



Guinea

Guinea: Conclusion

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Last updated 13 February 2025 using IFs v8.34

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Chart 38: Policy recommendations

Recommendations

- Promote good and inclusive governance by enhancing public sector efficiency, strengthening institutional capacity and addressing corruption.
- Build productive capabilities and engage in new areas to reduce dependency on a limited number of activities and commodities.
- Develop an industrial strategy to balance the domestic and external markets by diversifying the economy while ensuring that the population's basic needs are covered.
- Promote downstream and upstream linkages in the mining sector to the rest of the economy, through mining processing and industrialisation.
- Improve agricultural productivity and food security by providing farmers with modern farming practices, irrigation systems and essential resources.
- Implement effective water management strategies to address climate change challenges and boost agricultural productivity.
- Accelerate infrastructure development by expanding electrification, investing in renewable energy sources, and enhancing transport and ICT systems.

Chart 38 summarises the policy recommendations for Guinea.

The study aimed to model Guinea's future, examining its Current Path development trajectory to 2043 and modelling ambitious yet realistic scenarios across eight sectors (agriculture, education, governance, infrastructure, health and demographics, financial flows, manufacturing and trade). The Current Path analysis showed that Guinea faces significant economic and development challenges hindering inclusive and sustainable growth progress: political instability, poor governance, corruption, low agricultural productivity, limited economic diversification and linkages, poor business environment, inadequate infrastructure, slow demographic transition, low-skilled human capital levels and climate change impacts. While the country has made some progress and is forecast to achieve better economic and human development outcomes in the future, the pace of improvement remains insufficient. The country is not on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The withdrawal of **foreign aid** from Guinea, driven by ongoing political instability, has significantly impeded the country's development prospects. A separate scenario modelled in this study reveals that without foreign aid, an additional 53 100 Guineans could fall into extreme poverty by 2030 (with nearly 20 000 more by 2043), further undermining the country's progress toward achieving the SDG poverty target. Moreover, Guinea's GDP per capita is forecast to decrease by US\$11.25 by 2030 and US\$14.81 by 2043 in the absence of foreign aid.

The country struggles with complex, interconnected challenges that have contributed to economic fragility and hindered inclusive and sustainable growth. Addressing these challenges is crucial to set the country on a trajectory of sustained growth and inclusive prosperity. The government must implement decisive and targeted measures based on the priority policies outlined below:

- *Good Governance*

Good governance is critically important for Guinea's development and stability, and is undermined by military interference

in its politics. The government should prioritise policies that enhance transparency, accountability, inclusivity, institutional efficiency and adherence to the rule of law. Strengthening and empowering anti-corruption agencies to investigate and prosecute corruption is crucial for achieving these objectives.

- *Economic Diversity and Value Addition*

Guinea's economy is heavily dependent on the mining sector, which lacks strong connections to other parts of the economy, including job creation. This disconnect has hindered the sector's growth from translating into significant poverty reduction and broader shared prosperity. Promote downstream and upstream linkages in the mining sector to the rest of the economy, through mining processing and industrialisation.

Guinea also derives most of its export revenues from mining. The country's top five export products, make up over 95% of total exports, with gold and aluminium ore alone accounting for more than 90%. These exports are characterised by very volatile prices and lack both technological dynamism and local economic linkages. It is, therefore, crucial for the country to develop and invest in an industrial strategy that provides linkages between the domestic and the external market by diversifying its economy away from commodities and resource-based products. Guinea must develop productive capacities and explore new sectors to reduce its reliance on a narrow range of activities and a limited set of commodities. Guinea should maximise the opportunities under the AfCFTA to expand market access - increasing capital goods imports and exports -and to integrate the country into domestic, regional and global value chains.

- *Smart Agriculture and Productivity*

Investment in technologies that enhance productivity and provide farmers with access to high-yield, disease- and drought-resistant seeds, fertilisers, and credit guarantees are important. Support is needed for research and development (R&D) efforts to build resilience and boost agricultural productivity. Strengthening the transport infrastructure network, particularly in rural areas, by developing reliable, all-weather roads to facilitate agricultural production and commercialisation is critical. With a large rural population, prioritising rural road infrastructure will generate significant economic benefits, including higher rural incomes, increased agricultural productivity and greater economic participation.

- *Human Capital and Skills Development*

An abundant supply of skilled labour at a reasonable cost should serve as a key driver for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and promoting industrialisation in Guinea in the coming years. To achieve this, the quality of education, healthcare, and water and sanitation services must be significantly enhanced. The education curriculum should be reviewed in collaboration with the private sector and industry stakeholders to align it with labour market demands. Furthermore, efforts should be made to close the educational gender gap by addressing the cultural, economic and systemic obstacles that limit girls' access to education. The government should collaborate with community and religious leaders to promote the value of educating girls. Additionally, laws prohibiting child marriage must be strictly enforced. Untrained teachers in primary and secondary schools should either undergo proper training or be removed from the education system. Emphasis should be placed on strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as well as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs to bridge the skills gap in the economy.

- *Infrastructure Development*

Address infrastructure deficits which undermine regional value chains and private sector development in the country. Authorities should prioritise expanding energy access by increasing electrification, particularly in rural areas, through investments in renewable energy sources like solar, which provide affordable and reliable power. Transport infrastructure should also be improved by upgrading roads, railways and other networks to better connect rural areas with urban markets and reduce transportation costs. Strengthening ICT infrastructure is critical, with a focus on extending internet

access and digital services to support education, business development and access to information, especially in underserved areas. To address the high costs of infrastructure development, the government could consider public-private partnerships. Remote areas can benefit from renewable energy through mini-grid and off-grid solutions.

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Cite this research

Blessing Chipanda (2025) Guinea. Published online at futures.issafrica.org. Retrieved from <https://futures.issafrica.org/geographic/countries/guinea/> [Online Resource] Updated 13 February 2025.

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Dr **Blessing Chipanda** joined the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) programme in January 2023. Before joining the ISS he worked as an assistant lecturer/ research assistant at the University of Pretoria, Department of Economics. He is particularly interested in tasks within the wider realm of international trade, development economics, public policy, monetary policy, and econometric modelling. Equally interested in economic and socio-economic activities that impact social welfare. Blessing has a PhD in economics from the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

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