

IVORIAN REFUGEE EMERGENCY RESPONSE UPDATE ACTIONAID LIBERIA

From the January 4 to 9 2011, ActionAid conducted an assessment in Nimba and Grand Gedeh with the purpose of obtaining firsthand information on the situation refugees from the Ivory Coast were faced with as a result of the ongoing political crisis in neighboring Ivory Coast. Findings from the assessment revealed that;

- The major problem confronting the refugees was the lack of food and there was limited availability of food in host communities and no agency had provided food assistance.
- Refugees were scattered in bordering communities with women and children consisting of approximately 80 percent.
- Refugees had access to limited safe drinking water and access to basic services such as medication and referral mechanisms were challenging.

Based on the above ActionAid International provided the amount of forty thousand United States dollars (US\$40,000) from its Strategic Crisis Program funds to assist 2000 refugees with food and non food items. With the understanding that the amount was inadequate to cater to all refugees, the team decided to focus on assisting the vulnerable who included lactating and pregnant mothers, children, the physically challenged, the elderly and chronically ill people. Five communities in the Zoegeh district of Nimba county (Gblarlay, Teahplay, Glalay, Biaplay and Duolay) were indentified for the caseload. Meanwhile, AAL also donated 3, 3 metric tons of cooking salt to UNHCR to supplement the UN ongoing food distribution.

January 19 to 24, ActionAid Liberia with the assistance and cooperation of LRRRC field staff distributed food and non food items to two thousand identified Ivorian refugees from the selected communities. See breakdown of distribution table:

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Community	Total No. Of famil	Sex of family heads	Total No. Of depen dant	D	ependar	nts	Family Heads						
	y heads		dant	Total age 0-4	Total age 5-11	Total age 12- 17	Total age 60 and above	Total pregnant women	Total lactating mothers	Total chronicall y ill	Total No. Physically challenged	Total	
Gblarley	247	F- 221 M- 26	393	259	96	38	54	31	90	41	31	640	
Biaplay	89	F- 81 M- 8	177	92	66	19	11	14	42	11	11	266	
Glalay	93	F- 87 M- 6	153	75	60	18	22	14	45	7	5	246	
Teahplay	276	F- 245 M-22	479	285	173	21	61	56	152	3	4	755	
Douplay	45	F- 45 M-0	48	40	6	2	10	14	20	2	2	93	
TOTAL	750		1250	751	401	98	158	129	346	64	53	2000	



Breakdown of items

Category	Rice	Bath soap	Washing soap	Toothbrush	Toothpaste	Slipper	Plastic bucket	Plastic dish pan	Menstrual cloth
Single family head	5kg	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1yard per female
Family head +1 dependant	10kg	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1yard per female
Family head +2 dependant	15kg	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1yard per female
Family head +3 dependant	20kg	4	4	3	2	2	1	1	1yard per female
Family head +4 dependant	25kg	5	5	4	3	3	1	1	1yard per female
Family head +5 dependant	30kg	6	6	4	4	3	1	2	1yard per female
Family head +6 dependant	35kg	7	7	5	5	4	1	2	1yard per female
Family head +7 dependant	40kg	8	8	5	5	5	1	2	1yard per female
Family head +8 dependant	45kg	9	9	6	6	6	1	3	1yard per female
Family head +9 dependant	50kg	10	10	6	6	6	1	3	1yard per female

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Sequel to the above and considering the influx, ActionAid is planning to provide similar assistance to 2800 refugees and will include refugees from Grand incorporated in South Africa un Geden 2 county where we have ongoing programs.



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UNHCR Information Campaign

The Government of :Liberia and the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR are concerned about the safety of Ivorian refugees residing in the towns and villages along the border area since November 2010 which they cannot assure. Bad road conditions pose a serious challenge in reaching refugees in these areas.

In order to guarantee the safety and protection of every Ivorian refugee including timely and appropriate delivery of assistance, the Government of Liberia has established a camp for Ivorian refugees in Bahn community, about 15 km from Saclepea, Nimba County. Refugees can opt to be transferred either to the camp or to one of 15 villages where Government and UNHCR can assure their safety more effectively and provide them the international protection and assistance with the support of the international community.

The information campaign on refugee relocation either to the camp or to one of the 15 villages was reinforced as the distribution process went on. The refugees were told that whatever supplies AAL has to distribute in the future will be done in the camp or any of the select villages.

UNHCR and LRRRC representatives in Saclepea, Nimba County were duly informed about the start of the distribution.

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Registration number 27264198 with the estimate of Ivorian refugees is now over 30,000 triggered by the latest influx of refugees into Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties due to recent fighting. Incorporated in South Adjoe plans to provide assistance this month to some 2.800 refugees, including those in Grand Gedeh County.

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