



## COUNTRY PROFILE



Workers in Boko, Guinea use dehullers to take cashew nuts out of their hard shells. A Global Development Alliance has been formed between USAID, Kraft Foods, and local Guinean partners in the cashew sector to increase cashew production in Guinea, and to allow poor rural dwellers--local farmers and their families--to reap the benefits.

### OVERVIEW

Despite being one of Africa's richest countries in natural resources and metals, conditions in Guinea have been steadily declining over the past few years. Guinea suffers today from the woes of living under 48 years of authoritarian rule: dire economic, political and social conditions. Guinea is bordered by four countries that have had serious levels of instability or conflict over the past decade—Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, and Liberia.



Throughout this turmoil, Guinea has remained a relatively stable country and has been a receptive host to a significant refugee population. An unstable Guinea could create massive disruption throughout the entire sub-region. USAID is contributing to stability in Guinea through improving health care, basic education, food security, and rural incomes, with an emphasis throughout on strengthening democratic processes.

### PROGRAMS

#### STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

Guinea is considered a constitutional government in which all major decision-making is highly centralized in a strong presidency. USAID seeks to strengthen governance and the democratic processes in Guinea through both bottom-up and top-down interventions. In an effort to improve relations between the national government and its citizens, USAID focuses on improving local government's responsiveness to citizen needs and the effectiveness of national government institutions, and on strengthening civil society advocacy on such issues as political freedom, fiscal transparency and efficient service delivery. USAID/Guinea's activities in 2005 helped pave the way for civil society participation in local elections scheduled to take place in December 2006 by generating interest, informing citizens of their voting rights, and equipping civil society organizations to act as formal election monitors.

#### IMPROVING HEALTH CARE

Recent economic declines have impacted negatively upon health status and the availability of government provided health care services. According to the 2005 Demographic and Health Survey, life expectancy was 54 years, maternal mortality was 847/100,000 and infant mortality (0-5 years old) was 163/1,000. Average HIV prevalence is relatively low at 1.5 %;

#### GUINEA SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1958  
Population: 8.1 million (2004)  
Income per person: \$580 (yr)

Source: World Bank Development Indicators

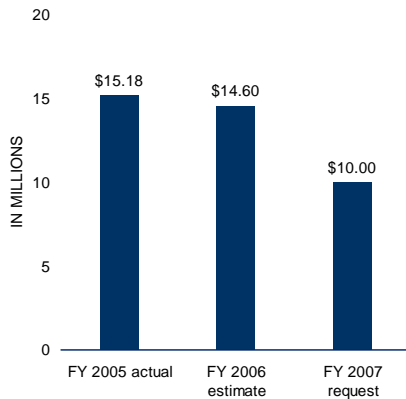
#### USAID IN GUINEA

[www.usaid.gov/gn](http://www.usaid.gov/gn)

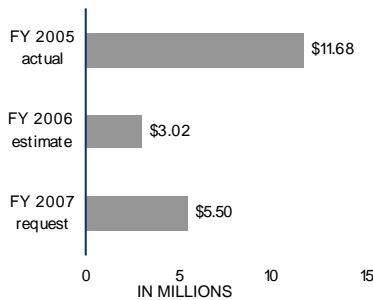


## COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

### USAID ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA



### USAID FOOD AID TO GUINEA



For more information, see the  
FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification  
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

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rates among miners, commercial sex workers and transport workers are significantly higher. USAID's health activities seek to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, support immunization activities, increase the use of modern family planning methods, improve obstetrical care, and promote child and maternal health. Over the past two years USAID has incorporated programs for community management of health faculties and village level pharmacies to provide essential drugs. The introduction of community-based distributors of family planning products has increased contraceptive prevalence. Social marketing of oral rehydration salts and insecticide-treated bed nets continue to address diarrheal disease and malaria, the two leading causes of mortality among children.

#### EXPANDING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

Only 29 percent of adults and 14 percent of women in Guinea are literate. USAID's education program aims to expand access to quality basic education for Guinea's 1.4 million primary school-aged children, with an emphasis on girls and children in rural areas. The program increases the involvement of civil society in education through parent/teacher associations and other organizations. In 2005 the Government of Guinea issued an official announcement validating and reinforcing the powers of PTAs with regard to school management. During the same year, USAID strengthened and trained over 900 individual PTA and regional PTA federations. USAID continued to strengthen the educational system by training over 26,000 primary school teachers, over 800 education authorities, and 208 school principals. Through President Bush's Africa Education Initiative and other sources, over 8,600 girls' scholarships were distributed in 2005.

#### IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

USAID helps rural communities sustainably manage their own natural resources, improves agricultural production technologies, and expands trade opportunities. Over 124,000 hectares of forests and tree plantations have been placed under sustainable management, and the Government of Guinea has turned over the management of several classified forests to local communities. Over 70 percent of the village savings and loans initially set up by a USAID project graduated and are now operating autonomously.