



THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

GUINEA

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The **INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC)** engages in multi-sectoral programming, consisting of education, community renewal and protection, for both refugees and local communities in Guinea. Previous experience in assisting with the safe repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees from Guinean refugee camps back to Sierra Leone from May 2001 to June 2004 provides IRC Guinea with the skills and knowledge in helping with the repatriation of Liberian refugees returning to Liberia. IRC Guinea continues to work with and provide services to Ivorian refugees who have fled conflict in Cote d'Ivoire. While IRC Guinea continues to provide protective and educational services to refugees, the program also works with Guinean communities in refugee impacted areas. IRC Guinea draws on the IRC Program Framework to inform all its programming; this is done by following the five guiding principles of Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, Participation, Capacity Building, Partnership and Holistic Programming.



EDUCATION For fourteen years, IRC Guinea has provided a foundation of education for refugee students and adults. Working in 4 refugee camps and 2 urban centers, IRC Guinea provides essentials such as books and supplies, construction of school buildings, offers teacher trainings, and incorporates gender-based violence prevention and awareness into its curriculum. The education program also supports alternative education programs, such as health education, vocational training, peace education, and literacy training. Specific activities promoting female education are undertaken. Additionally, there is an adult education program which offers older refugees, especially females, an alternative to acquiring accredited high school education. Students take the standard West Africa Examination Council (WAEC) exam, providing them with the essential educational credential when returning to their home countries. Beyond academics, students have opportunities to form student clubs and engage in recreational activities.

COMMUNITY RENEWAL IRC Guinea's Community Revitalization Program aims to speed up social recovery and development by increasing refugee participation and cooperation in community revitalization activities. This objective is achieved through a number of interlinked activities including community mobilization, fostering inter-community dialogue, support for national and grassroots organizations, and capacity building. Multi-thematic community projects have been implemented by and between refugees and host communities. In partnership with Local authorities and NGOs, the program also support peace building events focused on strengthening social cohesion and conflict prevention. The Community Renewal Program have trained the Community Committees and community mobilization officers on pertinent organizational skills, such as project management, data collection and documentation, team building, and how to establish effective community based organizations. Two community resource centers have been established; these facilities also offer computer training.



PROTECTION is always a fundamental aspect that weaves throughout IRC Guinea programs. To increase the protection and rights of refugees and other vulnerable persons within the country, IRC Guinea has provided legal trainings to local authorities, lawyers, and other NGOs; many of these trainings have included gender and child related issues. Information campaigns have been actively promoted, which have provided key

information to refugees in need of clear information. IRC Guinea has reunified 4,000 unaccompanied minors and separated children, since the inception of its Unaccompanied Minors Program. The majority of these children have been from Sierra Leone and Liberia. UAM staff monitor the welfare of the children, while working on documentation and tracing to find their parents or relatives. Numerous child protection committees exist which work with UAM staff in promoting awareness of child rights and training community members. The UAM program seeks durable solutions for the children who have not been able to be reunified with their family members and is working to establish clear legal status for the remaining unaccompanied minors.

PROGRAM STRATEGY

IRC Guinea Program Strategy is based on two mutually reinforcing goals of assisting refugees to meet their needs through education, protection and participatory community revitalization services, and facilitating their safe and voluntary repatriation into their home country once security permits.

An integrated program approach includes activities in:

- Formal and non-formal education
- Vocational Education to provide skills to ensure rapid reintegration
- Gender sensitization and gender-based violence prevention education
- Health and hygiene training
- Cross-border Family Tracing and reunification of separated children
- Durable solution for children without tracing results
- Community projects implemented in Guinean communities
- Capacity building of local organizations, peace building, and community revitalization

OPERATIONS

STAFFING

The IRC Guinea program operates with 4 expatriate staff, 200 national staff and over 600 primary and secondary school teachers.

BUDGET

In the 2005 fiscal year, the IRC Guinea program has an operating budget of 2,719,183 million USD. Funding for IRC Guinea programming was provided by USBPRM, UNHCR, Stichting Vluchteling (SV), UNICEF, Compton Foundation, Alcoa Foundation, and Seinfeld Foundation. Thus far, donors for the 2006 fiscal year include USBPRM, UNHCR, Stichting Vluchteling (SV), and UNICEF.

OFFICES

IRC Guinea has 3 operating offices: Conakry, Kissidougou, and N'zerekore.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The IRC Guinea program is pleased to share any additional information about its current programming or concepts for future projects.

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