

# Country Disease Outlook

## Equatorial Guinea

August 2023



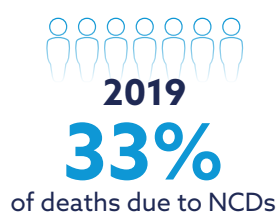
### Background

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea is a country in central Africa. It is bordered by Cameroon and Gabon. It is an upper middle-income country with a GDP per capita of US\$ 7,054 (2022) and a population of 1.7 million (2022).

### Key points

- ◆ Equatorial Guinea has a high burden of communicable and non-communicable disease (NCDs), with the latter making up 33% of deaths in 2019. However, there has been very limited progress made against the NCD Progress Indicators.
- ◆ Equatorial Guinea improved its child survival rates between 2015 and 2021, however it is not yet meeting the SDG targets for neonatal or under-five mortality rates.
- ◆ Equatorial Guinea is endemic for four of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA). In 2020, 93% of the of the 284,343 people targeted were reached with MDA.
- ◆ Equatorial Guinea vaccination coverage rates are not yet meeting the 90% target for vaccination in children, reaching only 53% with both the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine and the first dose of measles-containing vaccine in 2021. While strengthening the routine immunization system to reach new cohorts sustainably, Equatorial Guinea should also consider the implementation of appropriate catch-up vaccination strategies to protect these cohorts of children from vaccine-preventable diseases and reduce the probability of outbreaks in the future.





## Broad disease outlook

The country has a high burden of both communicable (such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS) and non-communicable disease (NCDs). The latter was estimated to have caused 33% of deaths in 2019.

## Communicable diseases

### Malaria

Malaria remains a public health problem in Equatorial Guinea with an estimated 348,428 cases in 2021 (with incidence rate of 213.2 cases per 1,000), resulting in 785 deaths. While the malaria incidence rate has been decreasing steadily since 2015, the country is no longer on track to meet the targets set by the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria.

### Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS

In 2021, incidence of tuberculosis for Equatorial Guinea was 275 cases per 100,000 people. The mortality rate of TB cases (all forms, excluding HIV coinfection) has increased since 2015, going from 37 to 43 per 100,000 population in 2021. In contrast, the TB mortality rate among HIV-positive people has fallen from 69 to 55 in the same period.

Equatorial Guinea has not met the 95-95-95 goals:

- ▲ 51% of people living with HIV that know their status.
- ▲ 81% of people living with HIV who know their status are on treatment.
- ▲ There is limited data on the number of people living with HIV and on treatment who are virally suppressed.

Approximately 27,541 people were receiving antiretroviral treatment in 2021.

### Neglected tropical diseases

Equatorial Guinea was endemic for four of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA), namely lymphatic filariasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, schistosomiasis, and trachoma. In 2020, 264,905 of the 284,343 targeted (93%) were reached with MDA.

Other notable NTDs that remain endemic are human Africa trypanosomiasis (*gambiense*), foodborne trematodiasis, taeniasis and cysticercosis, leprosy and rabies.

## Non-communicable diseases

NCDs are a significant health problem in Equatorial Guinea. The age-standardised mortality rate across four major NCDs (Cardiovascular Disease, Chronic Respiratory Disease, Cancer and Diabetes) was high at 675 per 100,000 in males and 642 in females in 2021.

Equatorial Guinea has implemented initial efforts on the NCD targets and tobacco taxes, however there is very limited progress against the remaining indicator. These include those relating to NCD policy and plans, NCD guidelines, tobacco indicators, alcohol indicators, salt policies, trans fats policies, marketing to children and physical activity awareness.

## Childhood Immunization

Equatorial Guinea's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically not been at the 90% target levels. In 2021, coverage for the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine and the first dose of measles vaccine was just 53%.

In 2021, there were an estimated 22,349 under-immunised children and 10,937 zero-dose children. While strengthening the routine immunization system to reach new cohorts sustainably, Equatorial Guinea should consider the implementation of appropriate catch-up vaccination strategies to protect these cohorts of children from vaccine-preventable diseases and reduce the probability of outbreaks in the future.

## Child survival

Based on the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) estimates, the under-5 mortality rate has fallen from 94 to 77 per 1,000 live births between 2015 and 2021, although it is still well above the SDG target of 25 per 1,000 live births. Similarly, the neonatal mortality rate decreased from 32 to 29 per 1,000 live births in the same period, remaining above the SDG target of 12.

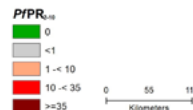
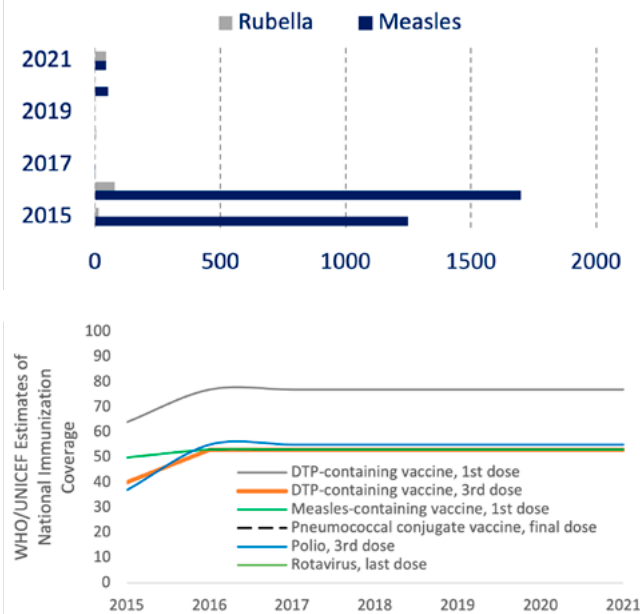
**MALARIA**

POPULATION AT RISK IN 2022	TOTAL MALARIA CASES IN 2021	TOTAL MALARIA DEATHS IN 2021
<b>1.6 million people</b>	<b>348,428</b>	<b>785</b>



*Plasmodium falciparum* malaria prevalence in children in Equatorial Guinea in 2020. Estimates from the Malaria Atlas project

**EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDREN**



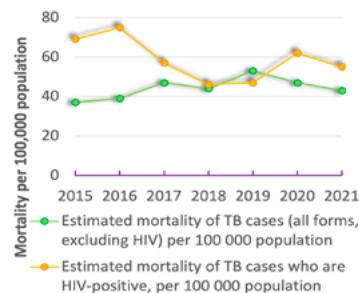
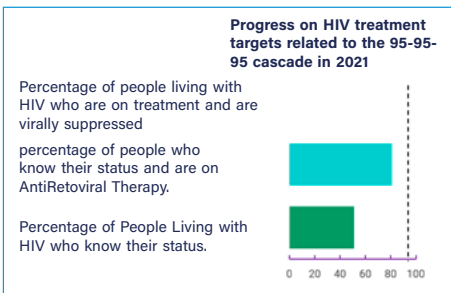
**Zero dose children 10,937 Under-immunized 22,349**

With the exception of DPT1, WUENIC estimates show that vaccination coverage remains less than 60% in Equatorial Guinea.

A major outbreak of Measles was observed in 2015-16 and also in 2021

**HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS**

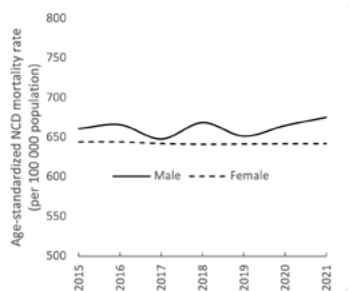
- 27,541 people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021
- 0% TB cases
- 10% of children (aged < 5 years) household contacts of bacteriologically-confirmed TB cases on preventive treatment
- 73% Domestic funding for TB
- Unknown Domestic funding for HIV



- Indicator 1 - Targets
- Indicator 2 - CRV Mortality
- Indicator 3 - Surveys
- Indicator 4 - NCD policy and Plan
- Indicator 5A - Tobacco taxes
- Indicator 5B - Tobacco smoke free/pollution
- Indicator 5C - Tobacco health warning
- Indicator 5D - Tobacco advertising ban
- Indicator 5E - Tobacco media campaign
- Indicator 6A - Alcohol availability
- Indicator 6B - Alcohol advertising restrictions
- Indicator 6C - Alcohol taxes
- Indicator 7A - Salt policies
- Indicator 7B - Trans fats policies
- Indicator 7C - Marketing to children
- Indicator 8 - Physical activity awareness
- Indicator 9 - NCD guidelines

**NCD PROGRESS INDICATORS**

- Achieved
- Partially achieved
- Not achieved/Unknown



**NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES**

- Endemic NTDS requiring Preventive Chemotherapy (PC)**
- Lymphatic filariasis
  - Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
  - Schistosomiasis
  - Trachoma
  - Onchocerciasis (non-endemic)

**PC-NTDs treatment in 2021**  
 284,343 Million targeted for MDA  
 264,905 Million treated with MDA

- OTHER MAJOR NTDS**
- Human African trypanosomiasis (gambianse)
  - Foodborne trematodiasis
  - Taeniasis and cysticercosis
  - Leprosy
  - Rabies