

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

MANO RIVER

28 June 2004

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 181 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.27/2004; Programme Update no.1; Period covered: January to June 2004;
Appeal coverage: 17.8%; Outstanding needs: CHF 766,062 (USD 605,822 or EUR 501,021).
[\(Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\).](#)

Appeal target: CHF 932,472 (USD 700,317 or EUR 600,239).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: n.a.

Programme summary: In spite of the financial constraints at the sub-regional office, the national societies of the Mano River sub-region were provided with technical support to facilitate their response to the needs of the vulnerable. Côte d'Ivoire in particular got support for the two phases of polio campaigns, which were carried out at the request of the Ministry of Public Health on 25 March, 2004. The volunteers provided first aid to the wounded during the eventful march on the same date. They also evacuated the dead and the seriously wounded to various hospitals in Abidjan. Other national societies in the region received technical or training assistance at various levels.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed log frame documents).

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](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

The Mano River sub-region encompasses five countries; the sub-regional office works with the National Red Cross Societies in each country. (Click the name below to access the specific Federation web page).

[Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire](#) [Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau](#) [Red Cross Society of Guinea](#)
[Liberian Red Cross Society](#) [Sierra Leone Red Cross Society.](#)

Operational Development

Member countries of the Mano River sub-region have experienced some hardship during this period. In Côte d'Ivoire, what had started as a military protest against the demobilization of some soldiers from national army turned into a full-blown armed conflict, and practically divided the nation into two: the north and the west under the control of the New Forces, and the south under the control of the government. Today, inhabitants of Côte d'Ivoire live in a grey zone between peace and war; civil demonstrations have become routine. As a result of this conflict, over one million people have been internally displaced while as many as 400,000 foreigners have fled into the country. Guinea (Conakry), bordering Côte d'Ivoire on the East, has also felt the impact of the crises with more refugees fleeing into the country, swelling its already high refugee population of about 92,000 from the Liberian and Sierra Leonean conflicts. Over 40,000 Liberians and other nationals fled the country through Ghana; some of these sought political asylum in Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria and Liberia, the former barely recovering from the scars of its own gruesome war. As recent as 8 June 2004, news of fresh hostilities was reported in the village of Gohitafla in central Côte d'Ivoire, about 370 km northwest of Abidjan.

Health and care

Goal: Build the national society capacities.

Objective: Build the Regional national societies' capacities in all areas of health through shared experiences and training.

The Red Cross Guinea-Bissau received technical assistance in elaborating a project on the fight against HIV/AIDS while the Liberian Red Cross received assistance in its health programmes as included in the 2004 appeal.

Some national societies in the sub-region carried out community-based health programmes, anti-AIDS activities, and vaccination campaigns against measles while others implemented the projects included in the 2004 appeal. In addition, the health coordination team organized activities aimed at strengthening the technical capacities of the different health departments, to ensure efficient programme implementation.

Regional AIDS Network for Youth in West Africa (RANY-WA)

Goal: RANY-WA continues to play a great role in the reduction of annual incidence of HIV/AIDS among West Africa youths during the next two years.

Objective: RANY-WA undertakes some activities aimed at creating awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention among the youth in West Africa.

Expected Results

The 16 West Africa countries become members of the network by the end of the project.

- RANY-WA has assisted in HIV/AIDS prevention activities among the youths in member countries.
- RANY-WA appoints a permanent and functional secretary for the two next years.
- Annual capacity reinforcement workshops and meetings in member countries are organized.

Achievements

The RANY -WA terms of reference (ToR) meeting held in Abidjan 2-3 June 2004 provided an opportunity for the Red Cross societies of Southern Africa, West Africa, Asia and the Caribbean network of persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) to share experiences. Consequently, a new ToR for the Network has been drawn up. This Network is henceforth known as RAN-WAC (Red Cross and Red Crescent Aids Network for West and Central Africa).

The Secretariat's Unit Manager of the HIV/AIDS Global Programme and representatives from three offices, (the Nigeria sub-regional office health delegate, and the HIV/AIDS programme officers of the Central Africa and MAAno River sub-regional offices) participated in this workshop.

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Impact

An Action Plan and a commitment of involvement of the national societies in the implementation of these ToR in their respective countries have been developed as a starting point to creating awareness in HIV/AIDS prevention.

Other activities

Within the framework of world blood donation day, the sub-regional office, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, organized an activity of blood donation on 24 June 2004. During this activity, 120 pockets of blood was collected and put at the disposal of the national centre for blood transfusion.

Impact

Being that that this activity was highlighted in the media, it contributed to more visibility of the Federation and the national society before government authorities and the population.

Training

The sub-regional health coordinator attended training in Project Planning Process (PPP), and Epidemiology and Computer in Africa. The latter training consists in acquiring knowledge in epidemiological surveys, analysis and the management of epidemiological data.

Impact

The training would enable the Mano River office to envisage reactivating the sub-regional team in epidemiological surveillance and evaluation during disasters. Furthermore, the capacity of the sub-regional health coordinator in project development was strengthened.

Disaster Management (DM)

Goal: To support national societies alleviate the suffering of the vulnerable people through training and capacity building in co-operation with ICRC and other agencies.

Objective: The GAPI and RDRT¹ teams' capacities to provide timely and effective response to disaster victims are strengthened through knowledge sharing at regional and country levels.

Expected Results

The overall sub-regional disaster preparedness and response capacity has been strengthened, knowledge shared, skills transferred and joint planning improved.

- Readiness for disaster response based on risk analysis including population movement is established or improved through contingency plans at sub-regional and country levels.
- The disaster management network skills upgraded through training and joint planning activities are realized based on GAPI and RDRT teams.
- The Mano River sub-regional office has enhanced the economic and social status of war-affected children and vulnerable communities, increasing the peace building process.
- The sub-regional database is established, regularly updated and shared with the national societies.

Sub-regional activities could not be carried out due to budget constraints. However, a regional DM workshop was organized in Grand Bassam, south of Abidjan during the last week of June, 2004.

¹ GAPI - Groupe d'Alerte et de Première Urgence; RDRT – Regional Disaster Response Team

Organizational Development

Goal: The Abidjan sub-regional office national societies possess the characteristics of a well-functioning national society.

Objective: The national societies' capacity to provide quality services is reinforced.

Expected Results

National societies are trained in the areas of good governance, the fundamental principles and humanitarian values, project planning (PPP), and the cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) implementation process.

Sub-Regional groups

A sub-regional group meeting aimed at finalizing the group's management/action plan and budget was held in Guinea (Conakry) 15-16 April. District member technicians were in attendance in preparation for the next meeting in Ouagadougou (2-3 May).

Impact

Besides the elaboration of the management and action plan, a strategy to improve the capacity of the Abidjan group in assisting member national societies was adopted. This enhances the coordination of the national societies' activities under the group.

Guinea (Conakry)

The deputy OD officer of Guinea Conakry organized an OD, PPP, narrative and financial reporting workshop, at which the Mano River OD officer was in attendance. The workshop was aimed at improving the understanding and capacity of the national society on PPP, narrative and financial reporting, as well as OD.

The workshop facilitators were:

- The Finance and Administrative Officer, whose presentation was on financial reports, budget planning, forecast, loan, documents validation, role and post description of financial officers in the Federation among others.
- The regional delegation Reporting Officer presented the techniques of writing, editing and report preparation on the Appeal. Result-based reporting against the standard Federation reports² was emphasized.
- The Mano River OD officer made a general presentation on project development and the different stages of PPP.
- The deputy OD for Red Cross of Guinea also made a presentation on OD and reported on the different Federation structures.

Impact

Participants realized their areas of weakness in project management and elaboration of feasible projects. This led to the recognition and need for developing viable structures (financial and administrative procedures) to enhance national societies' transparency and credibility. A commitment was made towards improving administrative procedures at management level.

Focal persons in OD, PPP, narrative and financial reporting were appointed and these will receive specific training on their job sites or at the Abidjan office.

Constraints

The national society has no income-generating programme making it vulnerable and dependent on donors especially the Federation, UNHCR and ICRC. The need for establishing and financing income-generating projects to make them self-reliant is crucial.

² Standard Federation reports: Information Bulletins; Emergency Appeals, Operation Updates, Final Reports; Annual Appeals, Programme Updates, Annual Reports; and Pledge-based Reports.

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Côte d'Ivoire

The sub-regional office assisted technically in the organization of a radio programme called the 'Humanitarian way', a radio time-slot of OCHA on the World Red Cross Day, May 8. It also participated in the Volunteers' Day event organized by the country's President. The meeting was aimed at congratulating the volunteers and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement for their support during the armed conflict and other social upheavals.

The activities of the sub-regional office were as follows:

- A three-month professional training course was created for the accountant. This initiative is intended to continue throughout the year in the logistics and administrative departments.
- Consultants have been appointed in the areas of Administration, Information and Projects Management to build the national societies' capacity and enhance the professional skills in their different areas. This creates a focal point for information and financial reporting and facilitates the establishment of procedures. The consultants spend one day each week with their counterparts at the sub-regional office.

Impact

The Coordinators, the Secretary General and the President gave their approval for the setting up of financial and administrative procedures as well as editing a manual, distributed to the different local committees.

Capacities are strengthened in information, administration, resource development as well as project elaboration and management. Information, administrative and resource development officers are used for weekly consultations to assist the national society and the sub-regional office in preparing papers to be sent for validation, project improvement and timely reporting. The Federation gives a minimal financial contribution to these focal persons.

Constraints

There is an administrative backlog.

Guinea-Bissau

The sub-regional office provided technical assistance to the national society in the operational budget development of the Capacity Building Funding (CBF) under the national society, as well as the formulation of the terms of reference for the recruitment of a new Secretary-General. The action plan was revised since half the activities under CBF were already financed.

Impact

There is a close collaboration between the national society and the sub-regional office. There is hope that in two years, the Red Cross of Guinea-Bissau will be a normal and efficient national society.

Constraints

The national society's progress and operational capacity is hampered by inadequate financial resources.

Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships

Goal: The national societies' capacity is evaluated and strengthened through personalized, specialized and adapted training programmes.

Objectives: The five countries receive direct technical and material support in the formulation, implementation and reporting on projects in 2004-2007.

Expected Results

- The national societies' capacity is reinforced through adapted and personalized training resulting in the improvement of service provided to vulnerable population.
- Knowledge sharing and the image of all national societies as government auxiliaries are enhanced.
- The sub-regional office also scrupulously ensures that financial reports and sub-regional programme narratives of this sub-region are result-based and timely.

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- Cooperation among the different bodies, which constitute the Movement functions harmoniously through the application of [Seville Agreement](#) adapted to conflict zones.
- A sub-regional database on human resources, events and workshops is set up to encourage knowledge sharing and to strengthen the national societies' coordination capacities.

Coordination

Bilateral meetings

To enhance coordination, the sub-regional office initiated monthly meetings with bilateral National Red Cross Societies i.e. Spanish Red Cross, Dutch Red Cross and French Red Cross. A review of the different donations was done to highlight the real needs and the areas requiring more support.

The sub-regional office participated in the inter-agency workshop (international organizations, UN, and international NGOs) for the preparation of the topics to be used for the general appeal aimed at improving the living conditions of war victims. Similarly, the sub-regional office attended meetings with WFP which revealed that WFP was involved in projects for PLWHA which are outside its mandate. It is being proposed that a partnership agreement with WFP be signed, which will benefit both for the Federation and WFP. This will further enhance the sub-regional HIV/AIDS programme, since WFP is already working in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.

Impact

- Duplication of efforts and funding has been prevented as a result of this meeting. It also enforces transparency among member national societies.
- The sub-regional office is more visible before the other NGOs and UN agencies. New contacts have been established and future local donors identified.

Constraints

The weak financial position of the sub-regional office makes it a beneficiary and not a donor during these workshops.

Finance and administration

Objective 1: Finance, administration and logistics in member countries are carried out efficiently and national society capacity is enhanced.

Financial constraints during the first half of the year delayed early start-up of activities and realization of certain programmes of the Mano River sub-region and Guinea-Bissau. The Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire met its financial needs from the opening balance on community health budget which facilitated the purchase of an accounting software.

In line with specific objective and expected results, a three-month volunteer, training on financial management of all health projects, was offered to the national society. The volunteer was to assist the finance and administrative officer while learning the financial procedures of the Federation.

In addition to his responsibilities, the logistics/administration assistant provided support in facilitating the sub-regional office's meetings during this reporting period.

Impact

Participation in the delegation's training workshops has strengthened the sub-regional office's fiscal competence.

Constraints

Delayed budget approval has led to delayed implementation of activities.

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Objective 2: Information and reporting in member countries are carried out efficiently enhancing the national societies' capacity.

The regional reporting office edited several Information Bulletins, Operations Updates and the 2003 Annual Reports for the five national societies in the sub-region in conjunction with the Africa Regional Reporting Unit. All reports are posted on the Federation's website. Additionally, the regional delegation and the Mano River sub-region supported regional reporting in facilitating a five-day narrative and financial reporting workshop in April 2004 for the Red Cross of Guinea to help them understand Federation reporting standards and how responsible reporting is related to marketing the Red Cross and building stronger partnerships. There were 25 participants in the training workshop. Case studies and practical exercises in reporting were addressed with a view to improving the quality of reporting in the sub-region. The sub-regional office has established a bi-monthly newsletter to foster information and knowledge sharing.

Impact

The national societies now have greater understanding of Federation reporting. The quality of reporting has improved during this reporting period.

Objective 3: The IT and Telecom programme in member countries are also efficiently executed, further enhancing the National Societies' capacity.

The sub-regional office acquired a certain number of computer items which developed the national societies' capacities through training. These items comprised a multi-media retro projector and printer network.

In Guinea, the decision to restructure the entire radio communication network was taken subsequent to the 2003 Guinean mission report. Consequently, a Guinean-based telecom representative was hired to carry out a six-month contract with the Mano River sub-regional office. A requisition was thus sent to Geneva for the purchase of telecom equipment.

Impact

The delegation's frequent communication problems as well as that of the sub-delegations and the Red Cross of Guinea have now been resolved.

The HF relationships with Nzerekore, Kissidougou and Conakry have been restored while Internet access band has been upgraded from 32K to 64K.

Impact

This equipment will enhance communications.

Constraints

The lack of adequately-trained local staff to ensure the follow-up after the departure of the delegate constitutes a major problem. The approved radio operator requires training at the Secretariat or Regional level.

In Sierra Leone, the radio operator benefited from one-month training in Nairobi aimed at increasing his technical skills.

The two previous missions to Liberia enhanced the assessment of all the telecom/computer needs of the Liberian Red Cross. Inquiry has also been made for Internet connection for the purpose of sending and receiving mails.

Constraints

The poor quality of Internet access has necessitated the temporary subscription to a local internet provider pending the improvement of the situation. Only the Federation's delegates have internet access in their residences at the moment.

As a lasting solution, a proposition has been made for the installation of an HF message system that is independent on any external supplier. With the exception of the installation cost, it is also virtually free. The material has arrived

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and will be installed by the second half of June. A proposal was also made for the training of the local IT and Telecom coordinator at the next training session scheduled at the Secretariat.

Côte d'Ivoire

Following a heavy thunder-storm in Abidjan, the VHF network of the national and regional offices of the national society was damaged. Repairs have been carried out on the VHF relay and the damaged connections changed. The Red Cross has once more resumed the use of the radio for coordination.

Impact

The proposal for the participation of the Red Cross radio operator at the sub-regional delegation training from 14 to 25 June 2004 in Dakar has been granted.

Constraints

The radio operator's competence and level of training needs improvement.

[Contributions List below: Click here to go to title page and contact information](#)

Mano River Sub-regional programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.27/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

02/07/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				932,472		17.8%
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		60,000	USD	76,410	26.03.04	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				90,000	29.01.04	COTE D'IVOIRE, ORGANISATIONAL DEV.
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				166,410	CHF	17.8%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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