

Enabling Social Innovation in Guinea



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Country Snapshot

Social innovation: "the processes and outcomes of developing novel approaches to address societal challenges facing people and planet." ↓

This snapshot represents a descriptive, non-exhaustive overview of key highlights from Guinea’s social innovation ecosystem.

Direct focus on social innovation Connected but indirect focus on social innovation No focus on social innovation

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK



Official Definition of Social Innovation

While a standalone public definition of social innovation was not identified in the reviewed Guinean sources, adjacent official language is active around innovation, economic and social inclusion, entrepreneurship, SME support, and cooperatives. This creates a practical entry point for social innovation, even if the term itself is not yet institutionalised.



Government Body for Social Innovation

Guinea does not appear to have a single dedicated social innovation authority. Related functions are distributed across the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (MESRSI), the National Agency for Economic and Social Inclusion (ANIES), and the Agency for the Promotion of Private Investment (APIP). ANIES was established in 2019 to support economic and social inclusion initiatives.



Government Strategy for Social Innovation

While there is no standalone national strategy for social innovation, related priorities are embedded within the Programme de Référence Intérimaire 2022–2025, which emphasizes social action, employment, employability, and financial, technological, and entrepreneurial inclusion, particularly for women and youth. Guinea also adopted a National Financial Inclusion Strategy in 2021, providing an enabling framework for inclusive entrepreneurship and innovation.



Policies, Laws & Regulations

Although Guinea has not adopted legislation specifically focused on social innovation, several broader frameworks support enabling conditions:

- Investment Code (2015) and associated implementation decrees providing fiscal and customs incentives for investors.
- Legal framework governing inclusive financial institutions and financial inclusion.
- Laws governing associations, cooperatives, and community-based organisations.
- OHADA cooperative regulations supporting cooperative enterprise development.

Official Statistics



Dedicated official statistics on social innovation or social enterprises were not identified. However, the National Institute of Statistics (INS) and sector ministries regularly publish statistical information on employment, enterprises, youth, and economic activity that could contribute to future measurement efforts.

Government Programs



Several government and government-supported initiatives contribute to social and economic inclusion:

- NAFA / Emergency Response and Program Support Project provides cash transfers and productive inclusion measures for vulnerable households through ANIES, supported by World Bank financing.
- PADIRPME received African Development Bank financing in 2024 to strengthen industrial development and SME resilience, with particular attention to women and youth entrepreneurs.
- FODEL supports local economic development, public services, employment, and income-generating activities in mining-affected communities.

ECOSYSTEM

Stakeholders



Guinea's ecosystem includes public institutions, universities, development partners, and entrepreneurship-support organisations.

Key actors include:

- UNDP Guinea Accelerator Lab.
- Orange Digital Center Guinea.
- Saboutech incubator.
- APIP and ANIES.
- Cité des Sciences et de l'Innovation de Guinée (CSIG).

Support Initiatives



Support infrastructure continues to expand through entrepreneurship and innovation programs:

- Orange Digital Center Guinea provides free training in coding, entrepreneurship, and digital innovation.
- Saboutech supports entrepreneurship, digital skills, education, and ecological transition initiatives.
- AUF ENTREPRENDRE, implemented with MESRSI, promotes entrepreneurial culture and university-based pre-incubation.
- University initiatives include Lab'InTech at the University of Labé and the Master GIEF FabLab at the University of Kindia.

Collaboration



Cross-sector collaboration is increasingly visible.

Examples include:

- Partnerships between Orange Digital Center and German development cooperation.
- MESRSI-supported hackathons and student entrepreneurship competitions.
- Guinea's participation in the UN Global Accelerator since 2024, supporting national efforts related to employment, social protection, and just transition priorities.

FINANCE

Financing Schemes



The financing landscape is currently driven primarily by public and development-partner resources rather than a mature domestic impact-investment market.

Key financing channels include:

- NAFA productive inclusion financing.
- PADIRPME support for SMEs and industrial development.
- FODEL territorial development financing.
- Investment facilitation and SME-support mechanisms coordinated through APIP and related government agencies.

Inclusiveness of Financing



Inclusivity is a notable feature of current financing programs. Priority beneficiaries commonly include:

- Women entrepreneurs.
- Youth entrepreneurs and job seekers.
- Poor and vulnerable households.
- Rural and mining-affected communities.

SOCIETY

Public Awareness of Social Innovation



Public discourse in Guinea is generally stronger around innovation, entrepreneurship, employment, and inclusion than around the specific term “social innovation.” Nevertheless, UNDP’s Guinea Accelerator Lab explicitly incorporates social innovation within its programming, helping to build visibility and understanding of the concept.

Research



Research and innovation capacity is gradually strengthening.

Examples include:

- The Centre d’Innovation et de Recherche pour le Développement (CIRD), an independent public-utility research centre established in 2015.
- The Cité des Sciences et de l’Innovation de Guinée (CSIG), which promotes research, innovation, and scientific excellence.

Education



Several initiatives support innovation-oriented skills development and entrepreneurship:

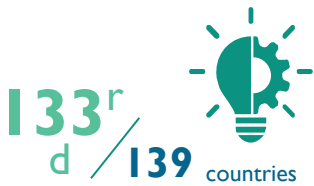
- AUF ENTREPRENDRE entrepreneurship and pre-incubation programs.
- FabLab-based innovation learning at the University of Kindia.
- Innovation and technology initiatives at the University of Labé.
- Digital-skills training through Orange Digital Center Guinea.

Entrepreneurship



Business Environment

In the latest available Doing Business assessment, Guinea ranked 156th of 190 economies, with a score of 49.4.



Innovation Capacity

Guinea ranked 133rd of 139 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2025.



Social entrepreneurship

Publicly available Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) social entrepreneurship indicators for Guinea were not identified in the reviewed sources.

Social & Environmental Consciousness



Solidarity

The World Bank's Country Climate and Development Report highlights significant long-term climate risks while identifying adaptation opportunities

The country ranked 152nd in the ND-GAIN Country Index.



Political participation

Political participation remains visible through continued citizen engagement in electoral processes.



Volunteering

Guinea ranked 13th globally in the CAF World Giving Index 2024.



Sustainability

Guinea ranked 149th of 180 countries in the Environmental Performance Index 2024.