

Updated Population figures Lofa County

Place: Kolahun, Foya, Voinjama, Zorzor & Salayea Districts (Lofa County)
Vahun District remains inaccessible

Date: January 26th – February 17th, 2004

Last Assessments: December 10th – 22nd, 2003 (Present Population in Lofa, report 6/1/04)
November 20th – 28th, 2003 (Ecosec Assessment, report 9/12/03)

1) Introduction

In preparation of an agricultural program, ICRC teams started to register residents including returning refugees and IDPs in early December. Figures have since been updated several times in order to cover as accurately as possible the growing resident population of Lofa.

Until end of January, 6100 families had been registered and assisted with a variety of agricultural tools as well as soap and second hand cloths through a community based distribution approach involving traditional leaders. This distribution approach was also chosen to allow for the integration of new arrivals until the distribution of rice seeds and assorted vegetable seeds end of March.

A summary table as well as a detailed breakdown of villages assisted per distribution point and district provide an accurate image of the current resident population of Lofa. Data related to Family Heads (FH) have been checked 3 times during the whole process and have been used to extrapolate total population figures anticipating a standard family size of five.

The 21 distribution sites have been identified in the 5 districts following criteria like:

- Total population in the area;
- Accessibility for trucks and/or pickup trucks;
- The town can be used as a "satellite point" for others towns and villages in the area.

Distribution Site	Estimate Total Family Heads (17/2/04)	Estimated Total population (17/2/04)	Total FH assisted by ICRC in January
Kolahun District	2532	12660	2279
1. Honeyahun	258	1290	232
2. Kolba City	662	3310	596
3. Mongsasu	189	945	170
4. Gondorlahun	963	4815	867
5. Masabolahun	122	610	110
6. Popalahun	338	1690	304
Foya District	1392	6960	1253
1. Foya City	1392	6960	1253
Voinjama	989	4945	890

District			
1. LPMC	109	545	98
2. Sarkonadu	198	990	178
3. Lawalazu	111	555	100
4. Barkedu	266	1330	239
5. Madala's	170	850	153
6. Velezale	91	455	82
7. Kluka	44	220	40
Zorzor District	1697	8485	1527
1. Morris Town	52	260	47
2. Konia	107	535	96
3. Borkeza	143	715	129
4. Zorzor	352	1760	317
5. Fesibu	397	1985	357
6. Wozi (including Wuomai)	646	3230	581
Salayea District	252	1260	227
1. Salayea Area	252	1260	227
Lofa County (Except Vahun)	6862	34310	6176

A) Kolahun District

- The most populated district. Population is concentrated in the Hembe Clan area, from Kpotohewa and Gondorlahun to Gelema, down to Belle forest.
- People are coming back mainly from SL and the camps in Guinea (Kouankan camps).

B) Fova District

- Most of the population is concentrated along the border with SL.
- People started to come back in November, mainly from SL but also from Guinea (Kouankan camps). The return process accelerated in January with the agricultural season.
- We registered **an increase of 33% between beginning of January until mid February.**

C) Voinjama District

- Most of the population is concentrated in towns and villages close to the Guinean border.
- People are coming back mainly from the camps in Guinea (Kouankan camps) and also from Monrovia.

- We registered a **population increase of 36% from beginning of January until mid February.**

D) Zorzor District

- Population is concentrated mainly in 2 areas: in Zelemai, Wozi and Wuomai area in the West and in Borkeza and Fesibu area in the East.
- People are coming back from the camps in Guinea (Kouankan camps), the camps in Bong County (Salala, Totota, Tumutu) and also from Monrovia.
- Part of the people registered in Zorzor district are IDPs waiting to go back to Voinjama and Kolahun district. Particularly in Zorzor town & its surroundings, a majority of people are IDPs.

E) Salayea District

- Salayea was completely deserted until the end of 2003 and people have started to come back in January. The population has doubled in only one-month time, going from 109 FH beginning of January to 227 FH mid February. Family Heads are smaller in Salayea district than in any other places: usually, only one or two persons per FH are coming back for the agricultural season. They clean their place, build their house and prepare their land to do farming. The rest of the family stays in the camps to benefit from the assistance. The same pattern was earlier observed in Foya district where people were doing regular "in" and "out" between SL and Liberia without initially settling in Lofa.
- Return occurs from Totota, Salala and Tumutu camps, as well as from villages in Bong County and from Monrovia.