

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

BENIN

21 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. 01.28/2004; Programme Update no. 1; Period covered: 01 January to 30 April 2004; Appeal coverage is 62.2%; Outstanding needs: CHF 30,607 (USD 24,200 or EUR 19,900)
[\(Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\).](#)

Appeal target: CHF 81,191 (USD 60,977 or EUR 52,263)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Nigeria sub-regional programmes Appeal no. 01.31/2004](#)

Programme summary: The Federation through its sub-regional office in Lagos, Nigeria has continued to work with the [Red Cross of Benin](#) to help address the governance and management crisis within the national society. All other programme support to the national society has been suspended from the beginning of the year. The sub-regional office has collaborated with ICRC/Abidjan and sought advice from the Federation's regional delegation in Dakar. It also met with the Ministry of Health to ensure that Federation's principles of independence and neutrality are included in the new decree of the national society to be passed by the government.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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- In Nigeria: George Bennett, Head of Nigeria Sub-Regional Office, Lagos; Email: ifrcng02@ifrc.org; Phone: 234.1.269.52.28; Fax 234.1.269.52.29.
- In Geneva: Mark Willis, Federation Regional Officer for West and Central Africa, Africa Dept.; Email mark.willis@ifrc.org; Phone 41.22.730.42.60; Fax 41.22.733.03.95

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 logframe 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>

Operational Developments

The Government of Benin held meetings with the President and Executive Secretary of the Red Cross of Benin and their aggrieved opponents to resolve crisis facing the national society. A similar meeting was also held by the Ministry of Health of Benin and the Federation office in Lagos and ICRC/Abidjan in April 2004. The Ministry agreed to receive views and comments from the Federation and the ICRC to ensure that the neutrality and independence of the national society are reflected and respected in the proposed Government decree concerning the national society.

Organizational Development Goal: The organizational capacity of the Red Cross of Benin is strengthened to provide efficient and effective services to improve the lives of the vulnerable people

Objective: The governance and management of the national society is strengthened to provide improved leadership to raise local resources and deliver services to the needs of the vulnerable people in the community.

Progress

The Ministry of Health agreed to hold a decree validation meeting in Cotonou, Benin to ensure that the basic principles of the Federation are incorporated in the proposed government decree of the Red Cross of Benin; the Ministry's response is being awaited. The Ministry requested the Federation and the ICRC to finance the forthcoming decree validation meeting. The Federation and ICRC showed readiness to financially contribute to the meeting. However, they both pressured the Ministry to call the meeting immediately. The Federation in its letter to the Ministry has clearly stated its position on the proposed government decree as follows: 'The national society should keep its full power of taking decisions to avoid political influence and identify the parts of the population that are most vulnerable and define its actions of assistance based only on humanitarian needs (principle of impartiality) and enjoying the confidence of all (principle of neutrality)'

Preparation for the planned management and financial audit of the national society is underway. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the auditors of the national society and background information were completed and submitted to independent audit firms. The audit work should soon start once terms of service are received. Following the audit report, the national society is expected to call an extraordinary General Assembly to resolve internal issues.

Impact

Conflicts within the national society have had a negative impact: programmes and services supported by the Federation and partners have been temporarily suspended.

Constraints

Progress on resolving internal governance, management issues and financial problems has been slow. The former president of the national society has been reinstated into the society. He, however, insists on being restored to a responsible position while the the current president intends to complete his mandate.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

APPEAL No. 01.28/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

23/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				81,191		62.3%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				31,470		
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				19,000	29.01.04	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SAUDI ARABIEN - PRIVATE DONOR		90	USD	114	09.06.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				50,584	CHF	62.3%

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	