

Guinea

MIGRATION PROFILE

*Study on Migration Routes
in West and Central Africa*



October 2017



Contents

List of Figures.....	I
List of Tables.....	I
1. Introduction.....	1
2. Forced Migration/ Displacement	3
2.1. Refugees in Guinea.....	3
2.2. Refugees from Guinea	4
2.3. Internal Displacement in Guinea.....	5
3. Regular/ Labour Migration	6
3.1. Immigration.....	6
3.2. Emigration.....	6
4. Internal Migration	7
5. Irregular Migration	7
5.1. Human Smuggling	8
5.2. Trafficking in Human Beings	8
6. Migrant's Vulnerabilities and Protection Issues.....	9
7. Relevant National Policies and Stakeholders	11
References.....	12

List of Figures

Figure 1: Origin of Migrants in Guinea, 2015	2
Figure 2: Destination of Migrants from Guinea, 2015	2
Figure 3: Total Population in Guinea by Age Group, 2015	3
Figure 4: Migrant Stock in Guinea by Age Group, 2015	3

List of Tables

Table 1: Guinea Key Demographic and Development Indicators	1
Table 2: Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Guinea, mid-2016	4
Table 3: Total population of concern in Guinea, April 2015	4
Table 4: Guinea's Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Country of Asylum, 2016	5
Table 5: Guinea's Key Migration Policy Response.....	12

1. Introduction

The Republic of Guinea is a country located on the western coast of Africa. The country borders Guinea-Bissau and Senegal to the west, Mali to the north, Ivory Coast to the east, and Liberia and Sierra Leone to the south. Guinea has an estimated population of 12.4 million (CIA, 2017). Low commodity prices and the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic have affected Guinea's economy adversely (World Bank, 2017b). Its Human Development Index (HDI) rating stands at 183 out of 188, with a low value of 0.414 (UNDP, 2016a). Despite the low ranking, unemployment of the Guinean population is at a low 1.8 per cent, while the youth unemployment rate is 1.2% (UNDP, 2016b).



In the context of migration, Guinea is mostly a country of origin and transit. Political unrest in neighbouring countries results in the great variety of migrants in Guinea (see Figure 1). According to UN DESA (2015a), a total of 228,413 migrants (also including refugees) were living in Guinea in 2015. As visible, most of the migrants residing in Guinea come from one of its neighbours, namely 27% from Mali, 14% from Liberia, 12% from Senegal, 7% from Sierra Leone, 6% from Ivory Coast, and 5% from Guinea-Bissau (UN DESA, 2015a). Similarly, of Guinea's 426,941 emigrants (also inclusive of refugees) in 2015, most were to be found in its neighbouring countries; specifically, 22% of Guinea's emigrants live in Ivory Coast, 16% in Sierra Leone, 12% in Senegal, 9% in Liberia, and 4% in Mali (see Figure 2) (UN DESA, 2015a).¹ According to UN DESA (2015a), moreover, 7% of Guinea's emigrants live in France, 4% in the United States, and 3% in Belgium. It is likely that historical ties and economic opportunities influence this decision.

Table 1: Guinea Key Demographic and Development Indicators

Indicator	Guinea
Total area, in sq km ^a	245,857
Population (2017), in million ^a	12.413
Urban Population (2015), % of total ^b	37.65
Population Growth Rate, annual % ^c	2.49
Ethnic Groups ^a	Fulani 33.9% Malinke 31.1% Susu 19.1% Other 15.9%

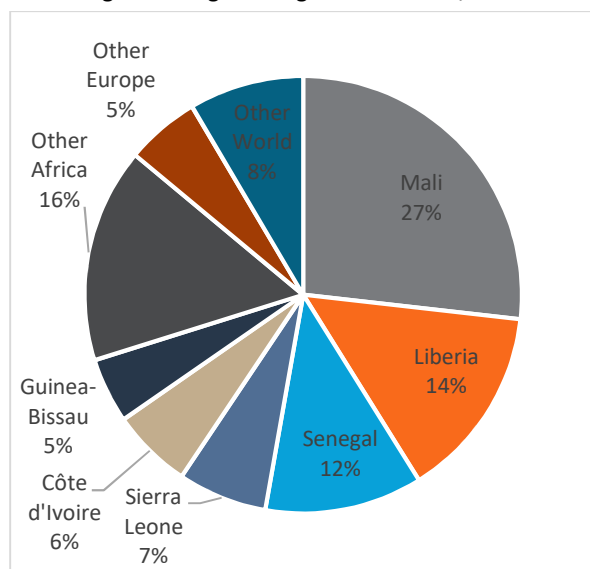
¹ Note that migration statistics from UN DESA (2015a) illustrate mixed migration stocks and may include some, but not all, of refugees in/from a given country. For further information visit:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates15.shtml>

Human Development Index (2015), <i>country rank out of 188^d</i>	0.414 183
GDP Based on PPP per Capita, <i>current international dollars per capita</i> (2016) ^c	1310.7
Life Expectancy at Birth (2015), <i>years^e</i>	59.2
Unemployment (2015), <i>% of labour force^e</i>	1.8
Youth Unemployment (2015), <i>% ages 15-24^e</i>	1.2
Multidimensional Poverty Headcount (2014), <i>%^e</i>	73.8
Gini Coefficient (2010-2015) ^e	33.7
Foreign Direct Investment (net inflows, 2015), <i>current USD million^c</i>	85.00
Net Official Development Assistance Received (2015), <i>current USD million^c</i>	538.45
Personal Remittances Received (2016), <i>current USD millions^c</i>	0.096

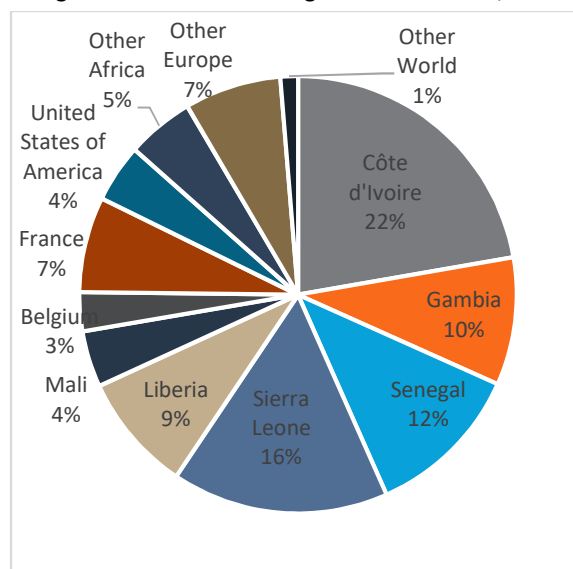
Sources: ^a CIA, 2017; ^b World Bank, 2017a; ^c World Bank, 2017b; ^d UNDP, 2016a; ^e UNDP, 2016b

Figure 1: Origin of Migrants in Guinea, 2015



Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

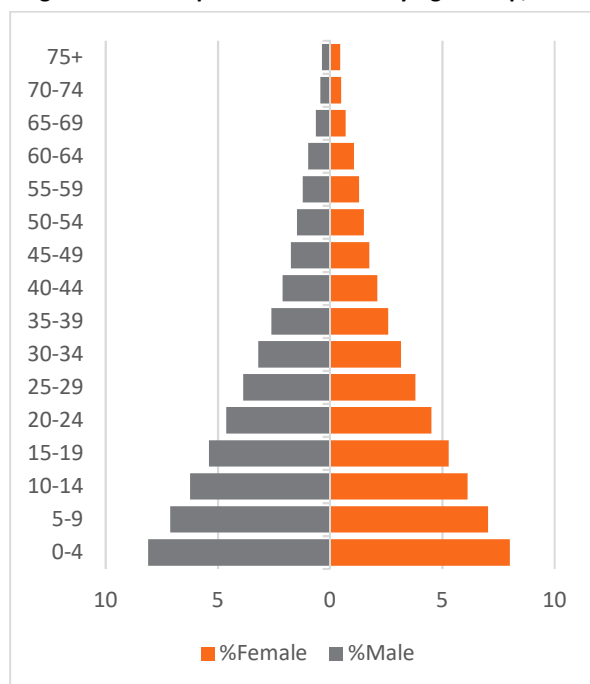
Figure 2: Destination of Migrants from Guinea, 2015



Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

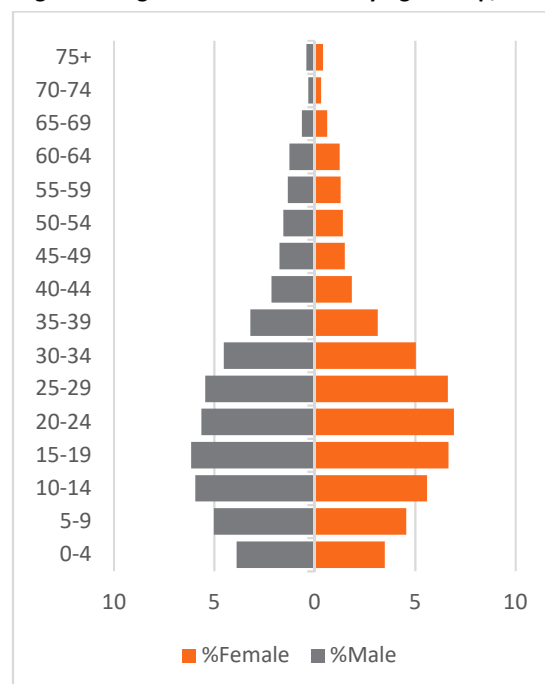
While comparing the population pyramids of the total Guinean population and the country's migrant stock, a difference is noticeable (Figure 3 and 4, respectively). Figure 3 is comprised of a common pyramid form, with the majority of the population centred at younger age groups and a minority in older age groups. Figure 4, on the other hand, shows a pear-shaped pyramid, with the centre laying in the younger- to middle-aged groups. The difference can be explained because regular migration for work purposes in Guinea is common; it is logical that most migrants in Guinea are of working age (UN DESA, 2015b).

Figure 3: Total Population in Guinea by Age Group, 2015



Source: UN DESA, 2015b

Figure 4: Migrant Stock in Guinea by Age Group, 2015



Source: UN DESA, 2015b.

2. Forced Migration/ Displacement

2.1. Refugees in Guinea

Guinea has hosted refugees from neighbouring countries in the past and continues to do so. Currently, the country hosts a relatively small group of refugees from Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire. Guinea is hosting approximately 9,000 people of concern (see Table 2 & Table 3) (UNHCR, 2015; UNHCR, 2017). Of Guinea's 9,004 refugees, a total of 6,754 are from Ivory Coast, 1,809 from Liberia, and 241 from Sierra Leone. Moreover, of the country's 194 asylum seekers, 90 are from Ivory Coast, 69 from Sierra Leone, and 26 from Liberia (UNHCR, 2017). However, data on the profiles of these refugees and asylum seekers is missing. The main cause of displacement, particularly for individuals from Liberia and Ivory Coast, is the aftermath of political unrest and armed conflicts in both countries. War ended in Liberia in 2003 (Conciliation Resources, n.d.). In the past, Guinea also hosted many Sierra Leoneans fleeing the civil war in their country (UNHCR, 2008); a peace agreement, though, to end the conflict in Sierra Leone was signed in 2002 (Conciliation Resources, n.d.).

Generally, in Guinea, refugee statuses are recognized on an individual basis and not on a prima-facie basis (UNHCR, 2017). Also, it should be noted that, as most of the West African countries are faced with other challenges such as climate change, food security and poverty, it is likely to assume that these factors have also influenced the displacement of individuals in Guinea (Jalloh, Nelson, Thomas, Zougmore & Roy-Macauley, 2013). It is not known where, within Guinea, the refugees are currently hosted by UNHCR, as the latest data is from 2009. In 2009, however, refugees were hosted in southwest Guinea, namely in Laine and Kouankan; the total amount of persons of concern in Guinea at this time was 16,240 (UNHCR, 2009). The 2009 figures represent a significant decrease when

compared to previous figures. In 2005, for example, the total population of concern consisted of 309,100 refugees from Sierra Leone and 124,000 refugees from Liberia (UNHCR). It becomes noticeable that, by comparing these numbers to the data in Table 3, the population of concern has decreased significantly in Guinea. The decrease can partially be explained by the ending of international recognition of refugee status for Sierra Leoneans in Guinea by the end of December 2008 (UNHCR, 2008). At the time, refugees could either choose between UNHCR repatriation (including a transportation allowance and some cash) or local integration (UNHCR, 2008). As many refugees had been living in a protracted situation, legalization of their stay in Guinea could possibly explain the decrease in the number of refugees from Sierra Leone in Guinea (UNHCR, 2008). Also, as Guinea continues to grant international protection to those who are still in need of help, a limited number of refugees continue to live in the country (UNHCR, 2008).

Table 2: Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Guinea, mid-2016

Country of Destination	Refugees	Asylum Seekers
Cote d'Ivoire	6,754	90
Liberia	1,809	26
Sierra Leone	241	69
Other	200	9
Total	9,004	194

Source: UNHCR, 2017

Table 3: Total population of concern in Guinea, April 2015

Country of Origin	Population of concern
Cote d'Ivoire	6,580
Liberia	1,787
Sierra Leone	216
Other	113
Total	8,696

Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

2.2. Refugees from Guinea

As illustrated in Table 4, Guineans mainly seek refuge in Angola and European countries, such as France, Germany, Belgium, and Italy; a number of Guinean refugees and asylum seekers are hosted by the United States (UN DESA, 2015a). Guineans have fled and continue to flee their country due to recurring food insecurity, droughts, and flooding, as well as following the outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus between 2013 and 2015 (USAID, 2017); it is possible that some Guineans tried to find refuge or applied for asylum in Europe or the US during the Ebola crisis. Still, compared to neighbouring countries with high levels of political unrest, these causes have generated relatively few refugees (UN DESA, 2015a). As of 2015, 14,171 refugees and 19,431 asylum seekers from Guinea were living outside of the country (see Table 3). Of the refugees, 107 were in Angola, 6,566 in France, 2,139 in Belgium, 698 in Germany, 193 in Italy, and 2,707 in United States. Of the asylum seekers, 9,145 were in Angola, 3,041

in Germany, 2,712 in Italy, 1,833 in France, 496 in Belgium, and 82 in the United States (UN DESA, 2015a). There are no data available explaining the choice of country of destination of these refugees.

Table 4: Guinea's Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Country of Asylum, 2016

Country of Destination	Refugees	Asylum Seekers
Angola	107	9,145
France	6,566	1,833
Germany	698	3,041
United States	2,707	82
Belgium	2,139	496
Italy	193	2,712
Other European countries	1,133	494
Other - World	518	360
Other African countries	110	494
Total	14,171	19,431

Source: UN DESA, 2015a

2.3. Internal Displacement in Guinea

Despite the limited existence of information on contemporary protection needs of Guinea's internally displaced persons (IDPs), some older data is available (IDMC, 2017). The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) (2017) approximates that, depending on the year, between 300 and 35,000 people have been displaced in Guinea during the last 6 years. While no explanations are provided as to the cause of their displacement, there were 4,500 IDPs in 2011 and 300 in 2013 (IDMC, 2017). Specifically, however, IDMC (2017) denotes that a wildfire and flooding led to the internal displacement of 490 Guinean citizens in 2016. Moreover, the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic led to the high number of IDPs, namely 34,000, in 2015 (NRC & IDMC, 2016; IDMC, 2017). As such, most IDPs in Guinea are displaced due to disasters, rather than being displaced due to conflict or violence.

Besides the number of IDPs generated by the Ebola epidemic, the trends in the numbers of IDPs in Guinea have remained rather stable and low in the last years. Events at the beginning of the century, however, reveal a different situation. Armed intrusions from neighbouring countries Sierra Leone and Liberia forced both Guinean civilians and refugees from the two countries to flee their homes (Norwegian Refugee Council, 2001). Consequently, in 2001, between 150,000 and 170,000 IDPs were estimated to be afflicted by conflict (Norwegian Refugee Council, 2001). It is, moreover, reported that an estimated 82,000 IDPs were in Guinea in 2002 (USAID, 2003). The so-called Parrot's Beak region was said to be hit hardest by these events, but other affected areas include the Dabola, Faranah, Macenta, Kissidougou, Kankan, and Siguiri regions (Norwegian Refugee Council, 2001). Most of the IDPs are believed to be integrated into the local communities (Norwegian Refugee Council, 2001), however there is no recent data on the topic in order to follow-up and compare the profile of the IDPs.

3. Regular/ Labour Migration

3.1. Immigration

Data on Guinea's immigration patterns are limited. Besides the 1996 General Population and Housing Census, there are few recent and reliable sources on immigration and the presence of foreigners in Guinea (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). Guinea's last held population census, conducted in 2014, only took the number of men, women and households in each prefecture into account (Institute de la Statistique, 2015). In 1996, there were 264,787 foreigners in Guinea, accounting for 3.6% of the total Guinean population (ICMPD & IOM, 2015); however, as these statistics are already more than twenty years old, it is likely that these number have changed in recent years. Nonetheless, in 1996, almost the entire immigration population originated from either Liberia (48.3%) or Sierra Leone (40%) (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). Other ECOWAS member states represented the rest of foreigners in Guinea. Data from the World Bank's 2016 Migration and Remittances Factbook shows similar data concerning Guinea's immigration. According to the World Bank (2016), Guinea's immigrant stock consisted of 378.5 thousand people, accounting for 3.2% of its population, in 2013. Due to a lack of data, however, little information is known about the profile of the foreign population in Guinea. As such, it is difficult to make conclusions about their occupations and areas of residence. However, it is likely that most foreigners are employed in either the mining sector, fishing industry or in small businesses and trade (ICMPD & IOM, 2015).

3.2. Emigration

As it the case with research on immigration and internal displacement in Guinea, data on emigration of Guinean nationals is outdated and incomplete. There are no exact figures on the number of Guineans abroad. The Migration and Urbanization Survey of 1992/1993 is the only census that specifically included a component for international emigration. It is estimated that, as of the mid-1990s, there were more than one million Guineans abroad (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). More recently, the World Bank's 2016 Migration and Remittances Factbook included some data on Guinea's emigration patterns. According to the World Bank (2016), Guinea's emigrant stock consisted of 398.5 thousand people, accounting for 3.3% of its population, in 2013. IOM (2017a) also reported the voluntary return of 132 Guineans from Libya in August 2017. Moreover, the expiration of the temporary protected status program (TPS) of the United States for citizens of *inter alia* Guinea will lead to the return of Guineans (Murriel, 2017). It is not known how many citizens of the country fall into this category.

Generally, the Migration and Urbanization Survey illustrated the prevalence of Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire as top countries of destination for Guineans (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). UN DESA (2015a) showed that Sierra Leone has also become one of the top destination countries for Guineans. Emigration to the United States or Europe was, and still is, far lower and remains limited (IOM, 2008). Emigration from Guinea to Senegal, and vice versa, happens on a seasonal basis within the agriculture industry. However, this pattern has evolved into increased movements towards urban areas and has, thus, resulted into permanent settlements abroad (Lefebvre, 2003; ICMPD & IOM, 2015). A profile on the population of Guinea abroad is difficult to create, but the emigration pattern towards cities does imply the existence of labour immigration in order to work in small businesses and trade (Lefebvre, 2003; ICMPD & IOM, 2015).

Due to outdated and few available data, it is not known whether a brain drain exists due to emigration from Guinea. OECD (2016), for instance, has not included the country in their global Migration and the Brain Drain Phenomenon map. The Survey on Migration Policies by ICMPD & IOM (2015) indicates that, around the year 2000, there was a limited risk of brain drain, as 9.1% of medical doctor and 2.1% of nurses emigrated. The general trend shows that the inflow of remittances is slowly increasing: in 2005 and 2010, the inflows of remittances were respectively \$42 million and \$46 million, accounting for 1% of Guinea's GDP (ICMPD & IOM, 2015; World Bank, 2017c). While the inflow of remittances has increased to \$93 million in 2016 and accounts for 1.53% of the country's GDP, this is still a low percentage (World Bank, 2017a; World Bank, 2017c).

4. Internal Migration

From a historical perspective, Guinea can be best described as a rural state. The majority of Guinean citizens have always resided in rural areas, as is shown by data from the World Bank (2017d). In 1960, almost 90% of the population lived in rural Guinea (World Bank, 2017d). Following the global trend in urbanization, a gradual decrease in the total percentage of the population living in rural Guinea has since occurred. Currently, 62.35% of the population lives in rural areas of Guinea (World Bank, 2017d). It is expected that the urban-rural division of Guinea is going to cross by 2040, according to the 2014 revision of the UN Population Division.

As such, a significant increase in rural-urban migration has emerged and is likely to continue in the future. A report by Action Against Hunger (2012) sheds a light on this specific type of internal migration in Guinea. While the report confirms the rural-urban migration pattern, and specifically rural migration to Guinea's capital city Conakry, it also stipulates that a link between rural and urban areas continues to exist as certain family members stay behind while others leave (Action Against Hunger, 2012). The division between the two areas does not entail a definite separation as strong links between the urban and rural population of Guinea continue to exist by means of exchanging food, cash, or information (Action Against Hunger, 2012). As agriculture continues to be Guinea's most important source of income, an overview of the seasonal calendar in Guinea illustrates that internal migrants often return during the planting and harvest seasons to help their relatives, while urban households also continue to host other rural family members (Action Against Hunger, 2012).

5. Irregular Migration

Geographically situated as a coastal country with porous borders and also stricken with poverty and an underdeveloped infrastructure, Guinea functions as both a point of origin and transit for irregular migrants. Drugs and small weapons are trafficked simultaneously, resulting in Guinea also being a transit point for these illegal practices (IOM, 2017b). Despite the ratification of both the 2000 Human Trafficking Protocol and 2000 Human Smuggling Protocol by the United Nations, Guinea is ranked low, namely in Tier 3, by the US Department of State's (2017) Trafficking in Persons Report. Guinea's role in irregular migration is partially illustrated in a research report written by The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (Reitano, Adal & Sha, 2014). This report stipulates that Guinea is part of two larger migration networks; specifically, Guinea primarily functions as a country of origin for migrants taking the Western Route and the Central Route to Europe (Reitano, Adal & Sha, 2014). The

Western Route passes through Mali, Algeria, and Libya, while the Central Route passes through Niger and Libya. The Western and Central routes converge in the Maghreb, specifically in Libya, from where migrants and refugees cross the Mediterranean to Italy (Reitano, Adal & Sha, 2014).

Moreover, it should be noted that, as Guinea is part of the Economic Community of West African states (ECOWAS), migration from Guinea to other member states, or vice versa, is regular (rather than irregular) migration as described by the legislation of ECOWAS. Also, as it is relatively easy to obtain a visa for West African countries including Guinea, immigrants enter these countries regularly by air, where after they may continue their journey irregularly (UNODC, 2006). This also makes Guinea, and West Africa in general, a tactical gateway to North Africa and possibly Europe thereafter. It has been reported by FRONTEX, Europe's border agency, that a large share of the migrants detected between January 2017 and August 2017 originated from Guinea, in addition to Nigeria, Bangladesh, and the Ivory Coast (Campbell, 2017). Most of these irregular migrants (90%) used the Central Mediterranean route (Campbell, 2017).

5.1. Human Smuggling

According to UNDOC (2017), migrant smuggling is defined as "a crime involving the procurement for financial or other material benefit of illegal entry of a person into a State of which the person is not a national or a resident." Smuggling differs from human trafficking in three main ways having to do with consent, exploitation, and transnationality. More specifically, this means that migrants engage with their smugglers in a consensual manner; smuggling also occurs transnationally and ends upon arrival at the destination. Due to a lack of data on Guinea's incidences of human smuggling, this section is limited. A report by The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, however, does provide some insights into the smuggling networks of Guinea (Reitano, Adal & Sha, 2014). As previously mentioned, Guinea acts as a country of origin and transit for both the Western and Central route to Europe. In this regard, it is suggested that incidences of the smuggling of West Africans in the region are few, though migrants often engage with smugglers (though only in smaller networks) on the routes to Europe (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). The map of migratory routes by FRONTEX (2017) indicates the presence of Guineans having taken the Central Mediterranean (8,833), Western Mediterranean (1,590), and Western African (37) routes to Europe between January and August 2017. While it is likely that more Guineans have taken these routes, data on the total number of Guineans taking these migratory routes is not known. Also, information on the profiles of these Guineans is not available.

5.2. Trafficking in Human Beings

According to the Trafficking in Persons Report by the US Department of State (2017), Guinea can be considered a source and transit country for children, men, and women who are subjected to human trafficking for the main purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. It is a destination country of trafficking victims to a lesser extent. Due to its illicit nature, data on the exact number of victims of trafficking (VoTs) is limited. The national government of Guinea is, to a limited extent, involved in the combat against trafficking, but governmental corruption is rife, also within law enforcement and the judiciary (US Department of State, 2017). Due to lacking efforts of the government, the US Department of State (2017) downgraded Guinea to Tier 3 in its 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report. While Guinea meets the requirements for the Tier 2 Watch List, the country lost its eligibility due to its previous four

rankings on the Watch List and was automatically downgraded to Tier 3. Guinea is currently ranked Tier 3 because it does not meet the minimum standards for eradication of human trafficking, and Guinea's government did not sufficiently increase its efforts in doing so (US Department of State, 2017).

In general, human trafficking among Guinean citizens is more prevalent than the human trafficking of foreign migrants. It should be noted that, while men are also targeted, women and children are more vulnerable to trafficking. Girls are forced to work as domestic or sex workers, whereas boys are forced to work as street vendors and show shiners or in gold and diamond mines. Men, women, and children are also forced to work as agricultural workers, and it is estimated that forced labor prevails in the mining sector of Guinea. Moreover, children are regularly sent to the coastal Boke region, particularly to work on farms, and are also more vulnerable to trafficking when coming from villages in Middle and Upper Guinea. By promising allegedly legitimate education for their victims, traffickers have found a reason to take children away from their parents with their consent. Instead, these children are exploited in either forced begging in Senegal or Bissau-Guinea or forced labor in gold mines in other West African countries. Guinean women have also been found to be trafficked to neighboring countries in West Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States for purposes of forced domestic and sex work. Special Guinean-Egyptian trafficking networks have been established to recruit women for domestic work; many of these women, though, end up in prostitution instead (US Department of State, 2017). The report by the US Department of State (2017) also mentions similar cases of forced labor in Angola, Finland, and the Netherlands.

Human trafficking from neighboring states to Guinea also happens frequently. Guinea functions as a transit country for forced labor of West African children (US Department of State, 2017). Boys from Bissau-Guinea are also forced to beg in Quranic schools, while women from Thailand and China have been forced into sex trafficking and girls from other West African countries are exploited in domestic work and street vending (US Department of State, 2017). Due to the illegal nature of these practices, much information on such incidences cannot be obtained. VoTs often do not want to identify as such, and government officials rarely report such issues. It is mentioned, however, that in 2016 alone more than 13,000 Guineans arrived in Italy. In comparison, approximately 2,000 Guineans in total arrived in Europe entirely (US Department of State, 2017). As it is likely that many of these migrants have either been smuggled or trafficked, the Government of Guinea reacted to the reports of abuses and increased trafficking incidences by revising its penal code in 2016 (US Department of State, 2017). Changes include the criminalization of trafficking in persons, moving the jurisdiction for human trafficking cases to the country's lower courts and criminalizing debt bondage (US Department of State, 2017). Nevertheless, it should be noted that the minimum term of five years of imprisonment for trafficking crimes have been replaced by fines alone (US Department of State, 2017).

6. Migrant's Vulnerabilities and Protection Issues

The following main vulnerabilities and protection issues, in the areas of environmental risks, disease, food security, and increased political insecurity, have been identified in the case of Guinea. It is important to note that the aforementioned vulnerabilities of Guineans to trafficking should not be forgotten. Similar to many other countries in the world, Guinea is vulnerable to climate change. Droughts, floods, high temperatures, landslides, high winds, and coastal erosion are likely to taunt the

country during the upcoming years (UNDP, 2017). Especially the northern prefectures Gaoual, Koundara, and Mali are likely to be severely affected by droughts (UNDP, 2017). Between 50,000 and 70,000 citizens are already affected annually by flooding during the rainy season (UNWFP, 2017). As most Guineans rely on agriculture, a decrease in agricultural production and resulting loss of income can result in significant displacement of the population (UNDP, 2012). Similarly, Guinea's population is especially vulnerable to rising sea levels as a result of climate change. This is because a large part of its population, namely 38%, lives in the country's coastal zone (UNDP, 2011). Besides Guinea's general expected loss of economic security due to reduced agricultural production, it is estimated by UNDP (2011) that temperatures are to increase between 0.2 and 2.0 degrees Celsius in the Lower Guinea region. Rising sea levels and the subsequent intrusion of salt water, together with increased, intense rainfalls and simultaneously drought periods, make Guinea vulnerable. Moreover, these events are likely to challenge the country's long-term development (UNDP, 2012).

Another type of vulnerability that affected the entire population of Guinea was the outbreak of Ebola in 2014. The international public health emergency spread from village to village, resulting in 3,811 cases of Ebola and the death of 2,543 Guinean citizens (WHO, 2016). While the epidemic has been contained since December 2015, many people have lost relatives. Especially children who have lost either one or both parents, or other caregivers, are in a vulnerable position according to UNICEF (2016). The outbreak of the deadly virus also showed the vulnerability of Guinea's public health system: Ebola spread the fastest in Guinea, and the country was the last West African country to be declared free of the virus. As the Ebola virus already resulted in an increase of migrants, another virus is likely to spark another such consequence (Campbell, 2017). In addition to these vulnerabilities, much of the Guinean population also suffers from food insecurity. The UN World Food Programme (UNWFP) (2017) has estimated that 1.9 million people, or 17.5% of the total Guinean population, are food insecure. An estimated 230,000 children suffer from moderate acute malnutrition, while 100,000 children under the age of 5 suffer from severe malnutrition (UNWFP, 2017). Moreover, chronic malnutrition is estimated to impact around 25% of Guinea's population (UNWFP, 2017). The combination of recurring and increasing natural disasters and the Ebola outbreak have weakened large communities to an even greater extent.

Finally, the country also faces increased political insecurity. Since its independence from France in 1958, Guinea experienced several coups that attempted to seize power of the country. Most recently, this happened in 2008 after the death of Guinea's former president Conte. While the military coup was received negatively in the international community, many Guineans supported the coup due to Conte's unpopularity (BBC, 2017). The year before, in 2007, Conte declared a state of emergency after opposition against this presidency turned into violent protests (BBC, 2017). Military leader Camara declared himself the new president of Guinea in 2008. More than 1,200 injured people and 257 casualties were the result of an assassination attempt in 2009 (BBC, 2017). Political unrest continues to exist in Guinea and protests also endured after the election of President Conde. While the outbreak of the Ebola virus in 2014 paused these riots, it is likely that political tensions will arise again in the near future; protests in Guinea's capital city, Conakry, already broke out due to a delay in the 2015 presidential and local elections (BBC, 2017; USAID, 2017).

7. Relevant National Policies and Stakeholders

As previously mentioned, Guinea is more a country of origin or transit than a destination country concerning migration. As such, the country lacks a comprehensive national migration policy. Some legislation on immigration exists, but emigration legislation is lacking. In order to fill this gap, an inter-ministerial commission was created to develop a national migration policy for Guinea; these policies have currently been drafted (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). Generally, Guinea has ratified all the main international conventions which protect human rights and migrants' rights more specifically. Included are the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), 8 ILO Conventions: including the specific ILO Convention on migrant workers C143 (1975), the United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990), the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000), and the United Nations Human Trafficking Protocol as well as the United Nations Human Smuggling Protocol (2000) (ICMPD & IOM, 2015).

Besides these global conventions and UN protocols, the country is also bound by African legislation, such as ECOWAS' founding treaty (1975) and all subsequent protocols concerning the residence and free movement of persons. Additionally, Guinea has signed bilateral agreements with Spain (2006) and Switzerland (2011). Remarkable is the lack of such an agreement with France, which is an important country of destination for many Guinean citizens (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). Guinea's institutional framework on migration is undertaken by the following governmental stakeholders: the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection (against trafficking in persons); the Ministry of Employment, Vocational, and Technical Education (delivery of work authorisation to foreign workers); and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad (protection of nationals abroad and contact with diaspora). It should be noted that little cooperation between the public institutions and ministries exists (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). Additionally, several NGOs are involved, namely Sabou Guinée, Le Monde des Enfants, Réseau Afrique Jeunesse de Guinée (RAJGUI), and Réseau des Femmes du Fleuve Mano pour la Paix (REFMAP) (ICMPD & IOM, 2015).

While little legislation exists on Guinea's national policy framework, some specific policies should be mentioned. First, the new 2014 Labour Code specifically provides for free access by citizens of other ECOWAS member states to the labour market of Guinea. Second, despite the existence of strict regulations on irregular migration, migrants in such a situation are tolerated in Guinea and are not likely to be deported or imprisoned. Especially nations from other ECOWAS member states are exempted from the rule. Third, the Government of Guinea has yet to adopt legislature on the trafficking in persons. Still, all forms of forced labour are prohibited by its Labour Code. Moreover, Guinea's Penal Code condemns any deprivation of liberty, and the country's Child Code bans child trafficking (ICMPD & IOM, 2015).

Table 5: Guinea's Key Migration Policy Response

Policy	Content
Law L/94/019/CTRN of 13 June 1994 on the Conditions of Entry and Stay of Foreigners in Republic of Guinea	Foreigners require an entry visa, which must be delivered upon entry; the visa is valid for 90 days and may be extended once. Longer stays require a different visa or a residence card. Deportation may be the result of irregular entry and stay, especially when the individual is a threat to public order.
Labour Code (2014)	Provides work authorisation requirements for an employer of foreign workers and provides for equal treatment of foreign workers; all foreign workers may join trade unions, however only those who have been in the country for more than three years can assume leadership positions; free access to the labour market is granted to ECOWAS citizens; forms of forced labour are prohibited.
Penal Code	Condemns any deprivation of liberty
Child Code	Bans the human trafficking of children

Sources: ICMPD & IOM, 2015

Gaps

Foremost, it should be noted that (recent) data on Guinea's migration profile is lacking. No insights on the current status of Guinean emigration or immigration patterns, as well as the profiles of these individuals, exist. Moreover, there is little to no current information available on instances of internal displacement and smuggling with Guinea. This could negatively impact the prospects of evidence-based policymaking for the country. In addition to these data gaps, there are also few national migration-related policies in Guinea. The existing legislation largely deals with the immigration of foreigners to Guinea for purposes of work; there are no national policies in Guinea dealing with emigrants, IDPs, or refugees and their rights. There has not been an establishment of a migration and development policy nor has the issue of an existing brain drain been addressed on a political level. Moreover, Guinea does not provide significant aid to their nationals residing abroad. Finally, limited to no results have been achieved by the Government of Guinea on the prosecution of traffickers, and the country remains on Tier 3 in the US Department of State's (2017) Trafficking in Persons Report.

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