

HUMAN RIGHTS IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA

UPR Info Pre-sesiones

Introduction

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- Themes:
 1. **Women and girls' rights.**
 2. **Health rights and access to education.**
- To our knowledge, **the government did not conduct any consultation** with CSOs for this UPR cycle on these items.

Women and girls' rights- Background

- 44 recommendations supported in the last UPR.
- Despite UN support and a slight improvement in political representation, the situation remains worrying.

Women and girls' rights – Challenges

1. According to UNFPA, between 80 and 90 per cent of Guinean women have experienced some form of violence.
2. 1 in 3 women admit that they suffered sexual violence.
3. Barriers to reporting gender-based violence.
4. Education for pregnant girls continues to be prohibited

Women and girls' rights - Recommendations

- ❑ Develop a plan for assistance, protection and reintegration of victims of gender-based violence and facilitate access to justice.
- ❑ Expressly prohibit the marriage of underage girls.
- ❑ To revoke the ministerial resolution of 18 July 2017 prohibiting the schooling of pregnant women.

Health and education- Background

- 25 recommendations on health and 21 recommendations related to Education were supported by Equatorial Guinea
- The government launched a Plan for the Improvement of Public Hospitals
- On HIV/AIDS there is a free medication program, and a National HIV/AIDS plan supported by the United Nations
- There is a support program of the Association of Catholic Centers of Equatorial Guinea

Despite these programs, health and education indicators remain worrying.

Health and education – Challenges

1. 20.6% of those who died in 2022 were under 5 years old.
2. HIV prevalence is 7.6% and the data does not reduce.
3. Menstrual poverty affects 75% of women or girls in rural areas and 45% in urban areas.
4. A 40% reduction in funding for primary education programs in 2022.
5. In 2023, the government banned 31 secondary schools for poor performance without presenting an alternative plan for students.
6. Education is not free as provided for in the legislation.
7. Endemic corruption and poor governance affect both health and .education

Health and Education– Recommendations

1. Install sanitary kits in educational centers with free access to sanitary towels and condoms
2. Increase salaries for health and health workers.
3. Implement sexual and reproductive education programs, with emphasis on HIV/AIDS.
4. Guarantee free education by compensating public and private schools with public funding.
5. Improve the quality of education through financial and transparent support to school.
6. Fight against corruption specifically in health and education sectors.