

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CENTRAL AFRICA

26 October, 2001

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.07/2001

Appeal Target: CHF 2,988,612

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: 1 January - 30 June, 2001

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 54.4%

Related Appeals: 14/01 (West and Central Africa: Meningitis)

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,361,412

Summary/Update: The Regional Delegation has experienced considerable difficulties in securing funding for the planned activities. Despite the lack of donor support, the delegation modified its programme and adjusted activities to achieve the following: objectives for all National Societies were set; exchanges between PNSs involved in bilateral agreements (French, Swiss, Spanish, and the Belgian Red Cross) were maximized; national societies were supported in their fight against AIDS, epidemics, and the eradication of polio; the structures and roles of volunteers in each National Society was strengthened.

Background, and Operational Developments:

The sub region of Central Africa covers the following eight countries: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe. The situation in all these countries remains precarious due to poverty, conflict, political unrest, natural disasters and epidemics, increasing humanitarian needs and security concerns.

The Central Africa appeal (no. 01.08/2001) was launched with the following main objectives:

- to strengthen the capacities of the national societies by providing them with advice and guidance on institutional matters (statutes, organization and management, governance), promote and train human resources and assist in the development and diversification of financial resources;
- to support national societies in implementing programmes targeting to the needy and to the most vulnerable, particularly in the areas of community health and the promotion of humanitarian values;
- to provide technical and material support for disaster preparedness and prevention and for emergency response.

Tragic events occurred during the reporting period which particularly affected the Red Cross Movement, with the loss of seven delegates and employees in the region: six ICRC colleagues were ambushed and murdered in Bunia, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and in another tragic incident one colleague of the Federation was murdered on 28 May during a robbery in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon.

Several other noteworthy events and activities occurred in the region, impacting positively and negatively on the humanitarian situation during the period:

- the return of the rains which lessened the impact of the drought in Chad and meningitis but then lead to floods and the spread of cholera;
- since early in the year the Central African Republic suffered severe storms and a violent tornado caused damage around the capital of Bangui, leaving more than 200 families homeless. The humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) deteriorated considerably following a failed coup attempt. Bangui residents suffered additional hardships with the continuing armed conflict between loyalist forces and the authors of the coup attempt. Many residents, affected by the floods and the insecurity, left the districts to seek refuge in the forest and surrounding villages (according to the provisional assessment by the government in early June, 88,765 people had been displaced). The Central African Government launched an emergency programme and requested immediate international humanitarian assistance to provide relief, including medical care;
- in Cameroon, and more particularly at the foot of Mt. Cameroon (at Limbé), torrential rains resulted in the loss of 30 lives;
- the meningitis epidemic in Cameroon, Chad and the Central African Republic was brought under control;
- malaria continued to claim victims in the subregion. At the Abuja conference in April, African Heads of State and Government adopted resolutions aimed at diminishing the morbidity and mortality rates from this disease;
- countries of the southern bloc of the subregion (the DRC, Angola, Gabon and Congo Brazzaville) prepared synchronized National Vaccination Days (NIDs);
- a regional partnership meeting (ICRC - Federation - National Societies with the main donors in the region being the French, Swedish, British, Swiss and Spanish Red Crosses) was held in Yaoundé from 4 to 8 June to assess progress made this year so far and how to better assist the region in a coordinated and creative manner. Central Africa as a region has suffered chronic neglect from donors and programme implementation and activities have often been crippled with lack of resources.

While there was no distinct Disaster Response component in this appeal in 2001, the Regional Delegation did respond to the floods in Cameroon by supporting the Cameroon Red Cross in assisting victims of the floods at Limbe in the south-west of the country. During the landslide, 30 people were killed and 1,500 made homeless.

The Limbe local committee urgently mobilized 100 volunteers to:

- identify those affected and evacuate the vulnerable (women, children, the elderly);
- provide first aid;
- transfer the injured to dispensaries;
- distribute food and non-food provisions to the homeless;
- raise public awareness of the risk of epidemics.

CHF 20,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable the DRAC to provide assistance to 1,500 victims, chlorinate water supplies, and distribute one medical kit per 1,000 persons, two cholera kits, and 100 pairs of boots.

Health and Care

The following objectives were established:

- A reduction in the malaria morbidity and mortality rates and establishment of an income-generating programme with the impregnation of mosquito nets by 20 local committees in each country.
- Increasing young people's knowledge of sexually transmitted disease (STD) and AIDS with the aim for long-term reduction in the HIV prevalence rates in the young population.
- Reduce the suffering of 500 AIDS patients per country through home care.
- Reduce the number of victims of epidemics, improve response in periods of disaster and reduce the number of preventable diseases.
- Make available to selected communities at least one volunteer trained in first aid (CBFA).

- Renewal of existing water sources and improvement of the environment for the population.

Fight against AIDS

The following activities were achieved:

- **Cameroon** - support was provided to the National Society to finalize the action plans for the campaign against STDs/AIDs. Technical support was provided during the training of 32 provincial supervisors for the programme. The training programme consisted of: educational pairing; management of drop-in centres and theatrical awareness-raising performances; home visits to persons living with HIV; training of parents for persons living with AIDS in primary home care. The persons who received training are now engaged in identifying those who will lead the programme at the district level (coaches). The Regional Health Delegate and his deputy provided strategic support for the field programme at Bamenda and Bafoussam, in the north-western and western provinces respectively, from 15 to 17 May. Provincial officials from the coast and the south-west received the same mission from 23 to 25 May. This enabled the problems facing volunteers in the implementation of the programmes to be assessed.
- **Central African Republic** - The Regional Health Delegate carried out a mission in the Central African Republic from 12 to 23 April 2001, during which he helped the National Society to finalize its campaign against STD/AIDS. Activities were disrupted by the attempted coup d'état, which paralyzed the country for one month.
- **Chad** - The deputy Regional Health Delegate carried out a mission from 21 April to 2 May to assist the National Society in the training of 28 provincial supervisors for the programme. They in turn will train 60 animators in educational pairing and the management and leadership of AIDS programmes at the district level. A drop-in centre was opened at Moundou. The action plan of the Red Cross of Chad programme against STD/AIDS was finalized during this mission. The plan was submitted to the Japanese Embassy for funding and is under consideration by the cooperation department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Tokyo.
- **Sao Tome and Principe** - The Regional Health Delegate carried out a mission from 26 to 30 June in support of the National Society's finalization of its programme against STD/AIDS.
- **Congo Brazzaville** - The Regional Health Delegate carried out a mission to Brazzaville from 23 March to 2 April. In addition to other health activities, he assisted the National Society in the finalization of the action plan for its AIDS program. Related to coordination of partnership with the French Red Cross, a meeting was held with the official in charge of the out-patient clinic. Cooperation with the Congolese Red Cross was discussed, and it was agreed to contribute to the training of volunteers in home support to patients.
- **Gabon** - Related to coordination of partnership with the French Red Cross, additional training was provided to Gabonese Red Cross volunteers to enable them to give home psychological support to some of the 380 patients at the out-patient clinic.

Eradication of Polio

The Regional Health Delegate and his deputy participated in the orientation and social mobilization workshop of the 2001 synchronized National Immunization Days (NIDS), organized by WHO, which was held at Douala from 23 to 25 May. During the discussions, the question was raised of holding high-quality National Vaccination Days to vaccinate all children, including the forgotten and the difficult of access. Hence the synchronization of the National Vaccination Days and the door-to-door strategy. The Federation team emphasized the role of National Societies and the contribution of the volunteer network to the monitoring of cases of acute flaccid paralysis. A second exhibition was held on "The contribution of the Red Cross of Chad to the success of the National Vaccination Days". Other actions included:

- **Congo Brazzaville** - the action plan for 2001 was finalized during the support mission of the Regional Health Delegate to the National Society.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo** - the Regional ARCHI 2010 Coaching Delegate helped the National Society to finalize its action plan for 2001. Synchronized National Vaccination Days with **Congo Brazzaville, Gabon** and **Angola** are to be held from 5 to 9 July 2001.
- **Chad** - Federation funding enabled the National Society to mobilize 1,500 volunteers, who contributed to the success of the National Vaccination Days held in April. A total of 1,980,000 children from 0 to 5 years of age were vaccinated. The deputy Regional Health Delegate provided strategic field support by traveling to four provinces. The work of the volunteers is greatly appreciated by the Ministry of Health, which regards

the National Society as a key factor in the process of eradicating polio in *Chad*. The operation enabled all the local committees to become operational. The number of new volunteers is constantly increasing.

Meningitis epidemic

- **Cameroon** - Once the meningitis epidemic had been brought under control, the regional delegation's health department assisted the national society in a programme to set up epidemiological monitoring to prevent a fresh outbreak next year. Twelve volunteer first aid instructors were trained and entrusted with leading the epidemiological monitoring network.
- **Chad** - Seven hundred volunteers were mobilized for an awareness-raising campaign. A total of 440 volunteer first aid workers were trained for social mobilization. A lot of 42,700 vaccination doses with syringes remaining in stock from last year's operation was handed over to the Ministry of Public Health by the Red Cross of Chad. The mobilization and vaccination campaign lasted 21 days, during which 1,500,000 persons were vaccinated in the provinces of Logone Oriental, Mayo-Kebi, Salamat, Moyen-Chari and Chari-Baguirmi. The National Society designed pamphlets and posters in French and Chadian Arabic, of which 3,400 were distributed.
- **Central African Republic** - Despite security problems, 150 volunteers from Bangui and the region of Ouham and Ouham-Pende were mobilized for early diagnosis of cases and their evacuation to the nearest health centres. Five hundred pamphlets provided by DRAC were distributed.

Anti-malaria campaign

Eight National Societies are being supported in the finalization of their programmes. Only Cameroon has prepared an action programme to retrain volunteers in techniques of mosquito-net impregnation.

Africa Red Cross and Red Crescent (ARCHI) 2010

Within the ARCHI 2010 program, the following activities were undertaken:

Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

- Exchange of views with the Federation's office on the support which DRAC intends to undertake to strengthen the operational capacities of the National Society.
- Finalization, with technical directors, of the mission agenda and a work plan approved by the Secretary General of the National Society.
- Workshop by 12 senior members and 20 other members of staff of the Secretariat General of the National Society to use ARCHI 2010 to: review the situation of volunteer work with the Red Cross of the DRC (methodology used: SWOT analysis in a team discussion); reflect on the question of promoting loyalty among volunteers in the Red Cross of the DRC. Management of the 85,000 volunteers goes on daily, in the light of the emergencies for which the National Society has been able to develop some expertise. There is no procedure for monitoring volunteers and no recruitment policy. However, the authorities have given volunteers free public transport, exemption from two-thirds of hospital medical fees and free treatment in Red Cross centres. After three days, the foundations were laid for the formulation of a recruitment and management policy for volunteers.
- Support for the finalization of the polio project, the wording of which was improved by DRAC (drafted under the ARCHI scheme, to be a first test for the three provincial committees).
- Support for the preparation of the AIDS action plan.
- Day devoted to ARCHI 2010 by the management committee: at the request of the President, all the members of the management committee and the Secretariat General familiarized themselves with Strategy 2010 during a day of presentations and discussions.
- Presentation of ARCHI 2010 to the Friends of the Red Cross journalists' club.
- Support for the delegation in holding a "road show" of priority programmes of the DRC Red Cross for various local partners to seek funding. The road show was held in the perspective of ARCHI 2010. The aim was to highlight DRC Red Cross volunteers, showing them as impact multipliers.

Cameroon Red Cross

A mission to the Cameroon red Cross enabled senior staff of the National Society at head office level to use the ARCHI 2010 strategy as a branch development tool through the rational management of volunteers in the

branches. As an activity to be carried out after this stage, senior staff will have to prepare a National Society volunteer management policy. The polio and AIDS projects will be used as a gateway in this effort. Positive contact was established with the French Red Cross to facilitate follow-up in the Cameroon Red Cross of a gift from the French Red Cross of major medical equipment to the value of 197,650 French francs to support its medico-social centre. A working meeting with Cameroon Red Cross technicians, including the head physician of the centre, enabled those present to ascertain what was delaying the start-up of the equipment. During the meeting, the head physician and the head of the financial department of the National Society provided assurances that everything had been done to ensure that the equipment was put into operation as soon as possible.

Organizational Development (OD)

The OD Programme carried out the following activities in support of the national societies:

Red Cross of the Central African Republic

A mission was carried out with the Head of Delegation from 9 to 13 May, with the aim of:

- reviewing the situation of National Societies with regard to programmes, institutional development and resources.
- jointly identifying short-term and medium-term strategies to support the National Society.

Following a year in his post, the president of the national society identified the following priority OD needs:

- increase the visibility of the national society;
- improve communications;
- improve the delivery of programmes.

The precarious socio-political situation in the country required particular attention to be devoted to the Red Cross of the Central African Republic, to enable it to continue to perform its role as an auxiliary of the public authorities in a credible manner. Currently, it can mobilize 3,553 volunteer first aiders workers, 2,161 of them in Bangui alone. Of the Bangui volunteers, 200 have been retrained by the ICRC in disaster preparedness.

The following actions were taken in implementation of the mission to Bangui of 9 to 13 May:

- Bank transfer of 230,000 CFA francs to the National Society to support the installation and operation of an e-mail address.
- Preparation and dispatch of a draft contract for the training of leaders and volunteers in the local committees in how to develop and manage small projects.
- Preparation of a draft contract for financial support of the Coordination Commission set up for and on behalf of the Secretariat General for three months.
- Revision of the current statutes: the President of the Red Cross of the Central African Republic finally replied to the Geneva Joint Commission on Statutes, stating that the measures taken to revise the statutes adopted by the General Assembly in May 2000 were not in conformity with the minimum acceptable standard under the Federation Guidelines for NS Statutes.

Gabonese Red Cross

Since the beginning of the year, the Gabonese Red Cross has been preparing for its next General Assembly, which is expected to adopt new statutes. The Federation and ICRC delegates, with the support of the French Red Cross delegate in Gabon, established a commission to revise the statutes. The Federation support for an accountant post in the national society from the beginning of August to help it put in place effective logistical and financial procedures has been a success, with positive results for the national society.

Regional gender workshop

- None of the activities planned under this objective have been carried out due to financial constraints. The support mission to the Red Cross of Chad has also been postponed, as national political events and the season were not conducive to movements within the country.

Cameroon Red Cross

- Revision of the Statutes. With the ICRC, the Federation participated with the ICRC at the National Society head office in two working meetings of the Commission for revision of the Statutes. The Commission, consisting of Presidents of the Departmental Committees and the Secretary General of the Cameroon Red Cross, was established by the most recent General Assembly at Bafoussam in May 2000.
- Follow-up/analysis of the results of the process of restructuring local committees: this objective has not been achieved as such, since the Cameroon Red Cross has not yet completed the field work. However, the National Society has selected two departmental committees, to be supported by DRAC as part of branch development. An analysis of the results of the committees' assessment will make it possible to judge whether their selection was appropriate.
- The Red Cross Club of Yaoundé University II: The regional delegation supported the Club in organizing and holding a day of discussion to which all components of the Movement were invited. Three topics were presented and discussed: International Humanitarian Law; the AIDS situation in Cameroon; and volunteer work. The discussion was intended to achieve greater involvement in Red Cross life on the part of the university administration and students in general, and the university club in particular. More than 50 students and the Rector of the University took part.

Regional cooperation

Regional partnership meeting

A meeting was held from 4 to 8 June at Yaoundé, with the participation of seven of the eight National Societies in the region. The only absentee was the Red Cross of the Central African Republic, because of the disturbances created by the attempted coup d'état of 28 May. The British, Spanish, French, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies also took part, as did the Standing Commission of the Movement, the Africa Department and the Health Department of the Federation's Secretariat General.

With the goal of reinvigorating the regional resource base, during the reporting period each national society has assessed strengths, weakness, and human resource base, and it is planned that this will form the a regional database for future needs. Five technicians from the Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo, DRC, Chad, and Sao Tome national societies (water and sanitation, health, logistics, development, and emergency preparedness) were selected to form an emergency response group.

A particularly effective aspect of this programme is an initiative to exchange information by radio transmission. Positive results have already been seen in the response to the cholera outbreak in Chad, and the preparation and results of the NIDs.

The Swiss, French, and Spanish Red Cross have been particularly involved in supporting regional cooperation efforts, with specific assistance directed to the various projects with a special focus on health interventions.

Coordination and Management

The following four coordination objectives were established:

- To have an effective regional delegation with qualified staff to respond to the needs of programmes being carried out and to operational emergencies.
- To provide technical support to the national societies in financial management and to the Federation's delegations in the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Ensure a coherent and integrated approach of all regional programmes so as to comply with ARCHI, Strategy 2010 and the Ouagadougou recommendations.
- To facilitate co-ordination between the national societies of the region, participating national societies and other partners for better planning and programming with technical and financial support.

The following activities were undertaken:

- the Swiss Red Cross: under an expanded partnership between the Swiss Red Cross, the Red Cross of Guinea, the Gabonese Red Cross and DRAC, financed by the Swiss Red Cross, the Gabonese Red Cross received support from technicians of the Red Cross of Guinea in water, sanitation and ID.
- the French Red Cross: in addition to home care for patients treated in out-patient clinics in Gabon and Congo, in Chad the French Red Cross is continuing its water and sanitation project (construction of latrines and drilling) in schools in N'Djaména (12,000 children).
- the Spanish Red Cross: in agreement with the regional delegation, the Spanish Red Cross postponed the visit of its delegate to Equatorial Guinea. Activities in the DRC (construction of an integrated centre, AIDS awareness-raising at the University of Kinshasa), Guinea (dispensary, construction of a warehouse), and Sao Tome (day centre for old people, renovation of old people's homes, food aid) were continued.

Outstanding needs

With the human resources needed at the Regional Delegation to implement the planned programmes finally in place, the present team is considered adequate to meet the anticipated challenges. Successfully meeting the planned objectives however depends on additional donor support and financing. To this extent, it is hoped that the expressions of support established at the partnership meeting in June will result in firm financial support for the remainder of this year and projecting ahead into the 2002 programme and appeal.

For further details please contact: Terry Carney, Phone: 41 22 730 42 98; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: carney@ifrc.org

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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Central Africa Regional Programmes						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.07/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				17.08.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'988'612		TOTAL COVERAGE 54.4%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AMERICAN - GOVT		90'000	USD	154'188	14.05.2001	
BRITISH - RC		35'000	GBP	84'350	05.02.01	REG. DELEGATION CORE COSTS
BRITISH - RC		20'000	GBP	48'200	05.02.01	REG. HEALTH PROGRAMME
BRITISH - RC		20'000	GBP	48'200	05.02.01	REG. CULTURE OF PEACE
DANISH - RC				72'750	01.07.2001	DELEGATE
NORWEGIAN - RC		100'000	NOK	18'830	10.05.2001	REGIONAL DELEGATION
SWEDISH - RC		200'000	SEK	34'740	28.02.01	COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - RC		200'000	SEK	34'740	28.02.01	HEALTH & CARE
SWEDISH - RC		200'000	SEK	34'740	28.02.01	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		500'000	SEK	84'950	21.05.2001	INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCE DEV.
SWEDISH - GOVT		450'000	SEK	76'455	21.05.2001	REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DELEGATE
SWEDISH - GOVT		300'000	SEK	50'970	21.05.2001	COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'600'000	SEK	271'840	21.05.2001	HEALTH, DEVELOPMENT, ARCHI, HIV/ AIDS, HUMANITARIAN VALUES
SWEDISH - GOVT		400'000	SEK	66'200	21.05.2001	REGIONAL COOPERATION
SWITZERLAND GVT				275'000	12.07.2001	ID PROGRAMME
SWITZERLAND GVT				160'000	12.07.2001	COORD / MGT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'516'153	CHF	50.7%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Spain	Delegate(s)			2'793		
Denmark	Delegate(s)			48'295		
Sweden	Delegate(s)			59'959		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				111'047	CHF	3.7%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
P62900, P62911, P62913						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
P62160, P62301, P62900, P62901, P62902, P62911, P62913						