



This report was issued by the OCHA Guinea office. It covers the period from 03 to 09 October. The next report will be issued around 14 October.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

Situation slowly returns to normal in Conakry but potential remains for violence upsurge
Number of victims has increased to 1,111 wounded and at least 33 victims of sexual violence
Urgent restocking of drugs and medical equipment is required as stocks are getting low

II. Situation Overview

Ten days after the violent crackdown on a demonstration against the junta, life is slowly coming back to normal, though there is still a sense of shock in Conakry. The army is in turmoil and analysts agree that the current political and security situation has the potential to deteriorate further with serious humanitarian consequences.

Mediation has started in Conakry on Monday 5 October under the auspices of the regional body ECOWAS. Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore proposed that military government and opposition meet in Ouagadougou for further talks. The opposition meanwhile said it would not participate in talks to resolve the political crisis unless self declared President Camara stepped down.

International condemnation about the crackdown has increased with the French foreign minister's comments on the likely responsibility of Dadis in the killings and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton declared intention "to pursue appropriate actions" against Guinea's military rulers.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights will soon send an adviser to Guinea in order to investigate the situation while in the same time, the military government has announced yesterday 7 October the setting of a national commission to investigate the shooting of protesters in the capital. Its 31 members are to be drawn from political parties, unions and civic organizations as well as the military.

The latest figure¹ of the victims registered in the health facilities is currently 1,111 wounded, among which there are 101 patients hospitalized and 1010 in ambulatory treatment, and 64 deaths. The victims of sexual violence range in the 30 although several NGOs indicate that women refrain from reporting rapes due to the risk of social stigmatization and fear from security forces.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Health

- A first review of the current response to the medical needs of the victims of violence indicates that in comparison to similar events in early 2007, lessons have been learnt and that the use of the ORSEC (coordination of assistance) plan had addressed some of the shortcomings identified two years ago. However, all partners were not equally aware of the plan and information contained will have to be updated. The crisis cell will circulate the plan for review.
- As ambulatory and hospitalization treatment of the victims continue, some drugs and medical equipments are running out of stocks. A consolidated list is being prepared in collaboration with international medical organizations and national health authorities. It aims at ensuring continued treatment for about 1,000 wounded patients through hospitals and peripheral health centers.

¹ Health authorities, WHO and other partners, up to 7 October 2009

- Urgent restocking of drugs and medical equipment is required as stocks are getting low and it is feared that a new upsurge of violence may arise. Once the consolidated drug list is finalized it will be circulated to partners and donors. A request for CERF funding was also sent to New York to replenish stocks from UNICEF and WHO.

Protection

- Confusion remains regarding the number of victims of sexual violence. AGUIAS, a national organization of social worker registered 28 women, including 18 benefitting from health and psychosocial assistance in their reception center. According to national authorities, 33 women sought treatment in health centers. In order to avoid duplication of figure and to improve caretaking of the victims, the Protection cluster has decided on 8 October to request all NGOs operating in the 5 districts of Conakry to systematically identify and collect information on the victims of sexual violence.
- UNFPA made an international order for the supply of 10 PEP kits that will reach Conakry within a week to 10 days and will be able to cover for the needs of 500 victims of rape.
- The number of persons detained is unknown at this stage though it seems that most people arrested have been released by now at the noticeable exception of military camps for which no information is available and access is denied. Terre des Hommes and Sabou Guinea, two nongovernmental organizations have toured all police custody and other detention facilities in the capital and confirmed the absence of detainees of the 28 September events.
- The Red Cross movement is collecting information from families in order to trace persons that are reported missing since the 28th September.
- Although information circulated about population movement between Guinea and Sierra Leone, in connection with the violent repression on 28 September and following days, only one Guinean family is confirmed to have sought refuge in this neighboring country.

Food and Nutrition

- Provision of food for hospitalized and ambulatory patients is still not provided in health care facilities. A request for budget allocation was made through the ministry of Interior (MATAP) but is expected to take long before approval. Other options are being investigated.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- Together with the national sanitation authorities, UNICEF assessed the hygiene and sanitation situation in Donka and Ignace Deen hospitals on 3 October. Findings highlight the urgent need to improve safe water supply in Ignace Deen and to rehabilitate latrines in both hospitals in order to avoid dissemination of communicable diseases.

IV. Coordination

Contingency plans are revised in the light of the evolving situation following the 28 September violence upsurge. While scenario and humanitarian consequences are still valid, response plan and identification of gaps, especially regarding stocks will be updated. Current contingency stocks especially regarding medical equipment and drugs, non food and food items, are insufficient to address needs should the situation further deteriorate.

A second IASC meeting was held on Tuesday 6 October in Conakry in which United Nations agencies, NGOs, the Red Cross Movement, and donors debated about the current situation and identify humanitarian needs. The health cluster met twice this week, on 5 and on 8 October while the protection cluster had a session on 8 and the Water, Hygiene and Sanitation sector had a meeting on 7 October.

V. Funding

A request for CERF funding has been sent on 7 October to the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes. The projects from UNICEF and WHO that form the basis of the request seek to address the needs of the victims of physical and sexual violence, in term of health care, provision of food for ambulatory and hospitalized patients, as well as through hygiene and sanitation restoration of health facilities. The amount requested is USD 1,101,700.

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.

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