

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

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

17 November 2003

Appeal no. 01.42/2003; Appeal target: CHF 213,602 (USD 146,563 or EUR 145,227)

Programme Update No. 3;

Period covered: July to September 2003

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 64.9%; please refer to the [Contributions List](#) for this appeal on the Federation's website

Outstanding needs: CHF 74,953 (USD 60,000 / EUR 48,000)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

- [Republic of Congo: Ebola - Emergency Appeal no. 24/2003](#)
- [Republic of Congo: Annual Appeal no. 01.44/2004](#)

Programme Summary: With the new management team now in place and with peace prevailing throughout the country, the [Congolese Red Cross](#) looks for ways and means to reinforce its financial, human and material capacities. During this reporting period, the Congolese Red Cross supported the government in the fight against HIV/AIDS in setting up a global strategy for Africa. The deployment of a regional resource person from the Congolese Red Cross by the Sub-Regional Office to support the Red Cross of DRC to fight the epidemic of Ebola highlights of the regional integration and cooperation through knowledge sharing and exchange..

Operational developments

The third quarter of the year 2003 was particularly remarkable due to the celebration in Brazzaville of the fourth edition of Pan African Music Festival during which volunteers from the Congolese Red Cross conducted sanitation activities. Another event includes the celebration of the 43rd independence anniversary of the Republic of Congo.

The peace climate has prevailed in the country during this quarter. The Congolese Red Cross held a coordination and planning meeting in Kinshasa (21-25 July 2003) with the Red Cross of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), concerning mutual activities. The Congolese Red Cross also met with Central Africa partner and operational national societies, and they held a meeting with a team from Geneva to work out a plan of action on the strengthening of the national society capacities in Mobile Treatment Centres.

During this reporting period, the Congolese Red Cross supported the government in the fight against HIV/AIDS in setting up a global strategy for Africa. The Congolese Red Cross participated in distribution activities of food and non-food items to the internally-displaced persons (IDP) from Kinkala district in Pool Department. It also trained 36 volunteers to support the government and other partners' efforts for a successful return of IDP to their homeland.

With the new management team now in place and with peace prevailing throughout the country, the Congolese Red Cross looks for ways and means to reinforce its financial, human and material capacities. The Federation, together with other operational partners, such as ICRC, Ministry of Health, Spanish Red Cross, WHO, UNPFA, supports the

Congolese Red Cross efforts. Nonetheless, much remains to be done to implement the priority programmes. Additionally, the Federation Sub-Regional Office in Yaoundé supports cooperation mostly between the Red Cross of DRC and the Congolese Red Cross. The deployment of a regional resource person from the Congolese Red Cross by the Sub-Regional Office to support the Red Cross of DRC to fight the epidemic of Ebola highlights of the regional integration and cooperation through knowledge sharing and exchange.

Disaster Response and Preparedness

Objective of the Programme: In response to the cyclic floods, the Ministry of Health is supported by the revitalization of the existing sanitation units and the strengthening of their management mechanisms and of the Congolese Red Cross regional committee's intervention unit.

Results obtained

- Food and non food items distribution by the Red Cross volunteers to the displaced people in Kinkala (Pool Department) following the 18 December 1998 war.
- Volunteers were trained in food distribution and census techniques. This enabled them to successfully conduct a census of five hundred people of Pool Department grouped in sites, and families which welcomed them in Brazzaville, prior to their voluntary return to their home land.
- To efficiently respond to disasters, the Congolese Red Cross General Directorate conducted meetings to develop risk-zone mapping; this was supported by the Head of Delegation and the Red Cross of DRC.
- With the support of the Spanish Red Cross, the Congolese Red Cross manages a canoe bought to strengthen the financial capacities of the national society in transporting individuals from Brazzaville to some villages along the banks of the Congo River as well as for rescue operations in case of floods.

Humanitarian Values

Objective of the Programme: International Humanitarian Law is familiar to 80% of the Congolese population and humanitarian values are respected by 50% of the young people, especially those who are engaged in military and police work (soldiers, police, gendarmes, militia and ex-militia), or studying (students, grammar school pupils, apprentices, etc).

Results obtained

- Due to security concerns arising almost daily, radio broadcasts were done by the Congolese Red Cross every Monday from 22h15 to 22h45 focusing on humanitarian values and International Humanitarian Law, with the support of the ICRC.
- With support from the Federation, all the eleven branches of the country are easy to reach on radios. News on the national society activities is regularly transmitted to the headquarters.
- The 20 Red Cross volunteers trained in International Humanitarian Law by the ICRC carried out some activities in the interior of the country through IEC¹ campaigns to sensitize the population on the respect of IHL, humanitarian values and Red Cross fundamental principles for a just society.
- Production of a bi-monthly information leaflet by the Congolese Red Cross focusing on humanitarian issues as well as sensitizing the population, other humanitarian partners and the Government authorities on the activities of the national society and involvement in the dissemination of humanitarian values and IHL.

Health and Care

Objective of the Programme: The Congolese Red Cross has been involved in the coordination activities of the Ministry of Health and Regional Health Directorate, while its volunteers have participated in all the health activities organized at the community level.

¹ IEC – Information, Education and Communication

Results obtained

People living with HIV / AIDS and control of STIs in Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, Dolisie and Owando.

- 55 peer-educators trained in information techniques carried out at least two sessions of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) each in their respective districts in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire.
- Access to quality information on STI/HIV/AIDS for a large part of the target population by way of simple preventive measures produced a greater change in behaviour in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire.
- The existing Mobile Treatment Centres (MTC) and other health centres in Brazzaville, Dolisie and Pointe-Noire have been supported in home care and visits of the people living with AIDS.
- In Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire, people living with AIDS received psychological comfort from Republic of Congo Red Cross volunteers.
- The eleven activity pools created in Brazzaville (seven) and Pointe-Noire (four) for educational counselling are operational.

Control of hemorrhagic fever caused by the Ebola virus

- Since the Ebola outbreak in the Republic of Congo department of Cuvette Ouest (bordering the Republic of Gabon), the Federation Delegation has actively supported the Congolese Red Cross to adequately respond to the epidemic along with the Ministry of Health, WHO and other operational humanitarian partners. During this reporting period, the Health Delegate, the operations co-coordinator and the Red Cross Head of Health and Social Action Department have been closely monitoring the epidemic development in the field, that is, in Mbomo, Kelle and Etoumbi.
- The volunteers trained during the previous operations continued sensitization and social mobilization activities, using the material (megaphones, bicycles, etc.) put at their disposal by the Federation.

Other activities

- Sanitary coverage of the Pan African Music Festival (known by its French acronym FESPAM) in Brazzaville, 2-8 August 2003.
- Exhumation by the Red Cross volunteers of remains of 27 persons victims of the war of 5 June 1997 in Brazzaville, districts of Mougali (four) and Mfilou (seven) to spare people living in neighbouring compounds from epidemic contamination.

Organizational Development

Objective of the programme: In technical and financial terms, the Congolese Red Cross is autonomous and capable of confronting the main challenges it faces, with the support of its volunteer network and its infrastructure.

Results obtained

- Permanent follow up of the activities launched at Mpoumako (a village situated in the district of Ngabé, Department of the Pool on national highway N° 2) approximately 100 km from Brazzaville) where a health centre was constructed and other self-financing activities were implemented by the Congolese Red Cross with the support and partnership of the Spanish Red Cross.
- A working meeting attended in Kinshasa by all heads of departments and the Director General of the Congolese Red Cross to develop a five-year strategic plan with the Red Cross of DRC.
- Participation of twelve senior staff of the Congolese Red Cross in coordination and planning meeting in Kinshasa to strengthen bilateral cooperation with the Red Cross of DRC.
- A special fundraising operation was organized in Imboulou village, district of Ngabé in the Department of the Pool. It was conducted by Congolese Red Cross volunteers, not only to reinforce the national society financial and operational capacities but also to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable people in the village.
- Meetings between members of the Movement (Congolese Red Cross, ICRC, Federation and SRC) allowed the development of a plan to combine efforts to continue supporting the Congolese Red Cross in its programme implementation.

- In Brazzaville, the delegation held meetings with the Congolese Red Cross's governance and management to discuss the form of cooperation in view of the deteriorating security situation, following the Etemeleke affair.

Fundamental Principles and Initiatives

The Congolese Red Cross implemented its programmes and carried out its activities without discrimination of sex, religion, tribe, among other issues. Both women and men were impacted in these activities which focussed particularly on HIV/AIDS and the promotion of Red Cross fundamental principles. ARCHI 2010 was applied by Red Cross volunteers, using basic means to get significant results.

Regional Cooperation

During this reporting period, regional coordination was reinforced through the exchange of resource persons. With the support of the Federation Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa, a resource person from the Congolese Red Cross was recruited and deployed in the Eastern Kasai province (DRC) to support the provincial Red Cross branch dealing with the cholera epidemic. This operation was financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and other partners (Swedish Red Cross, Federation). This resource person, a member of the Central Africa Disaster Response Team, also went on mission to other Central Africa sub-region countries to technically support the national society.

Coordination and Management

The activities carried out by the Congolese Red Cross were mostly coordinated by the Federation but with considerable support from other partners such as the ICRC and the Spanish Red Cross. Although the Federation suspended momentarily its activities in the Republic of Congo for security reasons, some delegates and local staff regularly crossed over the Congo River to support to the Congolese Red Cross in its efforts to help the vulnerable.

Advocacy/Public Information

Through its weekly radio broadcasts, the Congolese population was more aware than before of the different activities carried out by the Congolese Red Cross. It became more visible during and after the Ebola epidemic in the Cuvette Ouest department where Congolese Red Cross volunteers successfully contributed in the fight against the outbreak with the support of the Federation. The coverage given to their involvement by the local and international media was well received by the national and international community. Local authorities trust the national society and recognize its significant activities.

Special note: This update, dated 17 November 2003, was regrettably misplaced until its issuance on 15 January 2004.

For further information please contact:

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- Dany Gambicky, email: brazzvdel@wireless.ifrc.org or Momodou Lamin Fye, Federation Congo Delegation; Email hod.kinshasdel@wireless.ifrc.org; Telephone 243 81 88 45 582.
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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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

<Contributions List below – Click here to return to title page>

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|

CASH

| | | | | | | TOTAL COVERAGE |
|--------------------------------|--|---------|-----|---------|----------|----------------------------|
| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> | | | | 213,602 | | 64.9% |
| CASH CARRIED FORWARD | | | | 69,564 | | |
| IRISH - GOVT | | | | 32,625 | 28.04.03 | |
| SWEDISH - RC | | 50,000 | SEK | 8,025 | 24.03.03 | ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT |
| SWEDISH - GOVT | | 150,000 | SEK | 24,000 | 09.05.03 | ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH | | | | 134,214 | CHF | 62.8% |

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| SWEDEN | DELEGATE(S) | | | 4,435 | | |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES | | | | 4,435 | CHF | 2.1% |

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|--------------------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED | | | | 0 | CHF | |