

GHANA

LIBERIAN BOAT PEOPLE/SIERRA LEONE REFUGEES

CHF 142,000

8,000 beneficiaries

Programme No. 01.09/98

Following heavy fighting in Liberia, 1,568 Liberians fled by boat to Ghana in May 1996, bringing the total caseload to 17,000. They were finally settled at a permanent site at Krisan in the Western Region from where voluntary repatriation started in June 1996. If peace prevails in Liberia, UNHCR foresees that many of the refugees will have been repatriated by June 1998, with about 5'000 expected to remain in Ghana. The recent political crisis in Sierra Leone brought a further 1,700 refugees to Krisan.

The Operation

With financial assistance from the Federation, UNHCR, ECHO and Swiss Red Cross, Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) has co-ordinated most of the relief activities since 1996, with responsibility for distribution of food and non-food items, maintenance of sanitation, water supply and medical care.

Objectives in 1998

- | To provide relief to Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees at the Krisan camp;
- | to upgrade the disaster response capacity of the GRCS.

Plan of Action

- | Twenty refugee volunteers will continue to ensure the daily cleaning of existing sanitary infrastructure and the emptying of latrines once yearly.
- | Continue distributions of dry food and non-food items provided by WFP/UNHCR.
- | Operate a health clinic staffed by a medical assistant and refugee health workers;

| Ensure regular maintenance of wells.

Capacity

GRCS has managed most of the operation as from 1996. The Federation has supported and provided a great deal of training for GRCS volunteers and staff. The Federation has trained most of the managers of the operation, through its Accra-based Representative. In 1998 the GRCS will manage the operation with support from the Regional Delegation in Côte d'Ivoire.

Co-operation

The GRC will continue its close co-operation with the government, UNHCR, WFP and local NGOs.