



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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African Union donates US\$ 600,000 to UNHCR's programmes in four African countries

As a sign of the continental body's recommitment to solving the problem of forced displacement in Africa, the African Union Commission (AU) recently donated US\$ 600,000 to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which should go into supporting the latter's programmes in four African countries.

UNHCR's programmes in Liberia and Sierra Leone will receive US\$ 200,000 each while those in Cote d'ivoire and Guinea will each get US\$ 100,000.

The UN refugee agency duly acknowledges the donation and thanks the AU for this important gesture of solidarity with the agency, with the refugees it supports and with governments at both ends of the displacement problem. UNHCR also commits itself to utilizing the money for the purpose it has been donated.

The donation followed two assessment visits to the four countries by members of the Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) of the AU Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC). At the end of the visits, which took the delegates to refugee and IDP camps as well as to areas of return, the Sub-Committee came out with concrete recommendations including one for the granting of financial assistance so that the concerned countries could be able to cope with the challenges of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons.

The PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, a body representing all African countries accredited to the AU, deals with all matters pertaining to forced displacement on the continent on behalf of the African Union. The Sub-Committee has made it part of its regular yearly activities to go to refugee and IDP camps as well as return areas and assess the humanitarian situation. This would provide the AU with firsthand accounts of displacement situations in Africa.

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For years now, the AU has been extending such important humanitarian donations for victims of man-made and natural disasters in the continent. In 2007 it made donations amounting to US\$300,000 to victims of natural disasters in Togo, Ghana, Sudan and Uganda.

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