PNABK413 Refugees 1965
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# SUGGESTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO HELP MEET THE UNMET NEEDS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

Requests often come in from individuals, groups, or governments inquiring what is needed by Vietnamese refugees to help alleviate their conditions of life. This memorandum has been developed to assist in answering these requests.

## Who are the refugees?

Vietnamese refugees are persons displaced from their usual abode because of rejection of Communism, VC terrorism and intimidation, or military operations. Some fled from their homes because of natural disasters, for instance, the November 1964 floods in the north. These refugees are unable or fear to return to their homes and they have sought the security of provincial and district capitals.

## How many refugees are there?

The Vietnamese Government reports 735,858 refugees as of December 5, 1965. Of this total, 282,191 are considered to be resettled, i.e., they have been relocated in permanent resettlement areas or have returned to their original village. The remainder, 453,567, are living in temporary shelters, government-supported camps, religious-sponsored centers, or on their own. Many refugees are living among the general population and have not been registered by the Vietnamese Government. Because of this fact and because of continued military action, we must anticipate that a high water mark of 1,000,000 refugees by early 1966 is not beyond the realm of possibility.

In considering needs which have not been programmed, think of a refugee camp as containing 500 family units or 2,500 refugees, the average family consisting of five persons. Such a camp would probably have as high as 60% children under 16 years of age. The balance would most likely be women and older men. There are few men of military age and in good health in any of the camps.

December 15, 1965

Suggested Contributions by Groups or Individuals

| | Guide for Quantities |
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| 1. Amenities | |
| Maternity Kits (Should contain such items as soap, baby powder, 2 wash cloths, 2 small sheets, baby blanket, towel, toothbrush and paste, sterile gauze. Pack in plastic or cotton bag.) | 1 per refugee mother |
| Sanitary Kits (Should contain such articles as soap, comb, towel, mirror. Pack in plastic or cotton bag.) | 1 per refugee |
| Soap (face and laundry) | 2 bars per month |
| Children's Clothing (cleaned and baled) | 2 lbs per child every six months |
| Girls' and Women's Clothing (cleaned and baled) (small sizes, mainly warm weather garments) | 2 lbs per person every three months |
| Children's Sandals | 2 pairs per child per year |
| Condensed Milk and Baby Foods | Unlimited Quantities |
| 2. Work Project Supplies | |
| Sewing Machines (Treadle type) | 50 per camp of 2,500 |
| Sewing Kits (Should contain thread, needles, pins, scissors. Pack in plastic or cotton bag.) | 1 per refugee family every six months |
| Tool Kits<br>Carpentry<br>Mechanics<br>Agriculture<br>Masonry<br>Forge | 5 kits per camp of 2,500 |

Suggested Contributions by Governments

Food Items
- Rice
- Cooking Oil
- Dry Milk
- Salt
- Sugar
- Condensed Milk
- Baby Foods

Medical Items
- Bandages
- Ointment
- Disinfectants
- Medicines
- Vitamins

Other Items
- Blankets
- Mosquito Nets
- Tool Kits
- Water Pumps
- Mobile Health Units
- Pickup Trucks
- Water Trucks
- Water Cans
- Rope
- Small Mess Kits (Boy Scout type) or small pots and pans

Personnel Needed for Work with Refugees

A number of national voluntary agencies are recruiting personnel for service in Vietnam. Workers are needed at both province and camp levels. Below are listed some of the skills which would be of value in this situation.

- Nutritionists or Home Economists
- Sanitation Officers
- Agriculture Specialists, including Animal Husbandry
- Vocational Training Instructors
  - Someone capable of teaching village-level engineering and mechanical skills
  - Carpentry
  - Masonry
  - Forge
  - Brickmaking
- Irrigation Specialists
- Community Development Personnel
- Child Welfare Specialists
- Health Educators

It may be convenient to channel contributed supplies or refer persons interested in serving to one of the voluntary agencies already operating in Vietnam.

Some of the major agencies are:

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| C.A.R.E. | 660 First Avenue<br>New York, New York |
| Catholic Relief Services | 350 Fifth Avenue<br>New York, New York |
| Foster Parents' Plan | 352 Park Avenue South<br>New York, New York |
| International Rescue Committee | 460 Park Avenue South<br>New York, New York |
| Mennonite Central Committee (representing Protestant denominations) | Akron, Pennsylvania |