



GUINEA

COMMUNITY EPIDEMIC AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMME

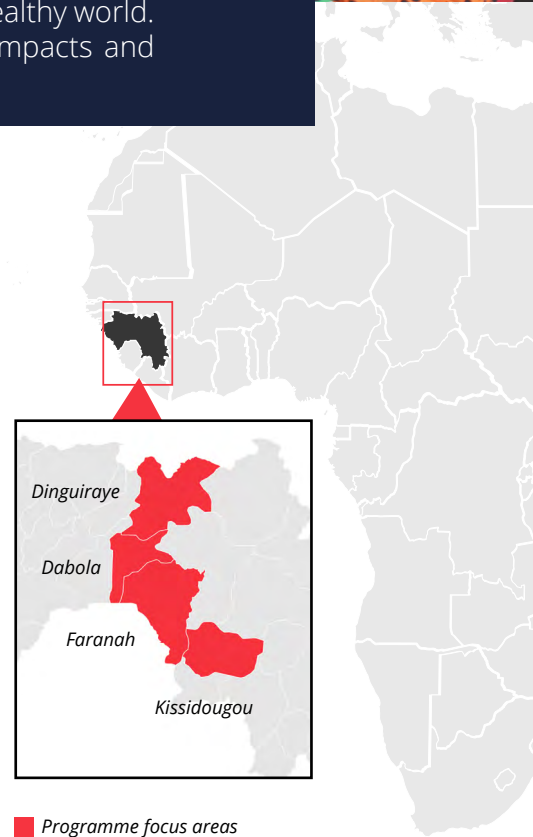
Early detection. Early action. Healthier communities.

Epidemics and pandemics are some of the biggest threats to a safe and healthy world. But with effective preparedness and response, we can minimize their impacts and even stop them in their tracks.

Guinea is experiencing a perilous health situation with considerable risks of infectious diseases. In recent years, the country has recorded several outbreaks, including Ebola, meningitis, polio and measles. Despite the Government's efforts to prevent and tackle common diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS, Guinea continues to record low life expectancy and a high mortality rates.

The Guinea Red Cross, with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and funding from USAID, is helping communities to prepare for and prevent the spread of diseases. Volunteers raise awareness of health risks, particularly with regard to diseases such as rabies, viral hemorrhagic fevers, yellow fever and COVID-19. The Guinea Red Cross works with governments, communities, local responders, and humanitarian partners to collectively prepare for, and respond to, epidemics.

Through its extensive network of community volunteers, the Guinea Red Cross is providing critical information, community-based surveillance, and referrals in hard-to-reach areas, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Livestock and the National Health Security Agency.



506

confirmed cases included measles, acute water diarrhea, polio, meningitis, yellow fever, animal rabies, animal VHF between January 2020 and March 2024.

138,800+

household visits between January 2020 and March 2024.

1,604

volunteers and supervisors trained in epidemic control and community-based surveillance



OUR WORK



Preparing communities

We make sure communities have critical information about the spread of diseases and how to prevent them, systems to detect outbreaks, and mechanisms that ensure information sharing and community engagement. Activities include:

- Community engagement and health promotion through door-to-door visits and group discussions.
- Strengthening community-based surveillance systems for human and animal diseases.
- Engaging, training and collaborating with influential people in the community, such as religious leaders, traditional healers and body washers.



Preparing first responders

With more than 6,000 volunteers, the Guinea Red Cross has extraordinary reach in communities across the country. Through its auxiliary role to government, it is often central to emergency response during disease outbreaks. Activities include:

- Developing Guinea Red Cross' multi-hazard plan and training Red Cross first response teams in close coordination with key partners.
- Strengthening response systems to enable a rapid and large-scale response.
- Training and strengthening of One Health Platforms and Health and Hygiene Committees.



Preparing stakeholders

Epidemics don't just threaten lives. They threaten all parts of society, including trade, transport, and education. We work with a wide range of stakeholders in epidemic preparedness and response. Activities include:

- Collecting key data and mapping intervention areas.
- Training stakeholders in the use of information systems to prevent, prepare for and respond to outbreaks.
- Training media to report accurate, lifesaving information that helps people before and during disease outbreaks.

Supporting communities in the fight against rabies

Rabies is a deadly viral disease, most commonly spread from animals to humans through the bite of infected animals—mainly dogs. Endemic in Guinea, the disease poses a huge public health threat to communities across the country. Through CP3, the Guinea Red Cross is reducing rabies risks by raising community awareness, supporting animal vaccination campaigns, keeping tabs on the canine population, and implementing community-based surveillance to report potential rabies cases.

“What motivated me is that I now understand the risks of an unvaccinated dog. The dog is a faithful companion but can become dangerous if you don't look after it properly. I decided to vaccinate my dogs thanks to the engagement from the Guinea Red Cross.”

Mamadi Fofana, community member in Faranah

