



## GUINEA: POPULATION MOVEMENT

DREF Bulletin no. MDRGN002

30 January 2007

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 150,000 (USD 122,951 or EUR 93,313) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will be completed by end of April 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

[<Click here to go directly to the attached map>](#)

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

### Background and current situation

The socio-economic and political situation of the West Africa region is characterized by political unrests. These unrests are as a result of pre-campaign situations, up coming elections and population movements. This situation has been trying for most humanitarian actors based in this region.

Since 10 January 2007, unions in Guinea (Conakry) have been protesting against the high cost of living in the country. Lately, these protests have turned into a demand for change of government. Disagreements between the unions and the government have led to violent public demonstrations that have resulted to over 28 deaths and 167 injuries. The escalating violence has also led to food shortages which has in turn resulted in an increase in the price of essential products as well as shutdown of most commercial activities. In addition, the living conditions have become deplorable.

The violence has made some families along the borders to cross into neighbouring Guinea-Bissau for safety. Guinea Bissau is a rather fragile country characterized by internal political tension as well as economic and social struggles. The country is currently recovering from years of instability and civil unrest. Most infrastructure needs to be developed and the humanitarian community has recognized the need of strengthening the country's capacity. Security concerns have also escalated over the past few weeks and Guinea-Bissau officials have closed the Gabu post to prevent the influx of refugees from Guinea (Conakry).

## **Guinea: Population Movement; DREF Bulletin no. MDRGN002**

The situation in Guinea has become a major concern as it is likely to deter progress made in neighbouring Liberia and Sierra Leone, while Côte d'Ivoire remains volatile. Calls for peaceful negotiations from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the United Nations (UN) Secretary General have not bore fruit.

Furthermore, Guinea (Conakry) shares the longest part of its border with Sierra Leone and most of the population living along the border speak the same language or have relatives on either side. This makes it easy for people in Guinea (Conakry) to cross the border and mingle with those in Sierra Leone. The new influx of refugees from Guinea is likely to affect Sierra Leone, as it is still recovering from many years of civil war. There is also a significant number of Sierra Leone refugees in Guinea (Conakry) who might be forced to return home without a proper repatriation plan.

In addition, the majority of refugees remaining in Guinea Forestière are Liberians. Repatriation efforts by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) may be hampered by the crisis in Guinea as security concerns are still high in Liberia. The repatriation programme has been slow due to the infrastructure that needs to be rebuilt. A possible influx is expected (of Liberian returnees and refugees from Guinea) into Lofa, Bong and Nimba chapters, Liberia.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the border with Guinea is controlled by rebels who are opposed to the central government. Access to provide any humanitarian service in case of possible population movements might be complicated as the local population is also in dire need of assistance. The possible influx from Guinea is likely to increase the existing conflict in Côte d'Ivoire, as militia groups might exploit the situation to further destabilize the region.

Though politically stable, previous experiences in humanitarian operations with refugees in Mali have been challenging. The local Malian population might suffer from an increase in market prices of basic food items as well as the lack of adequate health care facilities along the border due to the influx of refugees from Guinea (Conakry).

Another neighbouring country, Senegal, is facing a rebellion in the southern region of Casamance. Though some agreements have been reached in the past, the situation is still uncertain. In addition, general elections are scheduled for February 2007. However, it is noted that a significant Guinean community already lives in the country. This community may have to host some of their relatives, but a good number is likely to be handled by the international community.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

Following the demonstrations, the Federation country office in Conakry, together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has been supporting efforts of the Red Cross Society of Guinea (RCSG) in providing first aid services.

The RCSG first aid brigades have been deployed in strategic locations throughout the country to attend to casualties and to evacuate the injured to different hospitals. With assistance from 1,000 volunteers, about 382 affected people have been assisted. The dead have been taken to the mortuary and the wounded to hospitals.

In the view of this situation, the national societies (NSs) of the countries neighbouring Guinea (Conakry), together with the Federation's representative in Guinea and the regional delegation in Dakar, have been reviewing their contingency plans and have identified some areas of improvement.

### **The needs**

There is a need to strengthen capacities of the RCSG as well as the neighbouring NSs in terms of preparedness so as to respond to any influx of refugees should the situation get worse. With most of social services closed due to security concerns, there is a need to reinforce volunteer mobilization and motivation.

### **Coordination**

The review of the contingency plan in the entire Guinea territory is ongoing, and joint coordination is taking place between ICRC, the Federation and RCSG in monitoring the situation. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) regional office in Dakar also requested other humanitarian agencies to update their contingency plans. The Federation regional delegation in Dakar is in regular contact with the Federation representative in Guinea and the NS through inter-agency meetings related to the crisis.

## Plan of action

**Objective: To contribute to restoring human dignity to the most vulnerable as well as improving the welfare of displaced populations.**

### Planned activities

- Providing logistical support to the Red Cross Society of Guinea and national societies of neighbouring countries.
- Mobilizing and motivating volunteers.
- Building the capacity of the local committees and providing first aid material to emergency response teams.
- Pre-positioning relief materials (especially non-food items such as blankets, mats, buckets and soap) for 5,000 displaced families.
- Training and re-training of emergency brigade volunteers along the borders.
- Deploying and installing telecommunication equipment.
- Deploying Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT).
- Strengthening the early warning system (EWS) mechanism.
- Monitoring and regional coordination.

### Expected results

- The Red Cross Society of Guinea has mobilized trained volunteers to assist during the demonstrations.
- The Red Cross volunteers are recognized, appreciated and motivated for their commitment.
- Red Cross branches along the borders with Guinea are well prepared for receiving refugees and/or returnees into their respective countries.
- Basic non-food items (NFIs) for 5,000 families are pre-positioned in the sub-region.

### *For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:*

- **In Guinea:** Dr Mohammed Camara, Ag Executive Secretary, Red Cross Society of Guinea, Conakry; Email: [crgconakry@yahoo.fr](mailto:crgconakry@yahoo.fr); Phone +224.60.200.159.
- **In Guinea:** Anthony Gyedu-Adomako, Federation Representative in Guinea, Conakry; Email: [anthony.gyeduadomako@ifrc.org](mailto:anthony.gyeduadomako@ifrc.org); Phone +224.60.353.301.
- **In Senegal:** Alasan Senghore, Federation Head of West and Central Africa Regional Delegation, Dakar; Email: [alasan.senghore@ifrc.org](mailto:alasan.senghore@ifrc.org); Phone +221.869.36.41; Fax +221. 860.20.02.
- **In Geneva:** Madeleine Lundberg, Federation Regional Officer for West and Central Africa, Africa Dept; Email: [madeleine.lundberg@ifrc.org](mailto:madeleine.lundberg@ifrc.org); Phone +41.22.730.43.35; Fax +41.22.733.03.95.

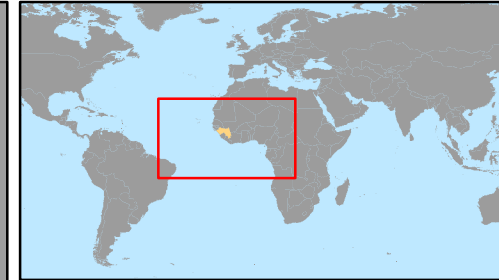
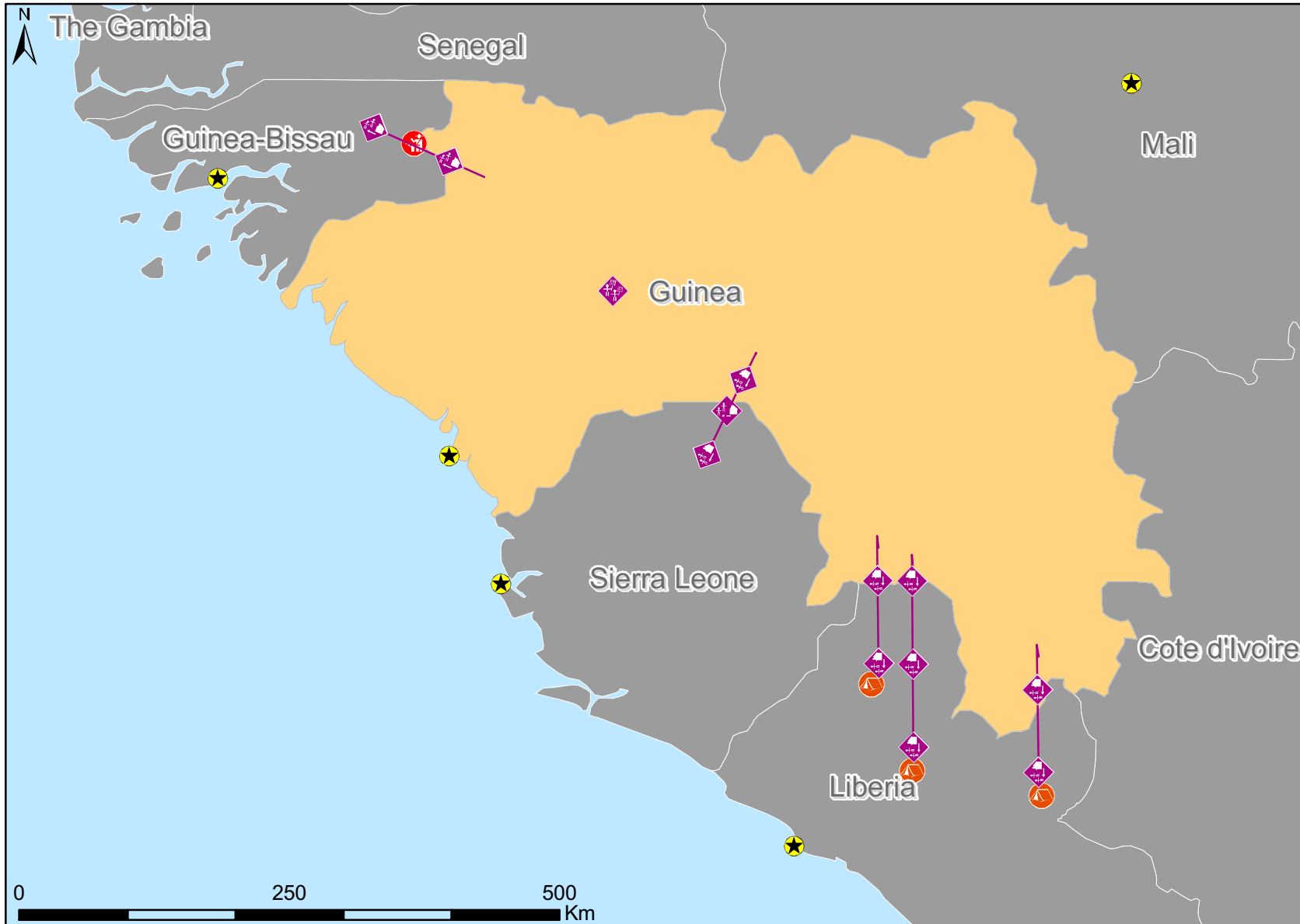
All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.






For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

<[Map below; click here to return to the title page](#)>



## Guinea: Population movement



-  Custom
-  PopMov
-  Refugees
-  Riot
-  Capitales