. Pastors and leaders also need to be trained as mission mobilizers; pray for more godly leaders to be raised up and trained.

4 **Guinea remains largely unreached.** Despite increased missionary activity, most peoples remain a pioneer challenge. Muslims have strong animistic elements, and the three dominant peoples are all Muslim. Pray for the courage and boldness of those who follow Christ, and for families and groups to turn to Christ; it is very difficult for isolated individuals to maintain their walk of faith. While the number of converts from these groups is a steady trickle, much prayer is required before a major breakthrough is seen. If these peoples could see breakthrough, the entire nation would be

transformed:

- a) **Malinke. SIM** in Guinea focuses primarily on the Malinke; the past radio ministry needs to be revived. **SIM** facilitated the composing and recording of worship music written and performed by Malinkes. **CMA**, **EPEG** and Lutherans also have an outreach to the Malinke. There are now a few Malinke churches with Malinke leaders. Pray for effective new strategies and greater responsiveness to the gospel.
- b) **Fulbe, or Futa Jalon**, are strongly Muslim and known as the custodians of Islam throughout West Africa. There is a partnership of missions attempting to reach the Fulbe with the gospel. Through the work of **CRWM**, **CMA**, **CAPRO**, **WEC**, **IMB**, **AoG** and the Swiss **AME/Mission Philafricaine**, there is a small but growing number of believers. It is hard for new believers to break free from Islam's societal and spiritual bonds. Radio broadcasts, audio resources, the recently completed New Testament, development projects and mission workers all help to reach the Fulbe. Pray for a culturally appropriate way to share faith in Jesus with the traditionally nomadic Fulbe.
- c) **Susu**. Apart from the eight rather nominal Anglican congregations on offshore islands and in Conakry, there are a few believers through the witness of **CMA**, **CAPRO**, **WEC**, Open Bible Standard Mission, the Nigerian Shekinah Mission, **PBT**, **NTM** and the **IMB**. There are three small Susu churches in and around Conakry, and also Susu believers in the southern interior and near the Guinea-Bissau border. The New Testament has just been translated and audio Scripture recorded; pray for their effective distribution.
- d) **Young people's ministry** is vital in Guinea, since 43% of the population are under age 15. **CCCI**, **YWAM** and **IFES** all have ministry in the country. **IFES** has campus ministry in 20 of 33 cities, but consolidation of these newly formed groups is essential. **CAPRO** runs a youth centre in Conakry and **CMA/MPA** in Téliimélé, with encouraging response. Sports ministry (particularly football) is proving very fruitful as well. Pray for the Spirit to draw these younger Guineans to Christ.
- e) **The forest region of Guinea** especially needs intercession. Scores of thousands of refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone remain. They are mostly Mandingo and often restive ex-rebels. Their Islamic aggression and belligerent presence create great tension with the native Kpelle, among whom there are many Christians. Some perceive this as a potential powder keg waiting to explode and destabilize the whole region.
- f) **Missions**. Since 1981, **EPEG/CMA** have welcomed new evangelical agencies. Most work in close cooperation as members of the *Association des Eglises et Missions Évangéliques en Guinée* (AEMEG). Pray for close fellowship among mission agencies and with national churches. Guinea is a hard land requiring genuine pioneer missionaries; pray for strength, health and perseverance for all brave enough to answer God's call. Pray for still more missionaries, especially to the Muslim groups. Also pray for national believers to become more mobilized for mission; the Guinean Church must engage in outreach. Major missions are **NTM**, **CMA**, **MPA** (AME), **PBT**, **IMB**, **SIM**, **CRWM**.

5 Help ministries:

- a) **Cassette ministry** is important in this multi-lingual land. **GRN** has recordings in 36 languages; some languages need to be re-recorded. **CRWM** has recordings in Pular for the influential Fulbe language, **PBT** and **MERN** for Susu and **SIM** for Malinke.
- b) **Literature** is a challenge. There are three Christian bookstores, but literacy training is needed to make use of both Christian literature and the Bible. The reading room concept is fruitfully implemented by **CMA**, **IMB**, **MERN**, **SIM**, **MPA**, **CAPRO** and **CFI** as a neutral location where both converts and seekers can study, learn and fellowship.
- c) **Bible translation** will remain a major missionary task for years to come. Twenty-three languages may need translation teams. Translation or revision work is in progress in 10 languages. AEMEG has identified Bible translation as a key strategy for Guinea and plans for redoubled efforts.
- d) **The JESUS film** also has great potential in evangelizing Guinea. Perhaps half of the country has seen the film; it has been translated into eight languages and is in production for more. Pray for a lasting impact through this film.
- e) **Radio**. A collaborative project has resulted in an NGO starting up a community radio station out of a Christian ethos. Its programmes have become very popular. Pray for God's protection over this station and that it might be increasingly effective and its work fruitful.