

BENIN CRISIS APPEAL

FOR TOGOLESE REFUGEES IN BENIN AND BENINESE HOST COMMUNITIES

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Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY

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BENIN CRISIS APPEAL FOR TOGOLESE REFUGEES IN BENIN AND BENINESE HOST COMMUNITIES

- Over 17,000 refugees from Togo need continued access to health care, safe water and sanitation
- Several thousands children are anxiously waiting to go back to school
- Close to 200 unaccompanied and separated children need urgent support and assistance and need to be reunited with their family

BUDGET

Table 1: URGENT REQUIREMENTS (MAY-OCTOBER 2005)	
Sector	US\$
Child Protection: Urgent response for unaccompanied children	445,500
Education	395,000
Water and Sanitation	325,000
Health and Nutrition	89,000
Total	1,254,500

ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

On April 26th, violent demonstrations followed the announcement of the presidential election results, leading to an influx of Togolese refugees into Benin. Over 17,000 Togolese refugees have been registered to date, 11,000 of which are residing with host families and another 6,000 are living in one of two camps situated in Comè and Agame/Lokossa. Although the election period is over, the refugee population fear reprisals and talk of continued repression and nightly house raids. So far none seem yet ready to return. Among the refugees are close to 200 unaccompanied minors, aged 9-17. Some declared they saw their parents killed. Close to 50% of the refugee population in Benin are children, many of them are anxiously waiting to resume their studies. Given that 11,000 refugees are living amongst host communities, this appeal covers both the needs of the refugees in camps as well as that of host communities and the refugees living among them.

ACTION TO DATE

In March this year, the UN country team drafted an inter-agency contingency plan and initiated preparatory activities in order to be able to respond rapidly, should unrest related to the presidential elections in Togo lead to an influx of people into Benin. Within the plan, UNICEF is the lead agency for unaccompanied minors and separated children, education, water and sanitation. On April 27th, following the first influx of refugees into Benin, an inter-agency mission undertook a rapid assessment. UNICEF then immediately started to honor its commitments to children within the framework of the inter-agency contingency plan through the following actions:

- **Unaccompanied minors (UAM)**

Upon arrival at the Hillacondji border point, unaccompanied minors are identified and placed in a safe area until they are transferred to Comè camp, where a special area for them with 24-hour supervision has been set up. UAM receive hygiene kits, clothing, recreational games and food items. They are interviewed, an identification form is filled in and their photo taken. Data from the forms is then transferred to a database to facilitate family tracing. To date, five children have been reunified with their families.

- **Water and sanitation**

The main priority is to ensure the provision of water and sanitation for all refugees in Comè and Lokossa camps as well as at Hillacondji. UNICEF is setting up water distributions points in all sites as well as shower cabins.

Latrines are being constructed, trash cans distributed, and garbage collection and disposal systems set up in the camps.

- **Education**

UNICEF intends to get refugee children back to school as soon as possible. Close to 2,000 school children have already been identified in Comè and Lokossa camps. Temporary classes and child-friendly spaces are under construction in both camps and will be equipped. Close to 100 Togolese primary and secondary school teachers and animators for young children were identified within the camps. They completed training in psychosocial support and are ready to start teaching. Identification of Togolese school children living among host communities is ongoing. Support will be provided to local schools to help absorb Togolese children living in host communities.

- **Health**

Emergency health kits (equipment, drugs, basic surgery set) were distributed to the hospitals and 5 health centres in Comè and Lokossa as well as to the health centres in both camps to temporarily cover the most immediate needs.

PLANNED ACTION

Child Protection

- Ensure 24-hour protection and identification of all unaccompanied minors entering Benin at the main border-crossing and registration points.
- Ensure the safe transfer of these children to the UAM site in Comè camp and transfer of girls to UNICEF supported centres in Cotonou.
- Ensure 24-hour care and supervision of all UAM located at the Comè site.
- Provide basic non-food items (clothing, hygiene material, cooking fuel and basic food stuffs) to all UAM.
- Thoroughly document all cases and maintain the UAM database.
- Start family tracing and reunify all UAM with their family.
- Ensure psychological support to children on site who have witnessed or experienced direct violence.

Table 2: FUNDS REQUIRED FOR CHILD PROTECTION		
Activity	Beneficiaries	US\$
Identification, documentation, care and protection of UAM. Provision of psychosocial support to refugee children	200 UAM + other refugee children	230,000
Family tracing and reunification (in-country and cross border). Establishment and maintenance of UAM database.	200 UAM	150,000
Provision of basic non-food items, recreational equipment and operational costs	200 UAM + other refugee children	65,500
Sub-total		445,500

Education

- Ensure education for all children in Comè and Lokossa camps
- Support Beninese schools receiving refugee children
- Ensure recreational and psychosocial activities for children in Comè and Lokossa camps
- Ensure peace education and HIV/AIDS awareness for all children
- Train Togolese teachers and animators identified in the camps
- Set up classrooms using temporary shelters
- Set up pre-school groups for children aged 3-5 years
- Facilitate and support refugee children's registration for Primary and Secondary school exams in Benin

Table 3: FUNDS REQUIRED FOR EDUCATION		
Activity/Item	Beneficiaries	US\$
Temporary schools and child-friendly spaces, recreational, sport and cultural activities	2,000 refugee children	167,000
School equipment, textbooks and other didactic material for refugee children	Over 4,000 refugee children: 2,000 in camps and an estimated 2,000 in host communities	148,000
Training, support and incentives for supervisors, teachers and animators	100 supervisors, teachers and animators in camps	80,000
Sub-total		395,000

Water and Sanitation

- Ensure a safe water supply and adequate sanitation facilities for refugees based in Hillacondji, Comè and Lokossa camps
- Ensure an efficient garbage collection and management system in Comè and Lokossa camps
- Ensure health education to avoid water-borne diseases
- Monitor water and sanitation facilities within host communities and ensure adequate water supplies and sanitation facilities.

Table 4: FUNDS REQUIRED FOR WATER & SANITATION		
Activity/Item	Beneficiaries	US\$
Provision of safe water supply and installation of distribution points	7000 refugees	220,000
Provision of adequate sanitation facilities (latrines, shower cabins, etc.)	7000 refugees	95,000
Hygiene education and waste management	7000 refugees	10,000
Sub-total		325,000

Health and Nutrition

- Ensure immunization of all refugee children and affected populations;
- Ensure nutritional monitoring of all refugee children in the camps and support nutritional rehabilitation if needed;
- Ensure continued access of refugee and host populations to basic health care;

Table 4: FUNDS REQUIRED FOR HEALTH AND NUTRITION		
Activity/Item	Beneficiaries	US\$
Provision of basic medicine, equipment and emergency health kits	30,000 (7,000 in camps, 13,000 refugees outside camps and 10,000 host population)	41,400
Provision of midwifery kits with equipment, medicines and consumables	350 pregnant women	21,600
Organization/supervision immunization and nutritional activities	5000 children<5	26,000
SUB-TOTAL		89,000

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