

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

GUINEA

14 May, 2001

SPECIAL FOCUS ON POPULATION MOVEMENTS

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.03/2001

Appeal Target CHF 6,158,432 (Situation report no. 2 issued 19 March, 2001 included a budget revision, increased from CHF 4,984,000 to CHF 6,158,432).

Programme Update No. 3; Period covered: 13 March - 20 April, 2001; (last Programme Update no. 2 issued 19 March, 2001).

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 47.6%

Related Appeals: 14/01; West and Central Africa: Meningitis

Outstanding needs: CHF 3,224,662

Update: Despite the evolving situation and the related security concerns originating from the conflict, the Federation continues to support the Guinea Red Cross (GRC) in delivering timely and effective basic assistance to the refugees and displaced, coordinating closely with the ICRC (as lead agency for the Movement) and UNHCR in the process. Further donor support is needed to allow the Federation to continue with this much needed assistance.

Operational Developments:

The civil wars which have been raging in Liberia and Sierra Leone over the past ten years have resulted in over 450,000 people from these two countries seeking refuge in Guinea. The Sierra Leone and Liberia-based rebel forces have since carried the fighting into Guinea, with frequent attacks on border towns resulting in hundreds of civilian deaths and tens of thousands of displaced Guineans. The city of Gueckédou has been the target of repeated attacks leaving it at least one-third destroyed with most of its population displaced to other parts of the country. Macenta, although calm now after a violent September attack which left a UNHCR delegate and 39 others dead, is still suspected of harbouring rebels and remains a UN Security Phase 5 area.

There are an estimated 250,000 Sierra Leonean refugees and 60,000 Liberian refugees still in Guinea, housed in several camps located in Guinea Forestière and Guinea Maritime.

Latest events

The UN sanctions against Liberia have resulted in increased tension between Liberia and Guinea and Liberia and Sierra Leone. Tensions remain high in Guinea and heightened security is evident particularly in the Guinea Forestière zone where military barricades have increased, a curfew remains in effect in Kissidougou and Massakoundou camp was ordered evacuated by the authorities due to suspected infiltration by rebels.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Forécariah Prefecture

Sierra Leonean refugees

During the last week of March the UN Security Phase 4 was replaced with Phase 3. Federation delegates will, however, not be returning on a full time basis to Forécariah but will continue to provide the necessary support with day time visits to the area focusing on health and social activities in the camps. Special social activities continue in support of the women's groups, the elderly, the handicapped and the youth. Red Cross volunteers are assigned to care for the ill and those unable to cook and care for themselves. A decision reflected in the last Situation Report (no, 2 issued on 19 March) to transfer the refugees from the 7 camps in Forécariah to Kindia was reported has been reversed and these refugees are now to be transferred to a camp in the Dabola Prefecture.

The CPCR (Comité Préfectoral de la Croix-Rouge) in Forécariah has completed the construction of the Red Cross office and an official inauguration ceremony was planned to be held on 8 May.

Kissidougou Prefecture

Massakoundou: Sierra Leonean refugees

This camp has an official refugee population of 35,000, and is located 8 kms from Kissidougou. However, two weeks ago an informal exercise by the Guinean Red Cross to identify the number of refugees resulted in a revised total of 16,000 which is considered to be closer to the real number.

On 27 March the military, responding to suspicion of rebel infiltration in Massakoundou camp, began rounding up the male population. Some 632 men from Massakoundou camp were put on trucks and taken to Kissidougou where they were detained for questioning. On 28 March a grenade exploded killing 3 children and injuring 17. The authorities initially ordered that all refugees be transferred out of the camp within 3 days but UNHCR has now been given 3 weeks to carry out the transfers.

The Red Cross continues to operate a dispensary in the camp and has been put in charge of the health assessment of all refugees being transferred to the new camps. Red Cross volunteers are aboard each truck transferring refugees to ensure their well-being during the transfer.

Kountaya

Sierra Leonean refugees

This is the first new camp to be constructed for Sierra Leonean refugees. It now houses 27,000 refugees and is considered to have reached its capacity. The Guinean Red Cross, supported by the Federation, received and registered all new arrivals, accompanied them to their lodgings, and identified and provided special assistance to the most vulnerable. All refugees were initially housed in hangars with a maximum capacity of 50 people. For the past month, Red Cross volunteers have been distributing building materials to the refugees and assisting and encouraging them to build their own individual houses. Four social welfare assistance offices have been built in the camp, one for each section. Volunteers have been trained and are providing social assistance to all refugees requiring it. The Red Cross has also assumed the camp management role and a camp management office has been constructed in the camp, staff have been hired and trained and regular meetings are held with all partners to ensure a good co-ordination of activities. Radio equipment is available and has been programmed but has not been installed as yet while awaiting the completion of the office building. A telcom delegate has been requested to assist in this and other communication needs.

Boreah

Sierra Leonean refugees

This is a second in a series of 6 camps to be constructed in the Albadaria area. The first refugees were transferred at the beginning of this month and, as of the writing of this report, the camp now houses about 5,000 refugees. Refugees continue to be transferred from Massakoundou which should be closed by the end of the month, and from Katkama which is a transition camp for refugees arriving from Parrot's Beak. Red Cross volunteers accompany the refugees during the transfer and other Red Cross volunteers are in Boreah to receive and register the new arrivals and identify the most vulnerable providing the necessary support. Red Cross has also assumed the camp management role in Boreah and will implement social welfare activities, similar to that implemented in the other camps.

Gueckédou Prefecture

Nyaédou : Sierra Leonean refugees

This camp has now been closed.

Katkama: Sierra Leonean refugees

Katkama was a deserted refugee camp which was put back into use when 35,000 refugees from Nyaédou fled the fighting in the nearby town of Gueckédou. The refugees who arrived from Nyaédou have all been transferred to the new camp of Kountaya. Katkama remains a transit camp for those refugees fleeing Parrot's Beak. There are now 12,000 refugees in the camp and UNHCR is attempting to transfer them at a rate of 500 a day to the second camp in Albadaria, Boreah. However, the number of refugees in the camp remains constant due to new arrivals from Parrot's Beak. The Guinean Red Cross supported by the Federation, receives and registers the new arrivals, identifies and provides assistance to the vulnerable and accompanies these refugees during the transfers ensuring their well being.

La Languette (Parrot's Beak): Sierra Leonean refugees

Parrot's Beak remains under a U.N. Security level phase 5. However, UNHCR and WFP decided to support a food distribution which was carried out by the French NGO, Première Urgence. Concern was expressed by several organizations that this would incite a rebel attack. Following a day of distribution the town of Nongoa was attacked leaving 39 dead and at least 35 wounded. Among the dead and wounded were Guinean military, Guinean civilians and refugees. The distributions were suspended and the refugees began an exodus from Parrot's Beak. Some of the refugees returned to Sierra Leone walking through RUF held territory, while others made their way to the transit camp of Katkama. However, there are still an estimated 40,000 to 120,000 refugees in Parrot's Beak. UNHCR is continuing with their plan to evacuate Parrot's Beak by having the refugees walk through the Beak to eventually reach the transit camp of Katkama and from there be transported by truck to the new camps in Albadaria. The most vulnerable refugees in Parrot's Beak will be transferred last by truck. The latest information on the time-frame for this operation is three weeks.

N'Zérékoré Prefecture

Kouankan: Liberian refugees

The camp houses 13,000 refugees. On 22 March an official hand over of the health activities took place between MSF and the Guinean Red Cross and the Federation. In addition, Red Cross is implementing special activities for the elderly, the women and the young. Special assistance is being provided to the most vulnerable. An outbreak of measles was identified in the last week of March and during the first week of April over 2,000 children were vaccinated (UNHCR supplied the vaccines). A social welfare delegate is now in place in N'Zérékoré and the health delegate spent two weeks in the area working with the health staff in the camp, overseeing the vaccination programme and providing advice and assistance to the Guinean Red Cross doctor now in place in N'Zérékoré.

N'Zérékoré: Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees

A transit house has been rented for refugees going into hospital, coming out of hospital and/or requiring outpatient care. Red Cross volunteers are in place at both the transit house and the hospital where they receive the refugees, settle them, and provide basic assistance including one meal a day for both the patient and the care giver.

There are approximately 60,000 Liberian refugees in N'Zérékoré and surrounding areas and an estimated 5,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in N'Zérékoré town. The Federation and Guinea Red Cross plan to open a dispensary in conjunction with the transit house where the most vulnerable among the Liberian and Sierra Leonean group can be treated.

Other camps along the Kissdougou-Faranah axe: Sierra Leonean refugees

UNHCR is in the process of transferring these estimated 12,000 refugees to Boreah. The first transfer was to have been for 1,000 refugees. However, only 102 refugees turned up to be transferred. It appears that most of these refugees have indicated a preference to return to Sierra Leone rather than be transferred to Boreah. UNHCR has indicated that, at the end of the transfer period those refugees refusing to be transferred will no longer be eligible for assistance from UNHCR.

National Society Development

- The Red Cross building in Forécariah has been completed with financial assistance from the Federation. The inauguration is planned for 8 May.
- A Red Cross building is nearing completion in Albadaria. The building will have an office for the local Red Cross and an office for the Federation and the GRC team supervising the operations in the refugee camps. In addition the building will have three bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and an indoor toilet for delegates and the GRC staff on mission to Albadaria. At the end of the operation the building will be turned over to the local Red Cross and could possibly be used as an income generating project by renting out the rooms.
- The Federation is assisting the GRC in finding a permanent housing for the Guinean Red Cross. A building has been identified and technical confirmations are underway.
- The Federation funded a two-day national committee meeting on 5-6 April, which had, among its objectives, the planning of the General assembly to be held this year. No report on the meeting was received by the Federation.
- A DPP delegate arrived on 31 March to assist the GRC in the training of volunteers in the area of DPP. This training will be carried out in co-operation with the ICRC, amalgamating the two programmes. This week an assessment team, composed of the DPP delegate and National Society representatives, went to Dabola to assess the capacity of the local Red Cross in the area.
- National Society counterparts have been requested for all delegates and are gradually being identified by the National Society.

Federation and ICRC Co-operation

As a result of the conflict situation existing in Guinea since September, 2000, ICRC has assumed the lead agency role on behalf of the Movement. Weekly meetings are held between the ICRC, the Federation and the GRC. A tripartite DPP team has been set up to identify the training needs within the National Society and to execute the necessary training. Communication is frequent between the ICRC's and the Federation's heads of delegation as well as between the delegates in the field. Federation has access to the ICRC plane which has facilitated missions to the field. Relationships between the ICRC and Federation are excellent.

Outstanding needs

The Federation delegation in Guinea continues to require strong support in the form of human and financial resources. Still required as a minimum in delegate needs are a camp manager, a social welfare delegate and two relief delegates. Currently the Federation is supporting the National Society in the camp management operation for two camps. UNHCR has requested the Federation to assume the camp management role for all 5 or 6 camps to be built in the Albadaria sub-préfecture. The Federation has responded that, without further human resources, this will not be possible.

Coordination and Management

During this period, the head of delegation, along with representatives of international organizations, met with Mr. Brian Thompson of the Department for International Development (DFID) at the British Consulate for an exchange of information on the situation in Guinea. A representative of the Swedish International

Development Agency (SIDA) arrived in Conakry on 27 March, and accompanied two Federation delegates to Kissidougou on 29 March, spending 4 days hosted by the Federation team in Kissidougou and visiting several refugee camps to see the Red Cross in action. During the week of 16 April a delegation of representatives from the French and British government visited Conakry and Kissidougou. The Deputy Emergency Relief Co-ordinator for Humanitarian Affairs also visited Conakry and met with representatives from ICRC and the Federation.

A FACT team consisting of two members completed their mission in Guinea, covering the areas of health procedures and needs in the two refugee camps where the Red Cross is operating a nursing post. The team provided excellent support to the delegation in the area of health, representing the Federation at all interagency meetings, and camp management.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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Relationship Management Department

Bekele Geleta
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Guinea						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.03/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			14.05.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				6'158'432		47.6%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		700'000	USD	1'199'240	23.04.2001	ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES
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
CANADIAN - RC		30'000	CAD	32'475	15.02.01	DISASTER RESPONSE
DANISH - RC		185'000	DKK	38'110	22.02.01	DISASTER RESPONSE
DANISH - GOVT		900'000	DKK	185'400	29.03.01	DISASTER RESPONSE
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'333'873	NOK	249'557	22.03.01	DISASTER RESPONSE, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC				50'000	30.03.01	RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR
UNHCR - 01/AB/GUI/CM/200		410'499'343	GNF	371'912	31.01.01	ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES
UNHCR - 01/AB/GUI/CM/202		308'534'310	GNF	279'532	01.03.2001	ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES
SWEDISH - RC		1'300'000	SEK	225'810	28.02.01	DISASTER RESPONSE
SWEDISH - RC		200'000	SEK	34'740	28.02.01	CO-ORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - RC		5'900	SEK	994	28.02.01	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2'824'420	CHF	45.9%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GERMAN RC				7'500	19.03.2001	FACT HEALTH DELEG.
SWEDISH - RC		100'000	SEK	16'850	28.02.01.	20MT SECOND HAND CLOTHES
SWISS - GOVT/RC				30'000	25.01.01	HOSD IN GUECKEDOU
SWISS - GOVT/RC				15'000	19.03.2001	SOC. DELEG. KISSIDOUGOU
SWISS - RC				10'000	19.03.2001	FACT RELIEF DELEG.
SWISS RC				30'000	25.03.2001	RELIEF DEL KISSIDOUGOU
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				109'350	CHF	1.8%
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:						
PGN001, PGN160, PGN505, PGN506, PGN509						