

GUINEA: POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Appeal no: 33/00
21 November, 2000

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 377,087
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 140,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 3 MONTHS***

The Disaster

Liberia and Sierra Leone have been subject to civil war for the last 10 years, conflicts which have not diminished in brutality nor in their potential for destruction. The intensity of the conflicts have varied at times, and has caused some 450,000 Liberian and Sierra Leonan refugees to seek shelter and assistance in Guinea from the violence in their countries of origin.

While the political and security prospects appeared favourable at the beginning of 2000 with relative stability returning to Liberia and the signature of a peace agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), the situation has changed dramatically in the last few months. Conflict broke out in Liberia's northern Lofa area as well as in Sierra Leone where several thousands were forced to flee across the border. There were reportedly repeated incursions into Guinea, resulting in the deaths of 360 persons and material losses. An attack on the town of Macenta in Guinea-Forestiere on 17 September caused a crisis in the refugee operation. During the confrontation, the head of UNHCR's sub-office was murdered, provoking the evacuation of all international staff and the temporary halt of assistance operations. Following these events, the authorities restricted the refugees to their camps and took the decision to repatriate Liberian refugees. The national authorities also insisted on the transfer of the camps which are close to the border.

Following the Government decision to integrate all the refugees in camps and to close the sites close to the border, a reorientation of the operation has now become essential, requiring the transfer of 125,000 refugees to new sites, the transfer of 40,000 refugees in Forecariah, and the repatriation of almost 60,000 Liberian refugees in N'Zerekore. At the beginning of October activities in Guinea had evolved to a point where humanitarian organisations, with the exception of the UN agencies, could consider a return to the

area. Initial indications showed that the situation of the refugees is extremely worrying: sanitary conditions in the camps have deteriorated, refugees have been intimidated and stripped of belongings, and the operational agencies lack the means to provide the needed assistance. According to UNHCR, the cost of the refugee transfer operation is estimated at 13 million US dollars.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Conakry •

Since 9 September the Guinean Red Cross (GRC), with the support of two Federation delegates, carried out essential weekly food distributions for urban refugees in Conakry who were accommodated and sheltered in various communal centres and the Sierra Leone and Liberian embassies. These distributions made it possible to assist more than 5,000 people in one month.

Forecariah •

The Forecariah prefecture was affected by the sporadic attacks (6 September in Pamélap, Modia, Forodou and Benty and 30 October in Farmoriah). The GRC, with the support of the Federation, continues refugee assistance programmes by distributing food to 27,353 refugees in seven camps, the construction of four hangars, and the installation of 20 family tents in the camps of Kaliah I and Kaliah II. The ICRC is dealing with assistance to the displaced population and those in need of immediate medical care, in collaboration with the GRC prefectural committee.

Macenta •

The city and prefecture were severely affected by the September events, but Red Cross volunteers, under the co-ordination of the ICRC, at least maintained services such as collecting and burring the dead and transporting the wounded to hospitals. Refugee assistance activities such as maintaining transit points, cooking facilities, and shelter for sick refugees remained operational. The GRC also continued the assistance to refugees being treated at the Macenta hospital. The distribution of WFP food planned for Sunday September 17 did not take place for security reasons but was carried out the following week by volunteers of the prefectural committees of the Red Cross of Macenta.

Gueckedou •

Following the transfer of the two Federation delegates to Conakry and of all the Federation vehicles to Kankan on 19 September, the Gueckedou Red Cross prefectural committee took charge of the Federation offices, ensuring permanent radio contact between the delegation and the Macenta and Kissidougou Red Cross prefectural committees so that some of the assistance activities could be maintained. The Gueckedou sanitation activities, halted on 17 September due to a lack of logistical capacity, restarted again on Monday 16 October with the return of the two trucks which had been stationed in Kankan.

Kissidougou •

The Massakoundou camp health station ceased its activities on 19 September due to a lack of logistics capacity and for security concerns. The remaining GRC staff nevertheless continued to ensure the delivery of care and contacts with the Kissidougou hospital. On 6 October, the health station reopened and a Federation vehicle from Kankan resumed evacuation services including the transfer of referral patients from the camp to the hospital. The communal kitchen programme for sick refugees at the hospital continued to operate during the crisis.

N'Zerekore •

Individual assistance for vulnerable Liberian refugees continued to be delivered in N'Zerekore by the social services section of the GRC prefectural committee. In the other prefectures, this activity started on 23 October. Again, the lack of logistics capacity and the restricted circulation prevented the delivery of assistance to the refugees.

Plan of Action - December 2000 - February 2001

N'Zerekore •

The care and maintenance programme for Liberian refugees which had been suspended in view of the integration and repatriation operation will resume within the framework of the transfer and the relocation of approximately 60,000 urban refugees and refugees living in border areas to the four new sites of Kola, Laine, Nonah and Kobela.

The halt of assistance activities at the end of 1999 had resulted in the departure of all the NGO's and certain international organisations, leaving only the GRC and the Federation in charge of maintaining integration and repatriation programmes, in partnership with UNHCR and with the assistance of GTZ for logistics. With the resumption of care and maintenance programmes, the National Society and the Federation are working in the following sectors:

- Social and communale activities will consist of assisting extremely vulnerable refugees with services including the preparation of hot meals during transfer operations, as well as consulting, advising, sensitising, and distribution of non-food items in the new sites (see details below).
- Sanitation activities related to the management of health stations in the 4 camps, including nutritional monitoring, transporting sick refugees to health centres, reimbursement of health care costs, the external purchases of drugs in the referral hospitals as well as IEC (Information Education Communication) in the field of community health.
- Repatriation activities including individual support to extremely vulnerable refugees, the distribution of repatriation packages, the preparation of hot meals, the provisioning of transit centres with drinking water, and medical screening.

Guekedou •

In spite of a marked deceleration of the social and medical activities between 17 September and 6 October, the Federation's sub-delegation will remain operational. For the 250,000 refugees of the prefecture, the Guekedou office will continue to ensure the supervision of all the activities in progress, and will deal with the same types of activities in the Guekedou region camps still left without humanitarian assistance.

Kissidougou •

Plans entail relocating 80,000 Sierra Leonean refugees to 4 new sites to be arranged in the north of the city (on the Kankan and Kouroussa axis). Kissidougou will thus become a new base for activities in the zone west of Guinea-Forestiere. The Federation and the GRC, which already had a social sectors office in the town of Kissidougou, will reinforce its structure initially by opening an office. This new base will provide support to transfer, health, and community/social programmes. As in N'Zerekore, similar types of assistance will be delivered (hot meals, providing advice, and distributing non-food items).

Needs

Immediate support is needed to begin the transfer operation of some 80,000 refugees currently located in camps near the border as well as urban-based beneficiaries. In addition to the need to arrange a Federation and GRC office in Kissidougou, the Federation also needs to reinforce its structure in N'Zerekore at a site which will have to accommodate some 30,000 Liberian refugees from Macenta and the prefectures of N'Zerekore, Lola, Yomou, Beyla. Old camps will be rehabilitated in this zone to accommodate the refugees. To ensure that the Federation is prepared to begin operations as soon as possible, CHF 25,000 is being released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). A sanitation programme will be implemented to clean wells and to drill water pumping points, as well as providing assistance to vulnerable groups of refugees. A health delegate in charge of the co-ordination of the health activities in Kissidougou and N'Zerekore is required. The operations base in Forecariah will be closed and one in Kindia will be installed to accommodate 40,000 refugees. Non-food items required are:

- 14,000 blankets;

- 10,000 mattresses;
- 20 tons metric of second hand clothing; and
- 30,000 pieces of soap

The Federation and the CRG also require the supplies to construct 8 hangars to be used for the temporary reception and shelter of refugees.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Jean Ayoub
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This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

<u>BUDGET SUMMARY</u>		APPEAL No. 33/2000
Guinea: Population Movements		
TYPE	VALUE	
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF	
Shelter & constructions (latrines/Boreholes)	5,200	
Clothing & textiles (Blankets, Mattresses, others)	163,000	
Food & seeds		
Water		
Medical & first aid (Hygiene supply/Chemicals)	10,000	
Teaching materials	1,400	
Utensils & tools (Jerry cans/Bucketx/basins)	590	
Other relief supplies	15,000	
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		195,190
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Vehicles		
Computers	12,436	
Telecom. equipment	20,992	
Generators	24,400	
Office/Household equipment	3,500	
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Management support	25,427	
Technical support	7,611	
Professional services	8,441	
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	12,460	
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
Expatriate staff	37,500	
National staff	9,573	
Training		
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>	19,556	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		181,897
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES		377,087
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		
NET REQUEST		377,087