

**Preliminary
appeal no: 19/98**

Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Conakry & Cape Verde: Population movements from Guinea-Bissau

***THIS PRELIMINARY APPEAL
SEEKS CHF 159,000
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 10,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 1 MONTH***

Summary

The recent rebellion in Guinea-Bissau has triggered massive population movements. Up to 300,000 people are on the move within the country, and thousands have left by plane, boat, road or on foot, principally for Senegal, Gambia, Cape Verde and Guinea-Conakry. Several hundred have died and camps of internally displaced people have sprung up all over the country. This preliminary appeal aims to support National Societies in the sub-region to bring relief to those fleeing to neighbouring countries. International Federation assistance for the reorganisation of volunteers and the reinforcement of management capacity of the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross Society will be included in an ICRC co-ordinated appeal.

The Situation

On 7 June rebel troops, led by the former Chief of Staff General Mane attacked the army headquarters, leading to heavy fighting in Bissau city and some outlying parts of the country. Troops from Guinea Conakry and Senegal were sent to support the government troops, fighting continues and scheduled peace talks have been called off. As of 29 June an estimated 250,000 people had fled the Bissau for safety in other parts of the country, In Bafatá alone, 134,000 displaced people were registered, 23,000 in Gabu and 9,000 in the Bijagos Islands.

Some refugees, including Senegalese refugees already in Guinea-Bissau reached Senegal, the Gambia, Guinea and Cape Verde either by land or by boat. National Societies have been registering new arrivals (both refugees and nationals) and



Movements from Guinea - Bissau:	
Senegal:	4,800
The Gambia:	268
Cape Verde:	766
Guinea:	11,000

Map for illustration purposes only

conducting needs assessments.

The Response so far

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action •

Red Cross Societies in Senegal, Cape Verde, The Gambia and Guinea-Conakry organised assessments teams to supply preliminary data, while the Federation's Regional Relief Delegate is presently in the region to assist in ongoing needs assessments. At this early stage it is difficult to give precise numbers of potential beneficiaries by country or by category, although best estimates report 14,000 people have crossed into neighbouring countries. Evacuees that have arrived by air are unlikely to require substantial humanitarian assistance, while those who have fled by sea or road, or through the bush, may be in a more vulnerable condition.

ICRC is the lead agency in Guinea-Bissau, co-ordinating the activities of the components of the Movement. The ICRC Regional Head of Delegation from Dakar arrived in Bissau with the Guinea-Bissau Federation delegate on June 13. The Red Cross of Guinea-Bissau has mobilised volunteer rescue teams to remove corpses from the street, bury the dead, assist the wounded, distribute water and provide medical supplies to the hospital.

Federation Regional Delegation in Abidjan: A sub-regional plan of action with concerned National Societies and ICRC's Abidjan, Conakry and Dakar Delegations is being elaborated.

Other Agencies: UNHCR and WFP sent assessment missions to monitor population movements on the Guinea-Bissau border with Guinea-Conakry and Senegal. Some 2,500 MT of WFP food stocks in Bissau port has been handed over to the ICRC for distribution. The Federation will co-ordinate its relief response for refugees with UNHCR.

UN-OCHA is leading a United Nations interagency humanitarian mission to the region this week and will recommend measures to contain the humanitarian crisis in Guinea-Bissau and increase agencies' ability to deliver assistance.

Co-ordination •

All National Societies from this sub-region belong to the Praia co-ordination group and are working on a sub-regional plan to maximise resources and co-ordination.

Immediate Needs •

Guinea-Conakry, Senegal, The Gambia and Cape Verde for 10,000 people for one month. Assistance to refugees and returnees of these countries will include food, shelter, and blankets.

Guinea- Bissau: The immediate needs for Guinea-Bissau will be included in the ICRC Appeal. The Federation will focus on the need for reinforcement of the capacity of the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross Society in order to prevent the spread of diseases and to ensure availability of trained volunteers.

Red Cross Objective

- To provide food, non-food and sanitation for refugees and evacuees in countries neighbouring Guinea-Bissau.

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

- Provision of immediate materials and resources requested by National Red Cross Societies in order to bring assistance to refugees and displaced in the affected countries;
- Follow-up of needs assessments initiated by National Societies of Guinea-Conakry, Senegal, The Gambia and Cape Verde, continuation of monitoring of population movements and replenishment of emergency stocks.

Capacity of the National Societies •

The National Societies involved have gained wide experience in refugee management and all have Community Based First Aid programmes with well-trained operational volunteers who are already active in the current crisis. The Guinea-Conakry Red Cross Society has been involved in relief programmes for Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees for the past eight years; the Gambia Red Cross caters for refugees from Senegal's Casamance province, while the Senegalese Red Cross Society has assisted those who moved from Mauritania during the dispute between the two countries. Workshops on

relief management have been organised for staff of National Societies as part of their disaster preparedness programmes. The Guinea-Conakry Red Cross and the Gambia Red Cross have some transport and communications assets from previous operations that can be used in new relief operations. These National Societies already have experience of collaborating in development programmes and regularly exchange expertise by working through the sub-regional Praia Group.

Present Capacity of the Federation in the sub-region •

The Federation has had a development delegate in Bissau for the past year, who is currently working with the National Society and ICRC. The Federation's Guinea-Conakry delegation has long-term relief experience acquired through the Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugee operations and can provide back-up assistance for logistics, while the Federation Regional Relief and Logistics delegates are assisting the National Societies of Senegal and Guinea-Conakry in further needs assessments.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details

Conclusion

This preliminary appeal is designed to respond to the immediate, short-term needs of those fleeing the present conflict in Guinea Bissau to neighbouring countries. Nationals fleeing Guinea Bissau will only require short-term assistance while refugees may require longer-term support. More information may be had from João Bello Zita, Desk Officer, on ++4122 7304440, email: zita@ifrc.org

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Secretary General

BUDGET SUMMARY
 GUINEA BISSAU - Population movement

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 IN CHF

ANNEX 1

RELIEF ITEM

- Food

Cereals (173 MT)	34,000.00
Beans (26 MT)	11,750.00
Oil (8 MT)	11,250.00
Sugar (7 MT)	3,000.00
Salt (27 MT)	6,000.00

- Non Food

Blankets (10.600 units)	53,000.00
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TOTAL NEEDS IN KIND (OR CASH) 119,000.00

NEEDS IN CASH

Transport, storage & vehicle costs	1,800.00
Personnel (1 delegate / 2 months)	10,000.00
Personnel (local staff)	5,500.00
Travel & communications	7,000.00
Administrative, office & general expenses	8,200.00

Secretariat operational support	7,500.00
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TOTAL NEEDS IN CASH 40,000.00

TOTAL APPEAL CASH & KIND 159,000.00

LESS CASH ON HAND **0.00**

NET REQUEST CASH & KIND 159,000.00

NB: all items can be procured locally