

SCS Guinea: Citizen Involvement in Health Governance

Overview

The Citizen Involvement in Health Governance (CIHG) project (2017 – 2020, \$12.17 million) is a USAID-funded initiative to improve citizens' understanding of and participation in Guinea's health system reforms. By expanding meaningful opportunities for Guineans to engage in their country's health reforms and see the impact of their participation, CIHG is contributing to post-Ebola recovery, strengthening public trust in Guinea's health sector governance and improving service delivery.

Guinean Context

Since its introduction, the Human Development Index has consistently listed Guinea among the world's poorest and least developed nations. During 2014-2015, the Ebola outbreak and accompanying infection of almost 4,000 Guineans underscored Guinea's development challenges, notably a weak system of Conakry-centric institutions unprepared to respond to a public health crisis of this magnitude. While the Government of Guinea has made strides to strengthen service delivery and preparedness for possible future emergencies, additional progress is needed.

Major Program Components

Constructive dialogue expanded between elected and appointed officials and citizens through:

- Training legislators on how to conduct budget analysis, the budget law, and the national budgeting process, especially as it relates to the public health system.
- Organizing budgetary working groups, field visits and civic-engagement opportunities.
- Training journalists and local media to report effectively on public health issues and health reforms, along with strengthening communications between the MOH and press.
- Developing the capacity of local radio stations and community theatres to produce interactive shows and performances on community health issues so citizens better understand reforms and how to become more involved.

More effective civic advocacy for health reform by:

- Awarding civil society organizations (CSOs) research grants to strengthen the evidence-base for further advancing health reform.
- Awarding CSOs grants to mobilize constituencies for health reform and implement FHI 360's Good Governance Barometer into their public monitoring and health advocacy activities.
- Developing CSO capacity across a range of competencies, including evidenced-based research and advocacy, strategic planning, management, and monitoring and evaluation.

Achievements

- **Guinea's 2019 health budget was increased by 25% and now constitutes 8.2% of the national budget**, following CIHG initiatives.
- Twenty-nine legislators, National Assembly (NA) staff and representatives of the Ministry of Health (MOH) traveled to 47 locations to meet with Guineans from all walks of life to solicit citizen feedback and recommendations for improving health governance. **Key findings from these field visits made their way into the 2019 budget**, including funding for urgent facility repairs, eliminating undisclosed line items and increased funding for decentralized services.
- The NA and MOH applied CIHG budget training to collaborate and identify specific actions to further improve the 2019 budget, and the NA Health Commission now has a multi-year action plan informed by an array of voices.
- **Over 12,500 Guineans have participated in health-reform-focused community theater performances**, learning about key reforms and discussing persisting issues, thanks to 110 CIHG-trained actors from 17 theater groups.
- **Enhanced the reporting skills of more than 160 journalists from 12 radio stations**, especially on health governance, leading to the airing of 36 radio programs on health reforms and health governance.

Updated February 2019



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



WWW.NGOCONNECT.NET