



### **General Country Information:**

The Republic of Guinea is located in West Africa, and borders Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone with a coastline facing the Atlantic Ocean. Its capital and largest city is Conakry.

In 1890, Guinea was colonized by France and French became the official language. In 1958, it gained its independence and became a republic.

Guinea possesses major mineral, hydropower and agricultural resources, yet remains an underdeveloped nation. Fighting along the Sierra Leonean and Liberian borders have caused major economic disruptions. Refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone (Mano River Union countries) and Côte d'Ivoire together with 360 000 internally displaced people has led to instability.

Guinea is divided into 7 administrative regions and subdivided into 33 prefectures. Conakry ranks as a special zone.

Meningitis, measles and yellow fever outbreaks have been reported in 2005.

### **Cholera Background History:**

Cholera history in Guinea was marked by a major outbreak in 1994 accounting for 31 415 cases and 671 deaths (CFR 2.1%) Between 1996 and 2003, only few cases were reported by Guinea. However, high case fatality rates averaging 9% were recorded. From 1970 to 1998, cholera cases were reported only from Conakry. Since 2002, cholera cases

In 2006, 1786 cases including 154 deaths (CFR 8.6%) were notified. The cases started to be reported in January in the districts of Lola and Guékédou (Guinea forestière). The outbreak in that region of Guinea (N'Zérékoré) reached its highest peak between 15-21 May with a weekly incidence of 138 cases. The overall case fatality rate was 9.4%. Progressively the reported cases shifted west in the regions of Conakry, Kindia and Faranah and a second peak occurred between 16 and 22 October with a weekly incidence of 247 cases (among them 169 in Conakry) with 15 deaths (CFR 6.1%).

### **Cholera outbreak in 2007:**

As of 25 November 2007, 8289 cases including 295 deaths (CFR 3.6%) have been notified. Cases were reported in 5 regions out of 8: Boké, Faranah, Kindia, N'Zérékoré and Conakry.

(The regions reporting zero cases being Kankan, Labé and Mamou).

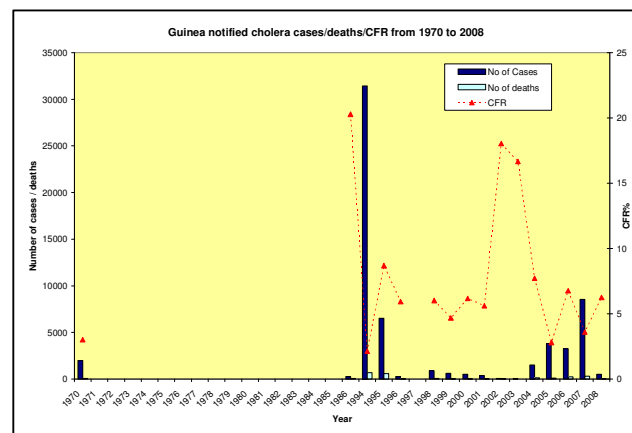
During the first 20 weeks of the year, only very few sporadic cases were reported mainly from the regions of N'Zérékoré in Guinea Forestiere and Kindia.

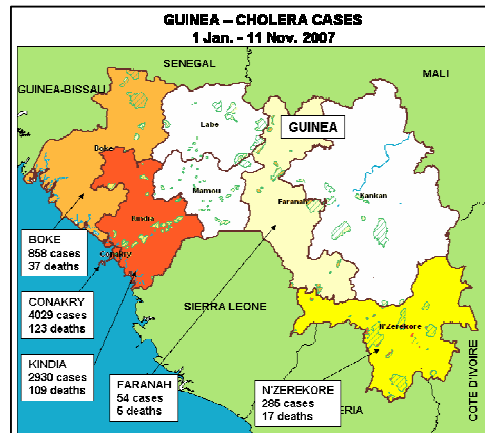
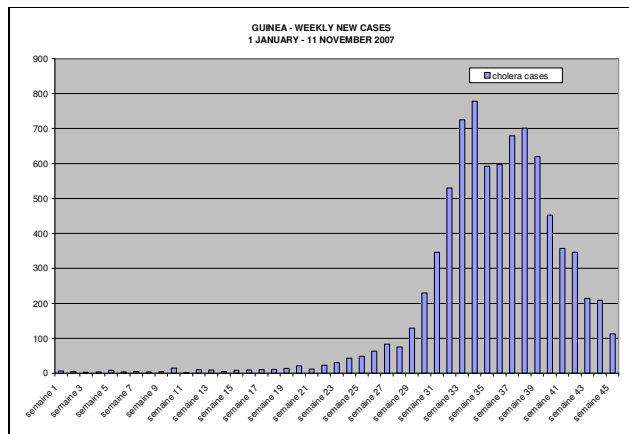
Reported cases started to increase in Kindia during week 20 (14-20 May), spreading to Conakry not long after (4-10 June). Since then the number of cases reported in Conakry continued to increase until reaching a peak in August with 442 weekly cases between 20-26 August.

In the region of Boké, the reported cases started to increase by week 30 (23-29 July), and reached 82 weekly cases by the first week of September (3-9 Sept.).

Nationwide the outbreak peak was reached during week 34 (20-26 Aug) with a total of 778 cases and 23 deaths (CFR 2.95%) for the whole country. 90% of the cases were reported from Conakry (442) and its neighbouring region Kindia (256). Over the period of time from January to November, the weekly CFR ranked between 0 to 66%.

In 2008, Guinea reported 513 cases including 32 deaths, the CFR of 6.24% was the fourth highest CFR reported by countries worldwide in 2008.





**WHO support Actions:**

- Technical support with case management and setting up of CTCs, social mobilization to reinforce hygiene measures (individual and collective)
- Assessment mission for epidemiology, water and sanitation, laboratory needs, food safety.
- Delivery of 8000 Ringer Lactate IV fluids.
- Weekly bulletins on cholera to disseminate information

**Demographic and Socio-Economic Data:**

<b>Geography</b>	Total surface	245 857 km <sup>2</sup> (coastline 320km)	
	Capital	Conakry (population in Conakry: 2 000 000)	
	Regions	Boké, Kankan, Kindia, Faranah, Labé, Mamou, Nzérékoré	
	Official language	French	
<b>Environment</b>	Climate	Hot and humid	
	Rainy Season	June to November	
	Floods and droughts	Floods (early 2000), droughts and cyclones possible	
	Natural resources	Bauxite, iron ore, diamonds, gold, uranium, hydropower, fish, salt	
<b>Demographics</b>	Population	9 402 000 (annual population growth rate: %)	
	Religions	85% Muslim, 8% Christian, 7% traditional religions	
	Ethnic groups	Fulani (40%), Malinke (30%), Soussou (20%), others (10%)	
	Migrants (2004)	82 000 IDPs and 184 000 Refugees	
<b>Economy</b>	Industry	35%, (bauxite, 30% of world's reserve), iron, diamonds Mining sector accounts for 93% of exports	
		22% (rice, manioc, banana)	
	Farming		
<b>Health Indicators</b>	Per capita total expenditure on health (2005)	21US\$	
	Life expectancy at birth (yrs)	Males: 51	Females: 55 (2006)
	Child mortality (per 1000)	Males: 172	Females: 150 (2006)
<b>Communicable diseases</b>	Malaria tuberculosis, HIV prevalence (ages 15-49 yrs): 1.47% (2005)		
<b>Risk Factors for Cholera</b>	Population with access to improved water source	70%	
	Population with access to proper sanitation facilities	19%	
	Population undernourished	24% (2002-2004)	

Sources: WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP



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