

GUINEA: SPECIAL FOCUS ON POPULATION MOVEMENTS

16 February, 2001

*appeal no. 01.03/01;
situation report no. 1
period covered: January - 15 February, 2001*

The situation in Guinea remains extremely fluid. UNHCR as lead UN agency is attempting to negotiate humanitarian corridors for the refugees caught in the conflict, and the Federation and the Guinea Red Cross are maintaining a flexible response in order to cope with the changing situation. The humanitarian needs of the refugee population are critical. The ICRC is the lead agency for the Movement in Guinea; co-operation between the ICRC and the Federation in support of the Guinean Red Cross (GRC), as well as with the other humanitarian actors, is extremely positive. While the Federation is scaling-up to provide assistance to refugees, the ICRC will focus on the Internally Displaced Population (IDPs).

Emergency Appeal 33/00, "Guinea: Population Movements" was originally launched on 21 November, 2000 for 3 months. Implementation of the planned activities did not take place due to the security situation in Guinea and the limited support received (see attached list of contributions). Since the Federation's Annual Appeal for Guinea (01.03/01) was designed with a large relief and disaster response component, appeal 33/00 will end on 21 February 2001, with a final report produced by 31 May 2001, and the ongoing refugee relief activities will be carried out under the 2001 Annual Appeal.

The context

The brutal internal conflicts which have been taking place in Liberia and Sierra Leone during the past ten years have resulted in some 450,000 people from these two countries seeking refuge in Guinea. Since September 2000, border towns in southern Guinea have experienced repeated incursions from a variety of army and rebel factions, creating a further destabilizing situation. Responding to the humanitarian needs, the Federation launched appeal



33/00 for CHF 377,087 on 21 November, 2001 in order to support the Guinea Red Cross to carry out humanitarian activities for 140,000 refugees over three months in the following areas:

Prefecture of N'Zerekore •

Plans entailed resuming the care and maintenance programme for Liberian refugees which had been suspended in view of the integration and repatriation operation -- 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 organizations, 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 planned to implement activities in the following sectors:

- Social and communale activities consisting of assisting extremely vulnerable refugees with services including the preparation of hot meals during transfer operations, as well as consulting, advising, sensitizing, and distributing non-food items in the new sites.
- 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.

Prefecture of Gueckédou •

In spite of a marked deceleration of the social and medical activities between 17 September and 6 October, the Federation's sub-delegation planned to remain operational. For the 250,000 refugees of the prefecture, the Guekedou office intended to continue ensuring the supervision of all the activities in progress, while dealing with the same types of activities in the Guekedou region camps which were not covered by humanitarian assistance.

Prefecture of Kissidougou •

Plans entailed 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), thus making Kissidougou 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, planned to reinforce its structure initially by opening an office intended to provide support to transfer, health, and community/social programmes. As in N'Zerekore, similar types of assistance were planned to be delivered (hot meals, providing advice, and distribution of non-food items).

Fears that Guinea would become the next conflict area have now become a reality, with a dire impact on refugees and the internally displaced, and with the fighting having spilled over into Guinea one of the most serious humanitarian crises in the world is unfolding.

Implementation of the planned activities for Emergency Appeal 33/00 did not take place due to the security situation in Guinea and the limited support received (see attached list of contributions). Since the Federation's Annual Appeal for Guinea (01.03/01) was designed with a large relief and disaster response component, appeal 33/00 will end as planned on 21 February, with a Final Report produced by 31 May 2001, and the ongoing activities will now be carried out under the Federation's 2001 Annual Appeal for Guinea.

Latest events

The period since the launch of the appeal has been characterized by a series of escalating attacks on the town of Gueckédou and surrounding areas with the most recent incidents taking place on February 8 and 9. It is estimated that one third of the city has been destroyed. Approximately 200,000 Sierra Leonean refugees are estimated to remain in Gueckédou prefecture with an estimated 150,000 in Languette. This area, part of the prefecture of Gueckédou, is virtually cut off from humanitarian aid for security reasons. Although the refugees desperately need assistance, especially food, it is thought that food distribution in this area could result in placing the refugees in additional danger. Humanitarian agencies consider the only viable option is the eventual transfer of these refugees to safer areas. Fighting in the Gueckédou area has also prompted refugees to flee the two camps of Kat-Kama and Boodou, leaving them completely deserted while other camps have seen a considerable influx, including Nyaédou (17 kilometers from Gueckédou) and Massakoundou (10 km from Kissidougou) where it is estimated that their population has doubled to 25,000 and 35,000 respectively. UNHCR and Government authorities have identified sites for new camps to be built away from the border areas. One camp is being constructed in Albadaria (Kissidougou prefecture and 70 km from the town of Kissidougou) and the transfer of refugees from Nyaédou camp (Gueckédou prefecture) began on February 6. Two other camps are planned for this prefecture, and four camps to be located in the prefecture of Dabola. While the situation in the Forecariah area has been relatively calm, it remains under a Phase 4 security status while the Kissidougou area remains under Phase 3.

There are also tens of thousands of refugees located in dozens of small camps (each camp having a population of anywhere from 1,000 to 6,000 people). Little, if any, assistance is arriving to these camps as they are not considered official UNHCR camps.

A transit site has been established in Conakry for the voluntary repatriation of refugees to Sierra Leone. As of the end of January, 2001, over 4,000 Sierra Leoneans have returned to Freetown by means of chartered boats.

After initially evacuating the *zone forestière* for Conakry due to the insecurity, most humanitarian organizations, including the Federation, have returned to the area with their base now established in Kissidougou rather than Gueckédou. The Federation has two delegates located in Kissidougou, one working in Forecariah on a day to day basis and one rotating.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

CHF 150,000 has been allocated and released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the immediate delivery of the required assistance and relief activities outlined below. A two-person Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) will arrive in Guinea next week to provide support to the operation and to establish a revised plan of action. The Federation security officer has also been assigned to Guinea to conduct a two-week security assessment.

Prefecture of Forecariah •

The GRC, with the support of the Federation, continues refugee assistance programmes by distributing food to the estimated 22,000 refugees, providing support to the most vulnerable including construction of houses, providing hot meals and other needs for the hospitalized refugees and distributing non-food items to the 3,700 refugees who lost their houses and all their possessions during the fighting. Meanwhile, plans entail moving the 22,000 refugees currently living in seven separate locations to a new camp. The Federation will take on the construction and management of the camp including food and non-food distribution and health care, and will continue with support to the most vulnerable and providing hot meals to the hospitalized refugees.

Prefecture of Gueckédou •

The Federation sub-delegation office has been transferred to Kissidougou, central point to the current refugee assistance activities. Although the Guinean Red Cross remained in Gueckédou after the

beginning of the fighting and carried out sanitation activities, they have since virtually halted all programmes and the volunteers have been transferred to Kissidougou from where they can continue their support to the vulnerable population.

Kamayan: The Guinean Red Cross, supported by the Federation, will continue to provide assistance to the most vulnerable groups in the camp until the camp is once again deserted. In addition, the GRC will be responsible for assisting with the transfers and volunteers will accompany each truck load of refugees providing first aid assistance if required.

Nyaédou: Trained Red Cross volunteers were providing assistance to the most vulnerable groups in the camp. Recently, the camp of Kamayan, located in the Languette and housing 4,500 refugees, was totally destroyed by fire. These 4,500 refugees arrived in Nyaédou camp, and were to be the first to be transferred to the new camp in Albadaria.

Katkama: This once deserted camp is now home to 15,000 to 20,000 refugees. The Guinean Red Cross volunteers who were located in Nyaédou camp followed the exodus of the refugees and are now providing support in Katkama. Another team has been sent to Nyaédou to prepare the transfer of the estimated 1,000 refugees who had remained in the camp. Although UNHCR has accelerated its transfer process, it will be three to four weeks before the transfers are completed. In the meantime the Guinean Red Cross, supported by the Federation delegates, will continue to provide the necessary support to this group of refugees including the distribution of non-food items to the most vulnerable. A general food distribution is programmed for this week.

Prefecture of Kissidougou •

Kissidougou has become the center for all international organizations. The Federation's sub-delegation has been transferred from Gueckédou to Kissidougou, and all refugee operations in the Gueckédou and Kissidougou prefectures will be directed and managed from the sub-delegation. This includes Massakoundou camp, Koundaya camp, Katkama camp, the two new camps to be constructed, hospital and transition centers, Sangando camp, Neanfoulou camp, Banian camp and Tiro camp. The last four camps are temporary, established by refugees fleeing the fighting on the border, and as such have received little, if any, assistance. The situation of these 16,000 refugees has become increasingly desperate. The Federation sent three truckloads of non-food items from Conakry to Kissidougou including 6,000 blankets, 40,000 pieces of soap, several bundles of used clothing and plastic sheeting (provided by ICRC), for 3,700 families.

Albadaria: A new camp, Kountaya, has been established and built in the sub-prefecture of Albadaria. The transfer of refugees from the security problem camp of Nyaédou began on 6 February with the transfer of the first 357 refugees originally from camp Kamayan, and 302 refugees transferred on 7 February. While efforts were made to carry out a disciplined transfer, the renewed fighting in Gueckédou drastically altered this plan. UNHCR has accelerated the transfer process and the camp currently houses 5,000 refugees. Some of these refugees are arriving on foot from Nyaédou camp and other camps in the area. The Guinean Red Cross, supported by the Federation delegates, has several teams on site in the camp to register the arrivals and identify the most vulnerable and provide the necessary services.

The Guinean Red Cross, supported by the Federation, will register all new arrivals. Teams of trained volunteers will identify the most vulnerable and respond to their needs on an immediate and on-going basis. The Federation and National Society will take over the management of the camp which includes coordination of all activities by other partners, identification of sites for the houses and distribution of non-food items. In addition all social activities/support will be carried out by the Guinean Red Cross supported by the Federation. A second and possibly a third camp are planned to be constructed in the same sub-prefecture and the Federation and National Society will carry out the same functions in these new camps.

Massakoundou: The Federation and National Society has re-opened health post in Massakoundou camp and will be taking over the second health post in the camp which is currently operated by MSF.

In addition, special support services for the vulnerable population in the camp continue to be provided by a team of trained Guinean Red Cross volunteers. The communal kitchen programme for sick refugees in Kissidougou hospital continues. The Guinean Red Cross, supported by the Federation delegates, is already operating one nursing post in the camp which houses 35,000 refugees. MSF operates a second nursing post but will turn it over to the Federation, to be run by the Guinean Red Cross, in March. All support and services to the vulnerable group will continue.

Prefecture of N'Zérékoré •

The Federation retains a basic office structure in N'Zérékoré. While assistance to the Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees located in the city and surrounding areas had been suspended at the request of the Government, activities have since resumed with Government approval. The care and maintenance programme for the Liberian refugees which had been suspended in view of the integration and repatriation operation, and which was to have resumed in December/January, never did resume. Since January and February, the estimated 60,000 Liberian refugees have been joined by an estimated 4,000 Sierra Leonean refugees from the Gueckédou prefecture. Given the precarious nutritional and health state of these refugees, the Government authorities are now asking for urgent humanitarian assistance. The ICRC, in parallel with its mandate of assistance to IDP's, has agreed to provide interim funding for a programme for the most vulnerable to be implemented by the Guinean Red Cross. The Federation and National Society will provide non-food items and will establish a nursing post for the refugee population. In addition, the Federation and National Society will ensure social support to the most vulnerable. The Federation and National Society have also been asked to take over the health post now run by MSF in the Kouankan refugee camp and will also continue its social support activities in the camp.

Conakry •

A new transition center is to be constructed in Conakry, and the Federation and National Society will manage and operate the center including registration, social assistance and health care, for refugees who want to return back to Sierra Leone.

Dissemination of humanitarian ideals and support to the Local population

Since the out break of hostilities in September 2000, one of the dimensions of the problems faced by the country is that of growing suspicion and resentment of the local population directed towards the refugee population. Guinea has long been host to the largest refugee population in Africa, while the country itself is one of the poorest in the world. The burden has caused friction and further strained the economy, and inevitably led many to conclude that the refugees themselves are the source of the problem. The out break of fighting and the subsequent violence and destruction has only served to escalate the local population's anti-refugee sentiment. While the Federation moves to assume responsibility for the delivery of assistance to the camps in new areas of the country, one of its main goals will focus on efforts to diffuse the source of the anti-refugee feeling. The GRC, together with the Federation and ICRC, will initially use local volunteers to undertake a campaign to sensitize the local population in order to create a more welcoming atmosphere for the refugees themselves. As the camps are established the GRC and Federation will work with local community leaders to design programs that are mutually beneficial to both the refugees and the local population, with a focus on health, sanitation and education programmes.

Outstanding needs

Immediate cash support is needed to assist with the delivery of assistance to and transfer (by UNHCR) of approximately 20,000 refugees located in the Katkama camp, 35,000 refugees located in Massakoundou camp and 150,000 refugees located in the Languette. The Federation needs to reinforce its human resource capacities in N'Zérékoré and Kissidougou as well as in the new camp in Albadaria. A health coordinator delegate, based in Conakry who will supervise all health activities out of N'zérékoré, Kissidougou and Conakry/Forecariah, is required immediately. In addition, a field delegate for N'Zérékoré as well as a camp manager for the new camp in Albadaria are also required immediately.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for the list of contributions for appeals 33/00 and 01.03/01. Funds remaining from appeal 33/00 will be transferred to appeal 01.03/01, and a full revised budget annual appeal (Disaster Response component) will be provided with the next update to be issued shortly.

Peter Rees-Gildea
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This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

| Guinea: Population Movements | | | | | | ANNEX 1 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|------|----------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| APPEAL No. 33/2000 | | PLEDGES RECEIVED | | | | 02/16/01 |
| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
| CASH | | | | | | |
| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> | | | | 377,087 | | TOTAL COVERAGE 56.2% |
| JAPANESE - RC | | 1,000,000 | JPY | 16,322 | 12.12.00 | POPULATION MOVEMENT |
| MONACO - RC | | 20,000 | FRF | 4,586 | 21.11.00 | POPULATION MOVEMENT |
| SWEDISH - RC | | 5,000 | SEK | 881 | 29.11.00 | POPULATION MOVEMENT |
| SWITZERLAND - RC | | | | 4,745 | 13.12.00 | |
| SWISS - GOVT | | | | 30,000 | 13.12.00 | EMPLOYMENT SOCIAL DELEGATE |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH | | | | 56,534 | CHF | 15.0% |
| KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL) | | | | | | |
| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
| DANISH - GOVT/RC | | 208,000 | DKK | 42,848 | 12.02.01 | 10'000 PLASTIC WOVEN MATS |
| SWEDISH - RC | | 100,000 | SEK | 17,610 | 29.11.00 | 20 MT USED CLOTHES |
| SWISS - GOVT | | | | 94,900 | 13.12.00 | 13'400 BLANKETS, 30'000 SOAPS |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES | | | | 155,358 | CHF | 41.2% |
| ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET | | | | | | |
| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED | | | | 0 | CHF | |
| THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL: | | | | | | |
| PNG507 | | | | | | |

| Guinea | | | | | | ANNEX 1 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|------|------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| APPEAL No. 01.03/2001 | | PLEDGES RECEIVED | | | | 02/15/01 |
| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
| CASH | | | | | | |
| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> | | | | 4,984,246 | | TOTAL COVERAGE 5.4% |
| CASH CARRIED FORWARD | | | | | | |
| BRITISH - RC | | 35,000 | GBP | 84,350 | 05.02.01 | RELIEF PROGRAMME |
| BRITISH - RC | | 20,000 | GBP | 48,200 | 05.02.01 | RC ID PROGRAMME |
| BRITISH - RC | | 10,000 | GBP | 24,100 | 05.02.01 | DELEGATION CORE COSTS |
| UNHCR - 01/AB/GUI/CM/200 | | 93,508,000 | GNF | 82,100 | 31.01.01 | ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH | | | | 238,750 | CHF | 4.8% |
| KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL) | | | | | | |
| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| SWISS - GOVT | | | | 30,000 | 25.01.01 | HOSD IN GUECKEDOU |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES | | | | 30,000 | CHF | 0.6% |
| ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET | | | | | | |
| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED | | | | 0 | CHF | |
| THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL: | | | | | | |
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