



This report was issued by the OCHA Guinea office. It covers the period from 28 September to 02 October. The next report will be issued around 07 October.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

Violent crackdown on anti junta demonstrations by Guinean security forces results in hundreds of casualties in Conakry

II. Situation Overview

On Monday 28 September, police opened fire on tens of thousands of people gathered at the national stadium in Conakry, in order to protest against the junta that seized power in a bloodless coup last December. Despite the ban by the junta, which had been announcement on national radio and television networks on Sunday evening, demonstrators took to the streets.

The Guinean Human Rights Organization said that at least 157 people were killed and 1,253 wounded in the crackdown. Rights groups also indicated that soldiers had sexually assaulted women and beaten opposition leaders, among them former prime ministers of the country, Sidya Toure and Cellou Dalein Diallo.

Violence continued in Conakry's suburbs on Tuesday and the following days as security forces clashed with demonstrators, traced opponents, and looted goods.

While only 58 deaths and 559 wounded have currently been registered in the two main hospitals, Donka and Ignace Deen, it is widely acknowledged that some of the wounded preferred to seek treatment at the pharmacy or local practitioners. According to Human Rights groups, Guinea's army is accused of getting rid of many bodies by hiding them in military barracks or burying them in unknown locations.

The junta says far fewer people died, and claims most of them were trampled to death. Capt Camara has called for a UN team to investigate the deaths and claimed that he is hardly in control of the army. He also urged the opposition to join a government of national unity. But leaders of the main opposition blocs have rejected his offer.

The European Union, the United States, the African Union (AU), the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have condemned the crackdown on the demonstrators.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Health

On 28 September and the following days, the Guinean Red Cross and ICRC provided emergency health care to over 350 wounded in Conakry. Over 220 Red Cross aid workers were deployed in several areas in the capital where they provided first aid to victims and referred the most serious cases to the hospitals, foremost to the national hospital of Donka. ICRC used 6 of its vehicles to transport wounded cases and donated a surgery kit to treat 50 patients to the health authorities of Donka's hospital.

Medical treatment was similarly provided by MSF in Donka and the Matam health centre through screening of incoming wounded patients, ambulance services to refer patients from peripheral health centers to hospitals, as well as donation of dressing and suture kits, and medical kits for sexual assault to the hospitals.

Donka and Ignace Deen prepared a list of drug requirements in order to treat 600 ambulatory and hospitalized wounded patients. The list was circulated to partners. The French government sent an aircraft on 30 September loaded with 5 tons of medical equipment and medical personnel. Surgeons and anesthetist will take care of some of the remaining hospitalized cases in Donka

WHO donated a trauma kit that contains drugs and medical equipment for the surgery needs of 50 wounded cases.

Urgent restocking of medical equipment is needed as more cases are referred to hospitals and security situation is expected to deteriorate further.

Protection

Victims of rape are few to reach health centers, only 6 were registered and treated so far but it is widely believed that these figures are underreported and there is a need to proactively identify victims.

Together with the health cluster, the protection cluster currently prepare terms of reference for an assessment aimed at better addressing the needs of the victims of sexual violence in Conakry.

The number of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits available is few compared to the expected needs. UNFPA made an international request for the supply of 10 PEP kits that should come from abroad in a near future.

The number of people arrested and detained is unknown at this stage.

Food and Nutrition

Except for the first day where MSF distributed plumpy nuts and water, food for hospitalized patients is not provided by the hospitals due to lack of funds. The national body in charge of humanitarian coordination, SENAH will be requesting the ministry of Interior (MATAP) to release an amount that could cover for the purchase of food. The international NGO Terre des Hommes may also provide food assistance to inpatients as they did with WFP during similar events in Conakry in January-February 2007.

Shelter and NFI

During a IASC meeting on Wednesday 30 September, the Guinean Red Cross informed the humanitarian community about gaps in non-food items such as blankets and bed sheets to wrap the dead bodies. Unicef indicated that blankets and other non-food items are available in their stores in Faranah. MSF also donated body bags to health facilities.

Education

Plan International – Guinea, an NGO operating mainly in Guinee Forestiere but also present in Conakry expressed interest in providing education support for the families of the victims of the crackdown.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

A Hygiene and Sanitation assessment will be carried out by Unicef in the Donka and Ignace Deen hospitals in the coming week.

IV. Coordination

A IASC meeting was held on Wednesday 30 September in Conakry in which United Nations agencies, NGOs, the Red Cross Movement, and donors debated about the current situation and identify humanitarian needs. A follow up meeting was organized the next day between OCHA, UNICEF and WHO to review immediate needs and prepare actions. The health cluster is meeting on Monday 5 October and the next IASC meeting will be on Wednesday 6 October.

OCHA met with the national counterpart SENAH on Thursday 1st October to discuss joint coordination arrangements.

While the response to the victims of the crackdown has so far matched the needs, concerns have been raised about the possible depletion of stocks. Guinea being a country with a development profile, funding shortfalls

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

affects organizations involved in the most vital life-saving activities. Emergency stocks are therefore insufficient for consecutive shocks. Humanitarian partners are still struggling to provide assistance to the 50,000 victims of the floods that have affected Guinea in August and September 2009. As the security situation doesn't show sign of improvements, there is an urgent need to restock and prepare for a possible new round of disturbances.

V. Funding

The opportunity to request for CERF funding is being discussed in order to cover for the medical needs of the wounded and victims of sexual abuses.

VI. Contact

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