



Guinea

Guinea: Current Path

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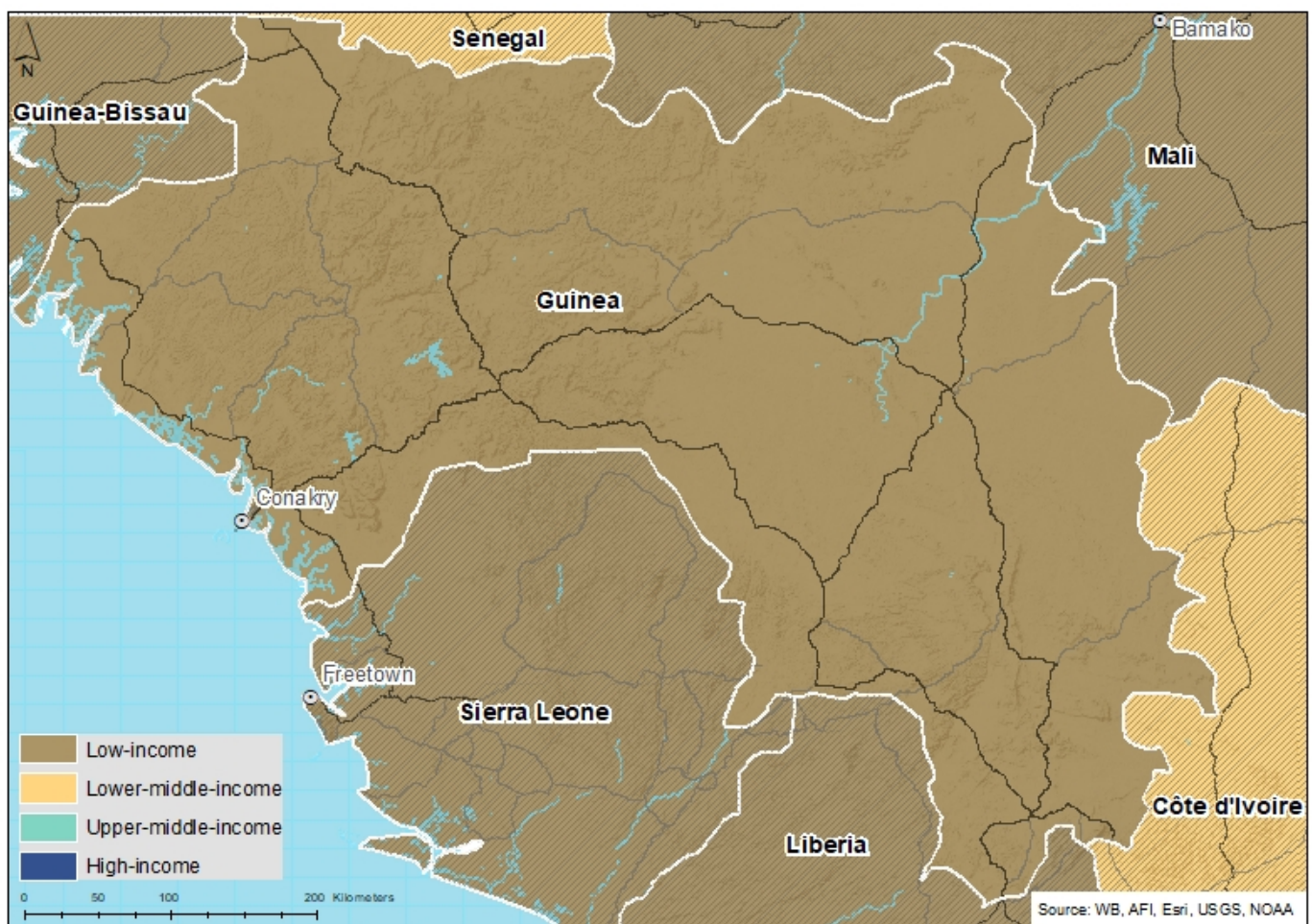
Guinea: Current Path

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Guinea: Current Path forecast

Chart 1: Political map of Guinea



This page provides an overview of the key characteristics of Guinea along its likely (or Current Path) development trajectory. The Current Path forecast from the International Futures forecasting (IFs) platform is a dynamic scenario that imitates the continuation of current policies and environmental conditions. The Current Path is therefore in congruence with historical patterns and produces a series of dynamic forecasts endogenised in relationships across crucial global systems. We use 2019 as a standard reference year and the forecasts generally extend to 2043 to coincide with the end of the third ten-year implementation plan of the African Union's Agenda 2063 long-term development vision.

Guinea is one of 23 low-income countries in Africa. Located in West Africa, it is not to be confused with the other Guinea

nations of Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Papua New Guinea. Guinea is bordered by six different countries, namely Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Liberia, and the Atlantic Ocean on the west. The country has been a member of a number of different international organisations like ECOWAS, the United Nations and the African Union, a 2021 coup d'état resulted in the suspension of its membership of ECOWAS.

In terms of land size, Guinea covers a total area of 245 857 km² and is divided into four geographic regions: Maritime Guinea on the low-lying Atlantic coast, the Fouta Djallon or Middle Guinea highlands, the Upper Guinea savanna region in the northeast, and the Guinée forestière region of tropical forests. Guinea is divided into eight administrative regions which are subdivided into 33 prefectures. The climate is tropical, with a dry harmattan season in the winter and a rainy season in the summer. Conakry is Guinea's capital and its largest city, with a population of over two million people. Nzérékoré, located in the Guinée forestière region in Southern Guinea, is the second largest city. The current estimated total population of Guinea is around 12.8 million people.

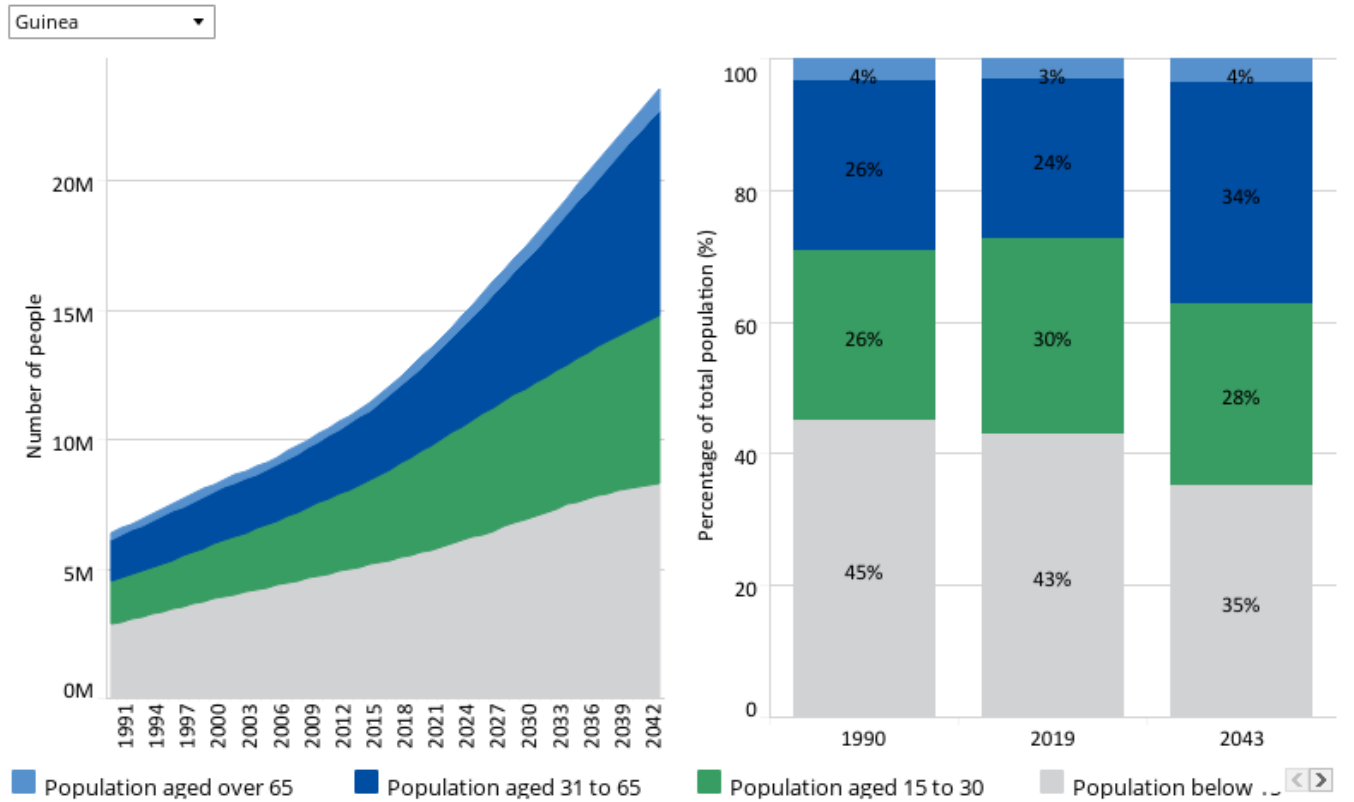
Guinea has abundant natural resources, including over 25 billion metric tons of bauxite — perhaps up to one-half of the world's reserves. Guinea also has diamonds, gold, iron ore, uranium, alumina and some oil deposits. The nation also boasts some agricultural produce. The agriculture sector of Guinea cultivates coffee beans, pineapples, peaches, nectarines, mangoes, oranges, bananas, potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, pepper, and many other types of produce. The sources of three of West Africa's major rivers — the Gambia, the Niger and the Senegal — are in Guinea.



Demographics: Current Path

Chart 2: Population structure in CP, 1990–2043

By cohort and % of population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate and World Development Indicators population data

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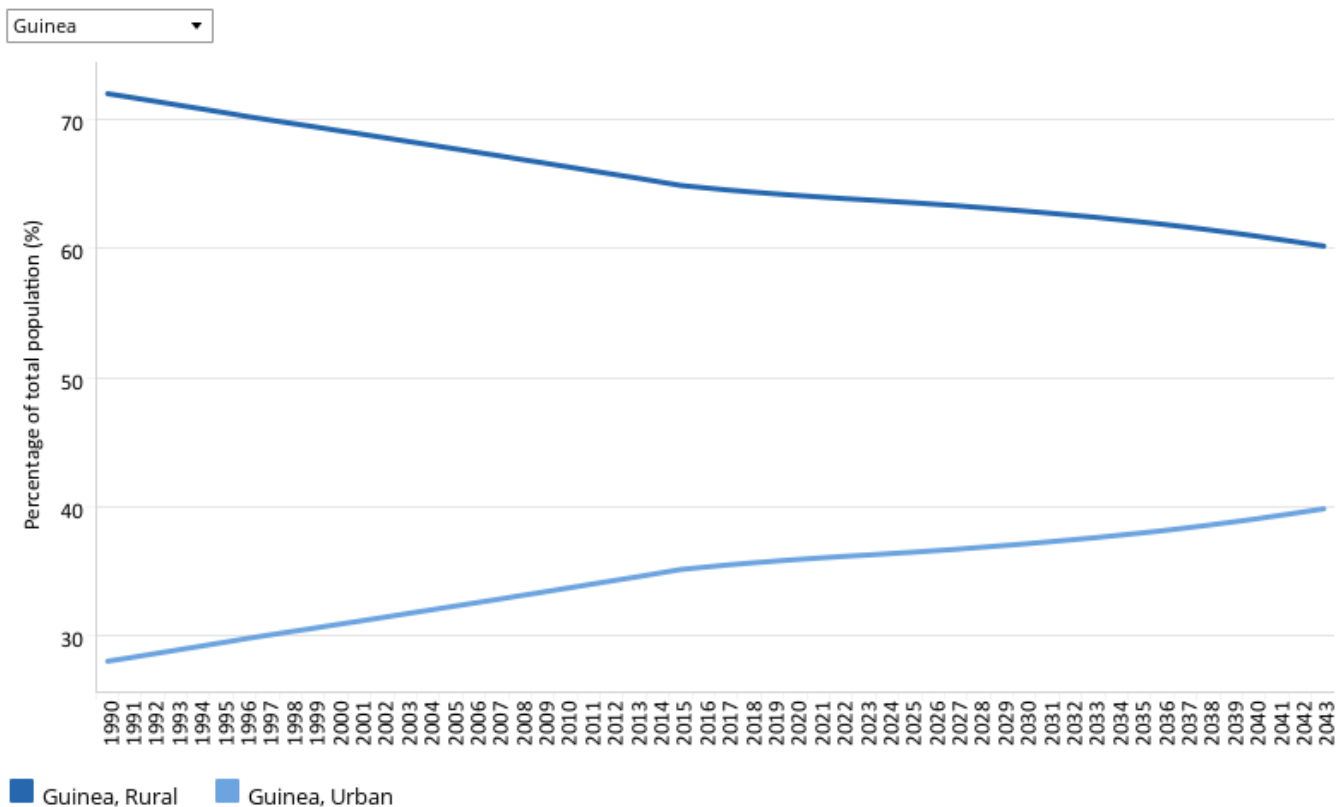
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Guinea is the eighth most populous country in West Africa and the 29th most populous in Africa. The estimated population of the country was 12.8 million in 2019, up from 6.4 million in 1990; an increase of 101.3% in population size over the past 29 years. On the Current Path, the population of Guinea is forecasted to increase to 23.6 million, representing an approximate increase of 84.2% within the 24-year period. The relatively slower increase in the population growth rate can be attributed to the adoption of improved birth control methods such as the use of contraceptives. Guinea has a large youthful population with a youth bulge of 52% and a median age of 17.9 years in 2019. The youth bulge, defined as the ratio of the population between the ages of 15 and 29 to the total adult population, remains above 40% in the Current Path forecast horizon. While this large youth bulge is potential for human capital formation, it also leads to the possibilities of youth unemployment problems especially among the young people teeming the urban centres. So far, graduate unemployment remains a problem in Guinea, with two-thirds of higher education graduates under the age of 30 in Conakry being unemployed.

In addition, 43% of the population is below the age of 15 years and 29.6% is under the age of 30 years. The relatively large cohort of children under the age of 15 constrains the materialisation of the demographic dividend. With the expected decline in the fertility rate from 4.7 births per woman in 2019 to 3.3 births in 2043, the proportion of people below the age of 15 years falls to 35.2% over the next 24 years. This signals the likelihood of a more adult population, increasing the share of people under the age of 64 years from 24.2% in 2019 to 33.6% in 2043, as well as raising the median age of Guineans to 22.3. The average life expectancy in Guinea was 62.1 years in 2019 but is estimated to increase to 69.3 years in 2043. The relatively low life expectancy is mainly due to a high disease burden emanating from communicable and

non-communicable diseases. Therefore, with an expected decline in communicable diseases over the period, life expectancy is also projected to increase within the same period.

Chart 3: Urban and rural population in CP, 1990–2043
% of population

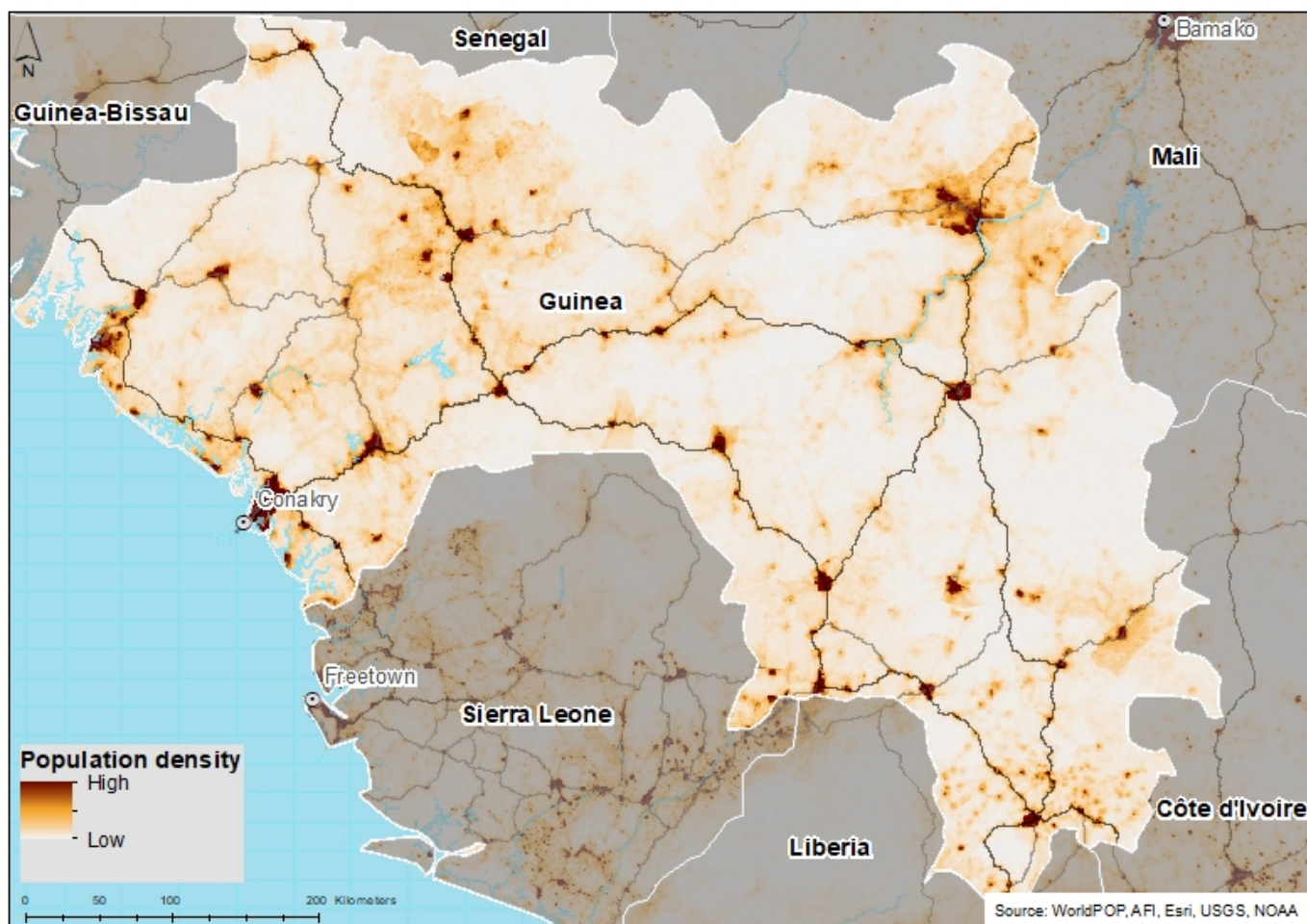


Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN World Urbanization Prospects estimate

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In 1990, the majority of the Guinean population (over 72% of the population) resided in rural areas. However, over the past 29 years, the proportion of people residing in rural areas marginally declined by 7.8 percentage points from its 1990 estimate to 64.2% in 2019, suggesting an increase in the urban population. Most rural dwellers migrate to the capital city Conakry in search of employment opportunities and greener pastures. It is also important to note the seasonal dynamics of the pattern of internal migration in the country due to the vital role of the agriculture sector to the Guinean economy. Some rural migrants periodically return to the rural areas during the planting season to help their relatives with agriculture. In the Current Path forecast, it is projected that the decline in the rural population continues such that by 2043, about 60% of the Guinean population will live in urban areas. Notwithstanding, the country has a relatively low rate of urbanisation compared to other low-income countries in Africa.

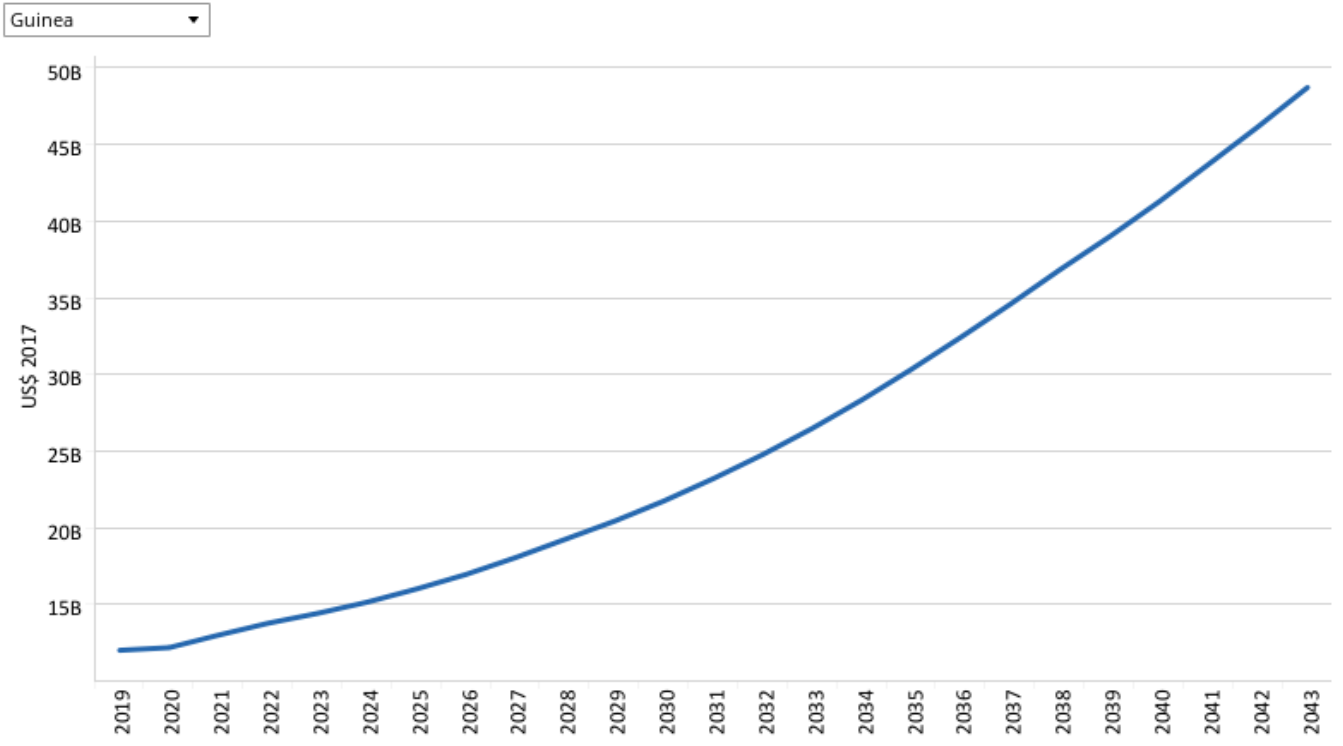
Chart 4: Population density map for 2019



Guinea is the 29th most densely populated country in Africa and 12th densely populated country in West Africa. The population density of Guinea is estimated to be about 0.52 people per hectare, which is higher than the average of 0.45 for Africa but lower than the average of 0.65 for West Africa. The most densely populated cities are the administrative centres in the seven administrative regions. The most populous region, Kanka in the east of the country, borders Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Faranah and Nzérékoré regions. It had a population of 6.2 million inhabitants in 2021, and it seems to have the most densely populated prefectures of Siguiri and Kanka. In the Kindia region, Conakry, the capital city, and Kindia are the prefectures with largest population densities. Notably, there are many Sierra Leoneans residing in these two cities given the region's proximity to Sierra Leone. The cities of Labe and Mamou are the administrative centres of the Labe and Mamou regions respectively and have high density populations. In the Boke region along the border of Guinea-Bissau, the port city of Kamsar, from where bauxite is exported, is the most densely populated in the region as it attracts workers in the bauxite supply chain. The southern city of Nzérékoré on the Côte d'Ivoire border is perhaps the most sparsely populated region.



Chart 5: GDP in CP, 1990–2043
Market exchange rates



Guinea

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

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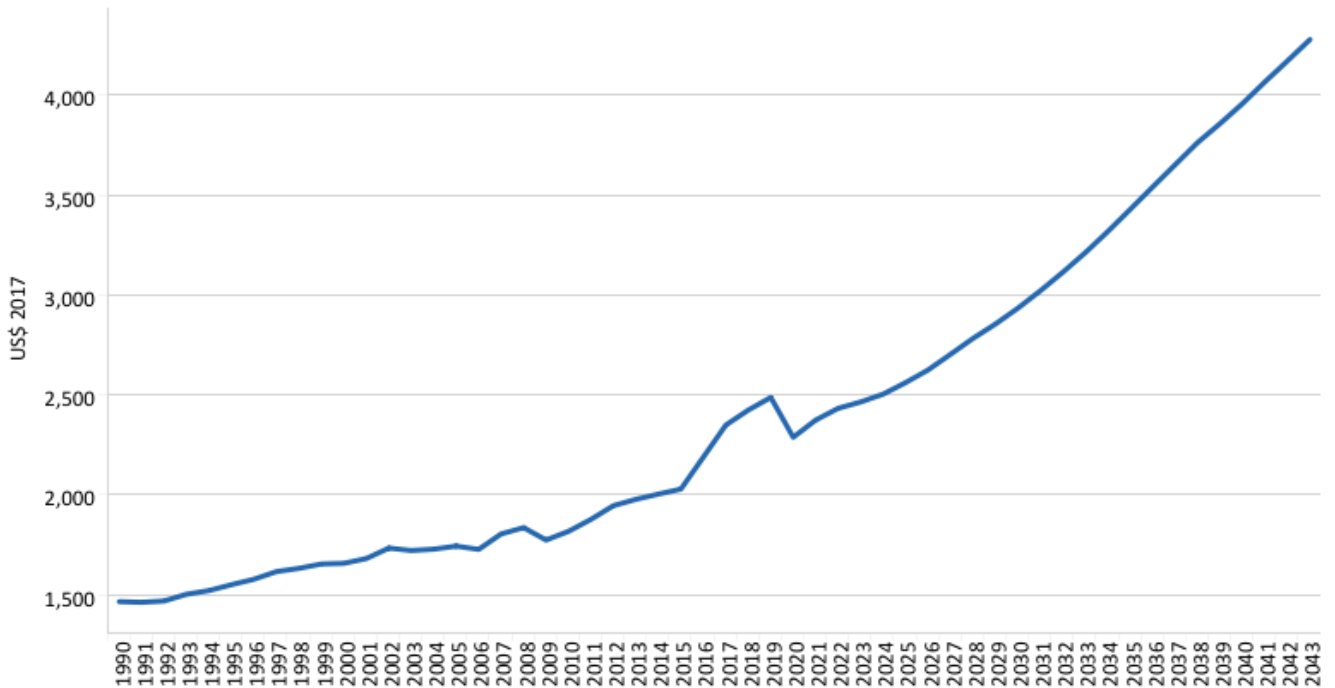
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The Guinean economy is primarily based on the mining and agriculture sectors. Since 1985, the country has made efforts to implement policies that liberalise the economy to allow private sector participation. The IMF and the World Bank were actively involved in restoring the Guinean economy with various economic reform packages. These reforms led to notable economic growth, with a 5% growth rate over the period. In 2002, the IMF suspended Guinea's Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) for the government's inability to meet its deliverables under the programme. This forced the country to finance its own policies by resorting to the central bank which eventually proved costly for the country. However, in 2004, the country returned to the PRGF with the IMF with an agenda of reform. The GDP of Guinea increased by nearly US\$8.5 billion, from US\$3.5 billion in 1990 to US\$12 billion in 2019 — an increase of 242.9% over the 29-year period. By 2043, Guinea's GDP is estimated to almost quadruple to US\$48.7 billion from the current figure.

Chart 6: GDP per capita in CP, 1990–2043
Purchasing power parity



Guinea



Guinea

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

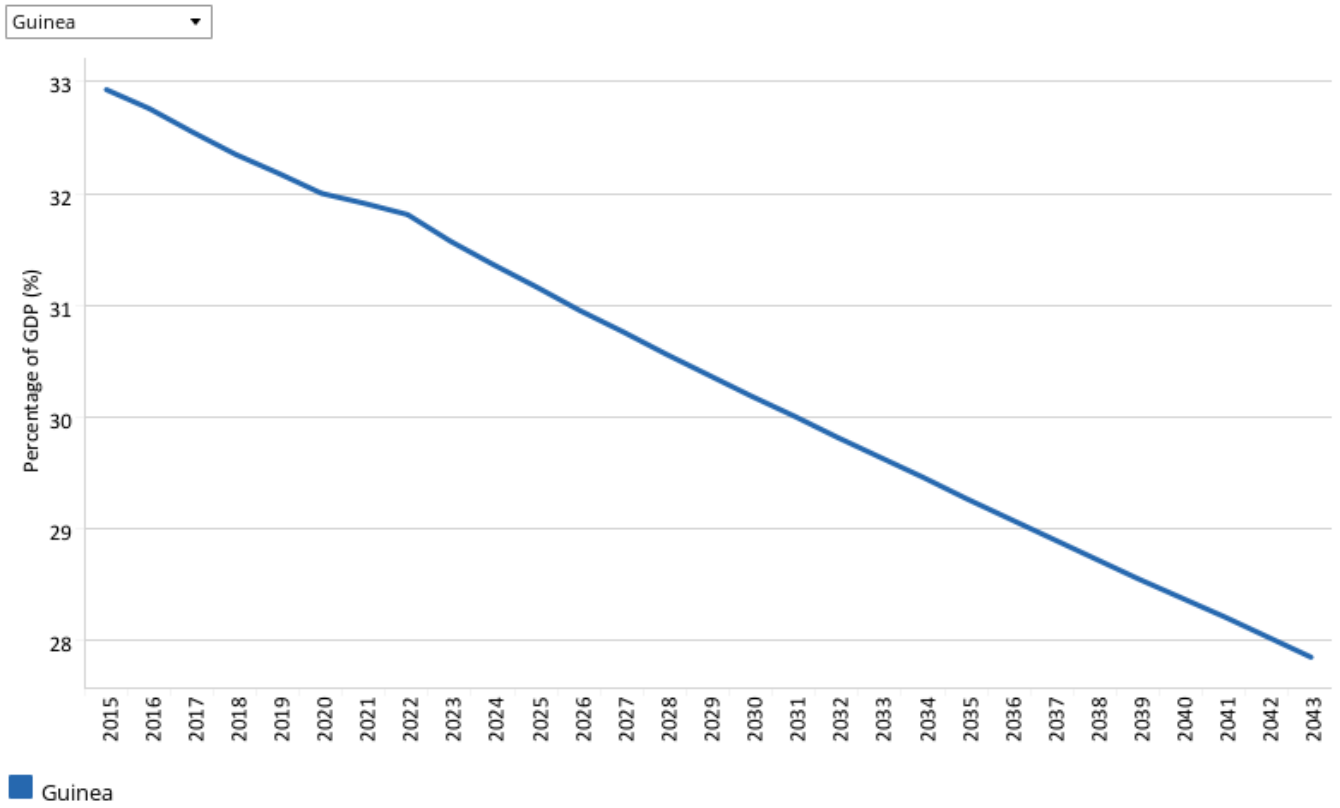
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Although many of the charts in the sectoral scenarios also include GDP per capita, this overview is an essential point of departure for interpreting the general economic outlook of Guinea.

The GDP per capita has seen a steady increase over time, despite the country's rapid population growth. The GDP per capita increased by 69.8% from US\$1 464 in 1990 to US\$2 486 in 2019. The marginal increase in GDP per capita reflects the relatively high GDP growth compared to population size over the period. With an expected increase in GDP and decline in fertility rates, it is projected that GDP per capita will rise further over the next 22 years, such that by 2043, the GDP per capita will increase to US\$4 278. Throughout the period under consideration, Guinea's GDP per capita was higher than the average for low-income countries in Africa. This suggests that Guinea either has a lower population growth rate or higher economic growth rate compared to the average low-income country in Africa.

Chart 7: Informal sector value in CP, 2015–2043
% of GDP



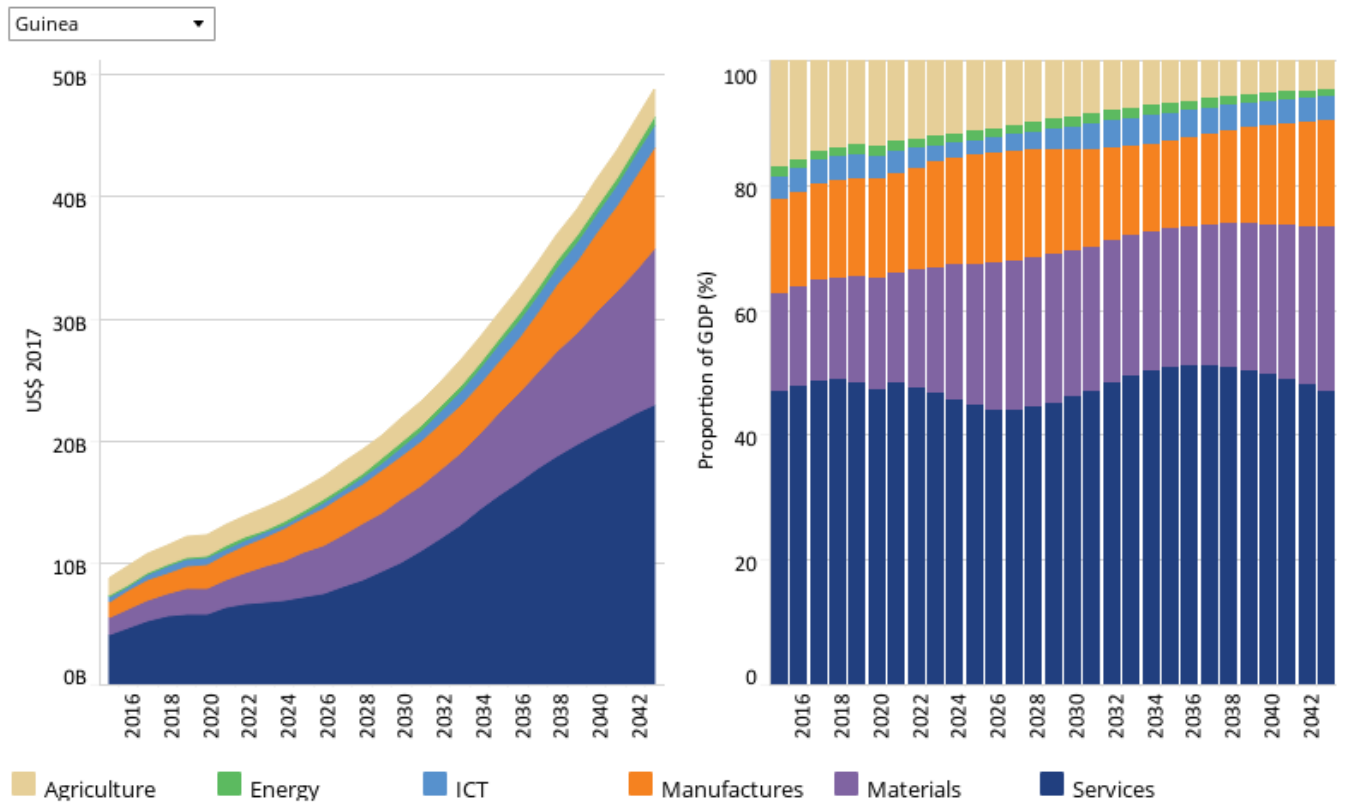
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Economic Commission for Europe [2008]; Elgin and Oztunali [2012]; Schneider and Enste [2012]

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The size of the informal sector in Guinea was equivalent to 32.2% of GDP in 2019 — higher than the average of 30.1% for low-income countries in Africa. This is expected to decline to 27.8% by 2043, constituting a 4.4 percentage-point decrease over the 24-year period. In 2019, the total number of people employed by the informal economy constituted 60.7% of the total labour force, though this is expected to marginally decline to 53.8% in 2043. It is therefore not surprising that the level of informality also marginally declines within the same period. A significant proportion of informal workers are employed in the sectors of agriculture, livestock, fishing, handicrafts, trade and local industry. Throughout the period under consideration, the size of the informal sector in Guinea is higher than the average for low-income African countries, suggesting that Guinea has performed relatively poorer in formalising its economy compared to other African countries within its income group.

Chart 8: Value added by sector in CP, 2015–2043
Billions US\$ 2017 and % of GDP



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

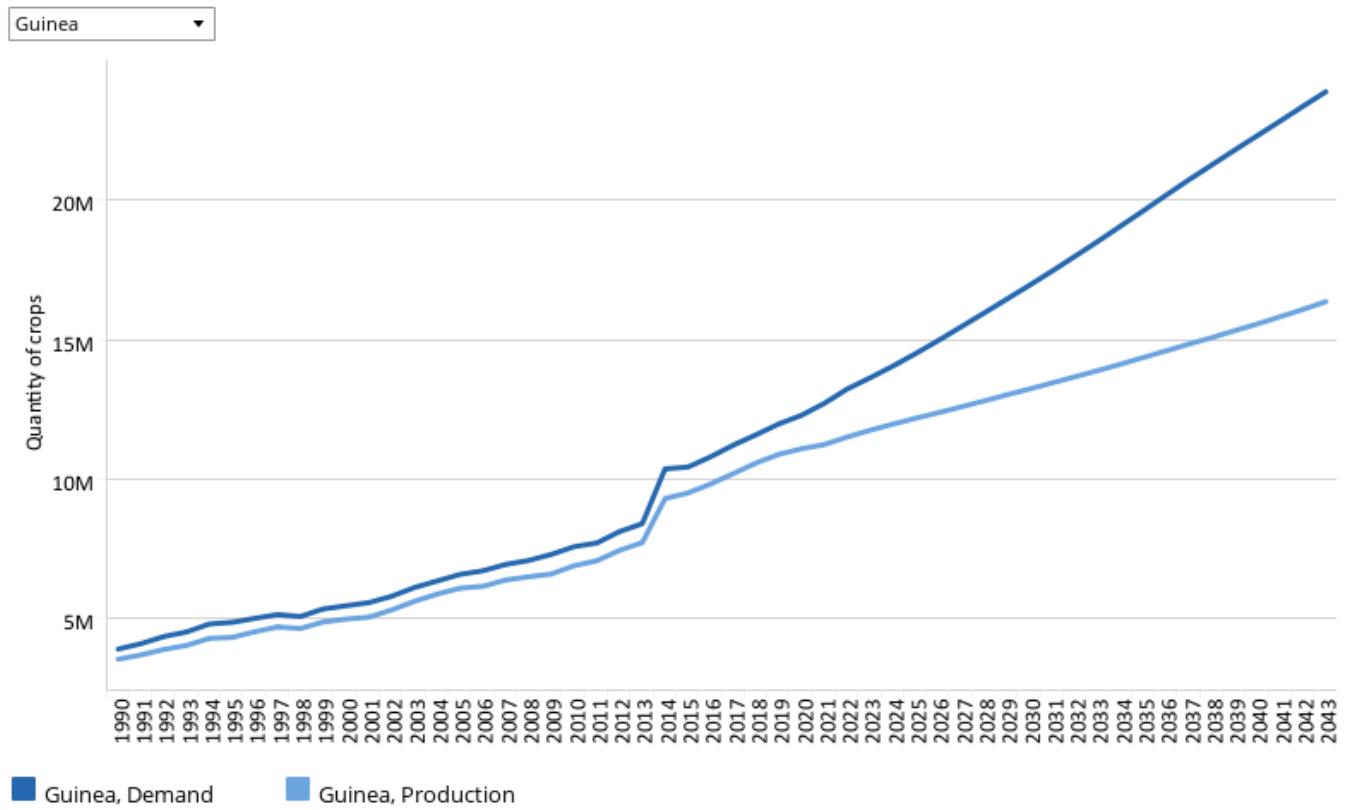
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The IFs platform uses data from the Global Trade and Analysis Project (GTAP) to classify economic activity into six sectors: agriculture, energy, materials (including mining), manufactures, services and information and communications technology (ICT). Most other sources use a threefold distinction between only agriculture, industry and services with the result that data may differ.

The three largest contributing sectors to GDP in Guinea are service, materials and manufacturing, respectively. In 2019, the service sector contribution to GDP was about US\$5.8 billion (48.4% of GDP). This is expected to increase to US\$22.2 billion by 2043 (47.3% of GDP). The materials sector is currently the second largest contributor to GDP with a share of 17% (about US\$2 billion) in 2019, and the share of materials is projected to rise further to 26.3% by 2043 (US\$12.8 billion). The manufacturing sector is the third most significant contributor to GDP, with a share of 15.8% (US\$1.9 billion). It is expected that by 2043, the contribution of the manufacturing sector rises to US\$8.3 billion (constituting 17% of GDP). It is significant to note that the share of the agriculture sector's contribution to GDP is forecast to decline from 13.6% in 2019 to 4.6% in 2043. This is despite the fact that the agriculture sector employs about 61% of the total labour force in the country. The underperformance of the agriculture sector in the country is worrying for food security.

Chart 9: Agriculture production/demand in CP, 1990–2043
Crops million tons



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Food and Agriculture Organization Food Balance Sheets

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The data on agricultural production and demand in the IFs forecasting platform initialises from data provided on food balances by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). IFs contains data on numerous types of agriculture but aggregates its forecast into crops, meat and fish, presented in million metric tons. Chart 9 shows agricultural production and demand as a total of all three categories.

The average crop yield for 2019 was 2.9 metric tons per hectare. In 1990, Guinea’s demand for agricultural products outstripped domestic production by 0.36 million metric tons; this increased to 1.1 million metric tons in 2019, in spite of the agriculture sector accounting for about 61% of total employment in the country. Major challenges facing the agriculture sector in Guinea include a lack of access to land and credit, poor transportation networks to link farms to markets, and outmoded technology adopted in farming. Consequently, about 17.5% of the population faces the threat of food insecurity and 25.9% faces chronic malnutrition. Although the yield per hectare for crops is expected to increase from 2.9 metric tons per hectare in 2019 to 3.7 metric tons per hectare in 2043, the gap between demand and production widens. By 2043, demand outstrips domestic production by about 7.5 million metric tons, representing about 581% increase over the period. This raises concerns about food security in the country within the next 24 years.

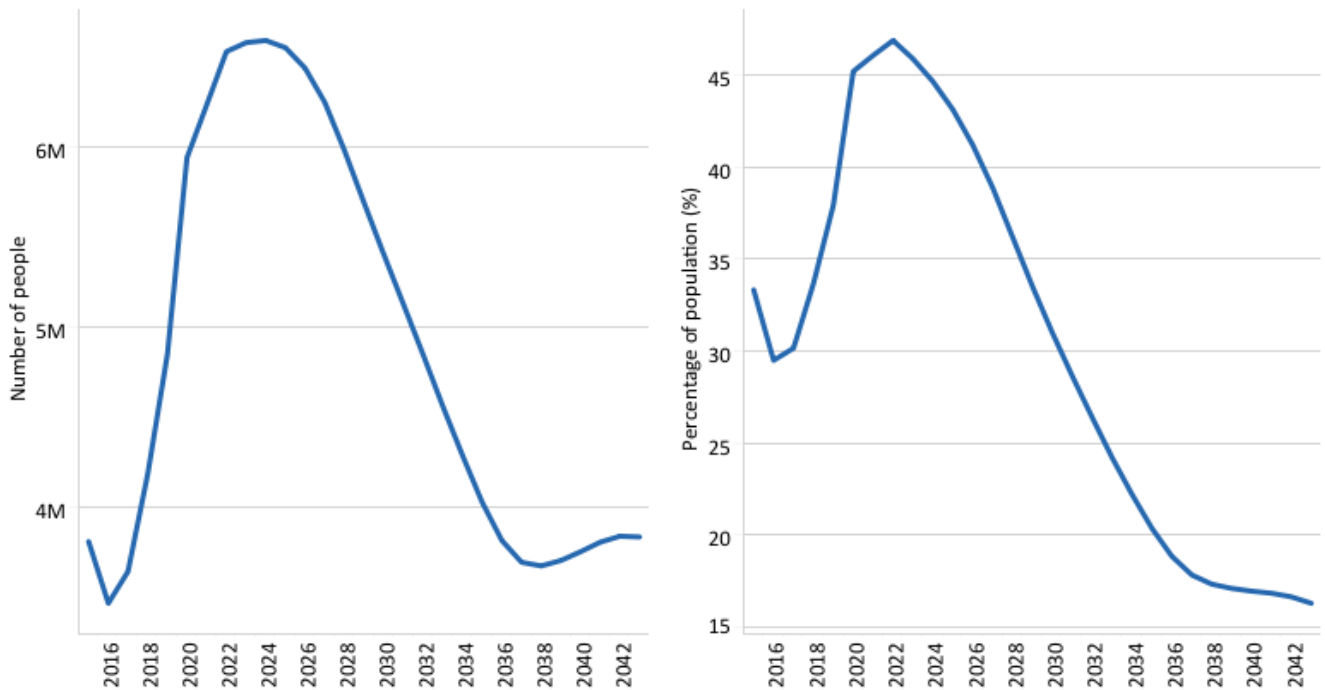


Poverty: Current Path

Chart 10: Poverty in CP, 2015–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Guinea \$1.90



Guinea

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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There are numerous methodologies for and approaches to defining poverty. We measure income poverty and use GDP per capita as a proxy. In 2015, the World Bank adopted the measure of US\$1.90 per person per day (in 2011 international prices), also used to measure progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 1 of eradicating extreme poverty. To account for extreme poverty in richer countries occurring at slightly higher levels of income than in poor countries, the World Bank introduced three additional poverty lines in 2017:

- US\$3.20 for lower middle-income countries
- US\$5.50 for upper middle-income countries
- US\$22.70 for high-income countries.

As a low-income country, Guinea uses the US\$1.90 per person per day benchmark. Despite having a relatively higher per capita income on the continent, the country is one of the poorest in Africa and the world. As of 2019, there were still over 4.9 million people (37.9% of the Guinean population) living on less than US\$1.90 per day. This is expected to peak at 6.6 million people (44.6% of the population) in 2024. Thereafter, it assumes a downward trend so that by 2043, there will be 3.8 million people (16.3% of the population) living on less than US\$1.90 per day. This means that the proportion of the extremely poor population reduces by 21.6 percentage points, and the absolute number of poor people in the country is

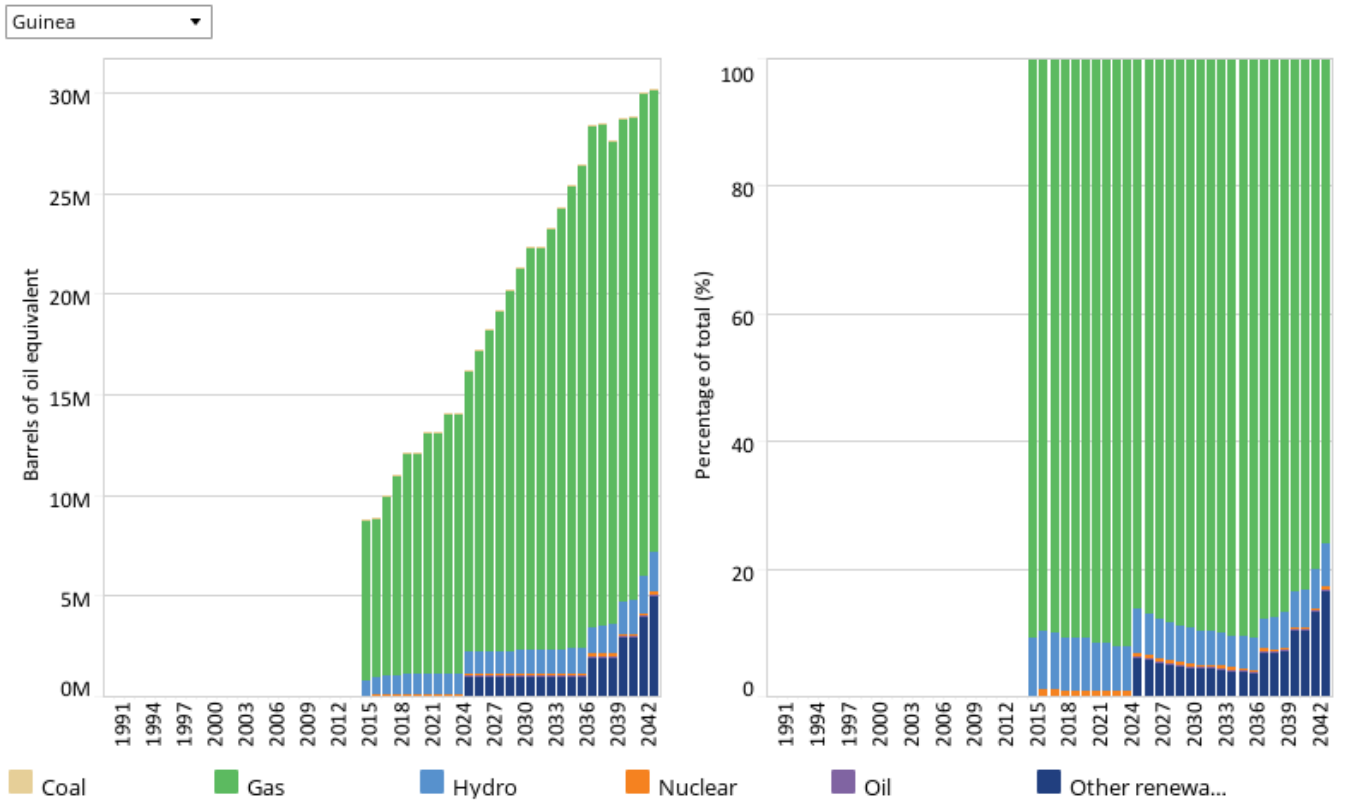
one million people fewer than its level in 2019. Throughout the period under consideration, the proportion of poor people in Guinea is lower than the average for low-income countries in Africa, and by 2043 the extreme poverty rate in Guinea is 8.9 percentage points below the projected average for low-income countries in Africa. There are large disparities between rural and urban centres in terms of poverty levels, with a higher proportion of the poor population residing in the rural areas. The provision of services such as education and healthcare is also more concentrated in the urban areas compared to the rural areas. However, a number of other factors have influenced the high rates of poverty in Guinea. The large influx of migrants from Liberia and Sierra Leone has increased poverty levels in the country, as has the Ebola pandemic which affected almost a million Guineans.



Carbon Emissions/Energy: Current Path

Chart 11: Energy production by type in CP, 1990–2043

Barrels of oil equivalent and % of energy production



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Energy Outlook data

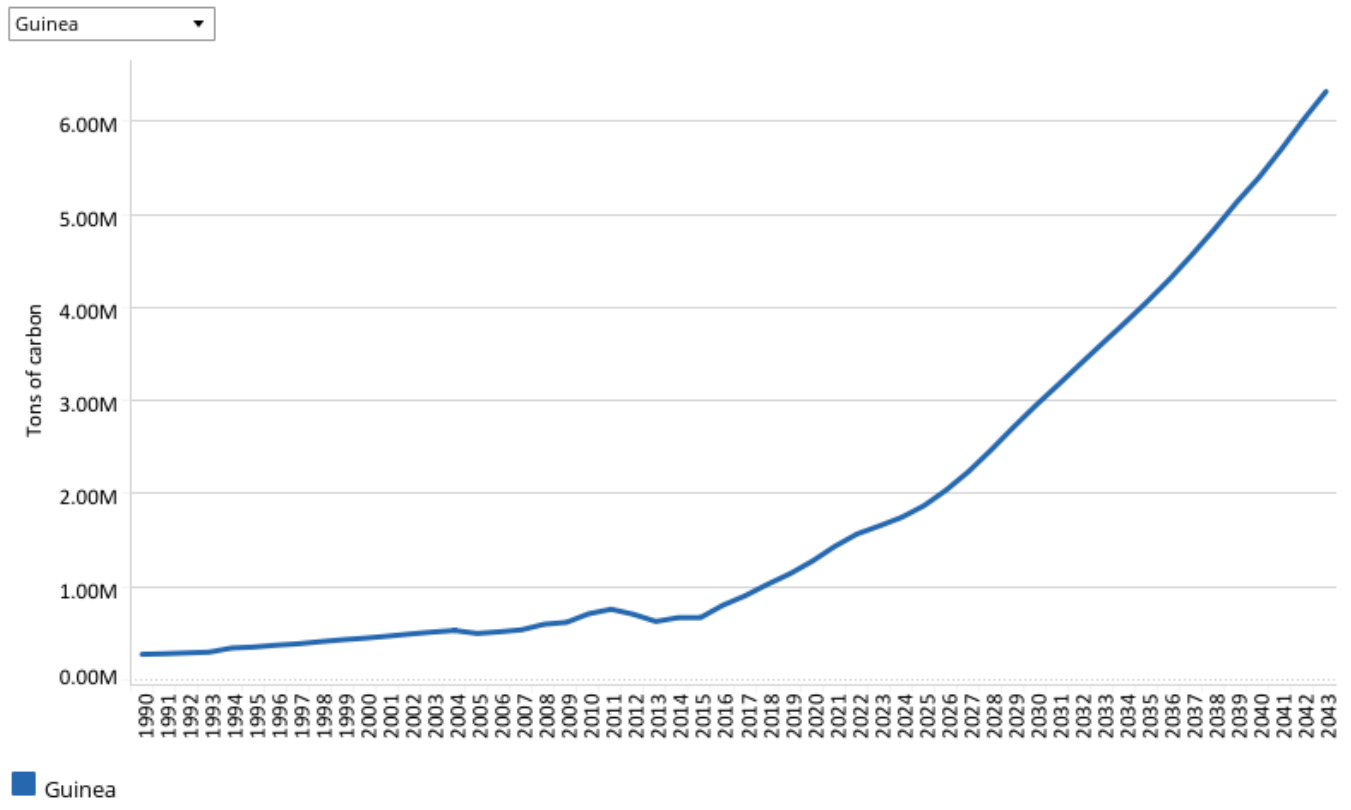
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The IFs platform forecasts six types of energy, namely oil, gas, coal, hydro, nuclear and other renewables. To allow comparisons between different types of energy, the data is converted into billion barrels of oil equivalent (BBOE). The energy contained in a barrel of oil is approximately 5.8 million British thermal units (MBTUs) or 1 700 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy.

The dominant energy produced in Guinea is gas. In 2019, the total production of gas amounted to 11 million BOE, representing 90.9% of total energy production in the country. Although the total production of gas is projected to increase to 22 million BOE, its share in total energy production declines to 76.2% in 2043. Hydro production constitutes 8.3%, representing 1 million BOE in 2019. Just like gas production, the total production of hydro power is estimated to double in 2043 although its share in total energy production marginally declines to 6.6%. Reliable rainfall, abundant sunshine and natural topography make the country conducive to renewable energy production. Therefore, from 2025, it is expected that Guinea will begin producing other renewable energies such as solar and wind energies, which constitute 16.7% of total energy production, amounting to 2 million BOE in 2043.

Chart 12: Carbon emissions in CP, 1990–2043
 Million tons of carbon (note, not CO₂ equivalent)



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center data

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Carbon is released in many ways, but the three most important contributors to greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide (CO₂), carbon monoxide (CO) and methane (CH₄). Since each has a different molecular weight, IFs uses carbon. Many other sites and calculations use CO₂ equivalent.

Guinea is one of the countries in Africa with significantly low levels of carbon emissions. Regardless, carbon emissions have increased steadily from nearly zero carbon in 1990 to 1 million tons of carbon in 2019. On the Current Path, carbon emissions increase to 6 million tons by 2043, representing a 600% increase over the period. About 47% of carbon emissions in Guinea emanate from land-use change and forestry. This is followed by agriculture (11.3%), energy (2.9%) and waste (1.6%). Although Guinea emits relatively low levels of carbon, the country has pledged to undertake measures to reduce its carbon emissions.

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Mr Enoch Randy Aikins joined the AFI in May 2021. Before that, Enoch was a research and programmes officer at the Institute for Democratic Governance in Accra. He also worked as a research assistant (economic division) with the Institute for Statistical Social and Economic Research at the University of Ghana. Enoch's interests include African politics and governance, economic development, public sector reform, poverty and inequality. He has an MPhil in economics from the University of Ghana, Legon.

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