



Navigating the Post-Conflict Landscape: A Policy Brief on Medical System Reconstruction and Maternal Health in Guinea

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Abstract

Post-conflict states in Africa face profound challenges in rebuilding health systems, with maternal health outcomes often severely compromised. Guinea's period of instability left medical infrastructure fragmented and obstetric services critically under-resourced, creating a sustained crisis in women's healthcare. This policy brief analyses the challenges and opportunities in reconstructing Guinea's medical system, focusing on maternal health. It aims to provide evidence-informed guidance for policymakers to strengthen service delivery and improve outcomes. The brief synthesises findings from a desk-based review of grey literature, national and international agency reports, and programme evaluations concerning Guinea's health sector recovery. Thematic analysis identified persistent barriers and emergent strategies. A central finding is the critical shortage of skilled birth attendants in rural regions, a direct legacy of conflict-induced workforce displacement. This shortage is a primary contributor to high rates of facility-based maternal mortality. Analysis indicated that successful interventions were those integrating vertical health programmes into a horizontally strengthened primary care system. Reconstructing a resilient maternal health system in post-conflict Guinea requires a long-term, system-wide approach beyond short-term projects. Sustainable recovery depends on workforce development, infrastructure investment, and integrated service planning. Prioritise the training, deployment, and retention of midwives and obstetric clinicians in rural areas. Strengthen the integration of maternal health services into rehabilitated primary healthcare centres. Establish a dedicated, protected budget line for reproductive health commodities and equipment. Post-conflict health systems, Maternal health, Medical reconstruction, Guinea, Health policy, Workforce, Skilled birth attendance This brief provides a consolidated analysis for policymakers, distilling lessons from Guinea's experience to inform more effective maternal health system reconstruction in post-conflict settings.

Keywords: *Health systems strengthening, Post-conflict reconstruction, Maternal mortality, Sub-Saharan Africa, Fragile states, Health policy analysis, Humanitarian medicine*



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