

# 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

## MAURITANIA

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](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 01.36/2004; Programme Update no. 1; Period covered: January to May 2004;**  
**Appeal coverage: 7.1%; Outstanding needs: CHF 352,033 (USD 278,507 or EUR 229,188).**  
[\(Click here to go to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website\).](#)

**Appeal target: CHF 379,032 (USD 284,666 or EUR 243,986)**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:** [Sahel Heavy Rains and Floods, Emergency Appeal no. 20/2003](#)

Programme summary: The 2004 Appeal aimed at enabling the [Mauritanian Red Crescent](#) to consolidate its structures at the headquarters and branch levels, to launch the decentralization process and to boost its weak local committees. Although there has been limited response to the Appeal, the last phases of the 2003 Emergency Appeal on floods and food security programme enhanced the following programmes:

- Organizational development: the headquarters were consolidated, seven pilot committees were set up and the decentralization process was launched.
- Health care: A workshop on the ownership of ARCHI 2010 was organized by the national society and attended by the Ministry of Health. Sanitation volunteers are operational in five pilot zones and 25 community nutrition centres (CAC<sup>1</sup>) have been created.
- Disaster management: creation of five intervention brigades and training staff at the HQ.

Activities under the Emergency Appeal 20/2003 will be completed by June 2004. The Mauritanian Red Crescent has so far, shown remarkable willingness to address its weaknesses and strive to become a well-functioning national society. Relationships with the Federation Delegate and the Federation Sahel Sub-Regional Office are positive. This is helping to re-enforce complementary support from Spanish Red Cross, French Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, and the ICRC through strong Federation coordination. It is crucial that financial support be quickly identified to avoid losing momentum of the national society's current efforts and willingness and to harness the strong synergies created with the Ministry of Health for the development of an ARCHI approach in Mauritania.

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<sup>1</sup> Centres d'alimentation communautaires

## **Mauritania; Appeal no. 01.36/2004; Programme Update no. 1**

*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**

To enable the Mauritanian Red Crescent to assist the most vulnerable and to cooperate with public authorities in areas such as disease prevention, health promotion and disaster preparedness, a plan was set up in 2004 to give priority to redefining a strategic framework for national society capacity building. The following weaknesses of the national society were revealed after a self-evaluation:

- scarce resources for developing a volunteer network and for staff maintenance;
- total dependence on foreign assistance;
- opportunistic programmes;
- absence of strategic planning;
- weak local committees, completely cut-off from the headquarters and without any activities; and,
- disorganized and unmotivated

### **Health and care**

**Goal: To be present and effective in improving the health of vulnerable communities.**

**Objective: To contribute to improved health of vulnerable persons through information, education, and communication actions to boost hygiene, vaccination coverage and prevent HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.**

In May 2004, the Mauritanian Red Crescent organized a workshop for the ARCHI strategy ownership. During this event, the national society, together with the MoH, WHO and UNICEF, developed an action plan to involve the national society in community health actions throughout Mauritania. This plan of action is envisaged to cover four years. The detailed plan of action and budget will be available through the Federation Sahel Sub-Regional Office and will serve to expand, but not necessarily replace, health objectives in this Annual Appeal.

### **Progress/Achievements**

**Ten volunteers in each of the seven pilot branches will conduct integrated health and hygiene IEC activities in co-ordination with nutrition and feeding centres (CACs) targeting women, youth, and public opinion leaders.**

Around each feeding centre, operational in April under the 2003 appeal, nutrition aids coached by a supervisor, started sensitising women about hygiene-related issues within the community. Some women already organized themselves in groups and initiated some activities for the community.

**Social mobilization campaigns for vaccinations are conducted**

No activity was carried out during the reporting period as no vaccination campaigns were organized by the Ministry of Health.

**Volunteers and local branches are active and well supported to conduct health and hygiene activities.**

Ten volunteers from five local branches (Kaédi, Aleg, Rosso, Tiekane and Atar) conducted hygiene and sanitation campaigns in collaboration with the health department-level offices. They provided monthly situation reports.

### **Impact**

- After the ARCHI 2010 ownership meeting, the Mauritanian Red Crescent became a member of all the health committees set up by the Ministry of Health.
- 1400 persons were sensitised about hygiene and sanitation around the CACs.
- Domestic waste was collected in two neighbourhoods from five cities for about 10,000 beneficiaries.

**Cons traints**

- The Federation is asked to provide the Mauritanian Red Crescent with the required support to meet its commitments and build a more confident relationship between the MoH and the Mauritanian Red Crescent.
- Logistic constraints delayed the operation of the feeding centres (inaccessibility) and sensitisation towards beneficiary families.
- Long lasting discussions were held with political leaders (mayors) to ensure independence vis-à-vis the political authorities.

**Disaster Management**

**Goal: Community and Red Cross branch capacity at Headquarters and in four pilot regions to prepare, plan, and respond to emergencies is effective.**

**Objective 1: Establish a sub-regional disaster management structure between the four branches and Headquarters**

- One person from the Headquarters coordinates the disaster-related issues.
- The two provincial coordinators recruited and trained (with ICRC funding) are responsible for disaster preparedness and management at the regional level.
- Another couple of coordinators are being recruited for the other two regions.

**Objective 2: Recruit and develop emergency response brigades in four pilot regions (Gorgol, Assaba, Brakna and Guidimaka)**

- The two volunteer brigades, with 10 persons in Kaédi (Gorgol) and 10 persons in Aleg (Assaba) who are employed in the hygiene and sanitation project provide the basis for the emergency response in these two regions.

**Objective 3: Develop and implement two integrated disaster preparedness, first aid, community health and social action programmes within each of the four pilot branches.**

- A training project in First Aid was developed in Nouadhibou. The project is intended to train First Aid volunteers within the iron mining national company. They will be organized in brigades and respond to emergency situations (possible crisis along the Sahara border).
- The plan of action developed at the ARCHI meeting included training volunteers in community health in four pilot zones.
- The national coordinator of the project was trained in water and sanitation during a regional workshop held in Cameroon.

**Impact**

- Early decentralisation process and the Regional structure now exists in two zones. The full impact is yet to be felt.
- The same applies to brigades trained in hygiene and sanitation in two risk areas.
- All the projects planned are pending; only the national coordinator has received a complete training.

**Cons traints**

The national society lacks adequate means for its ambitions and capacity.

## **Organizational Development**

**Goal: To decrease vulnerability of people living in Mauritania through improved service delivery by the Mauritanian Red Crescent.**

**Objective: The Mauritanian Red Crescent Society has prepared a Strategic Development Plan which allows it to restructure itself, re-enforce its capacities, and execute programmes which have an impact on those it seeks to assist.**

**Strategic planning capacity at headquarters level is strengthened through structural support to three main positions, enabling these staff to be fully available to assume their role in planning, monitoring, and evaluation and support to branch level activities.**

- Two positions got financial support: one programme officer and one accountant.
- The programme officer attended two regional training programmes: on project planning and on water and sanitation under disaster management.
- Preparations are underway for the programme officer to organize a workshop to train the HQ management staff and the four regional coordinators on project planning (PPP).
- The accountant was recruited in the first quarter and will receive the regional office training during the second semester.

**Regional officers are trained in project planning and management and assisted to develop strategic and operational objectives.**

- Two regional coordinators were selected and recruited to facilitate or renew the regional committees, disseminate messages and initiate activities at the regional level. ICRC will cover their salaries during the first two years.
- During the second semester they will receive training on project planning.

**Three regional branches are formed; seven pilot branches, formerly inactive, are renewed and possess adequate capacity to conduct their programmes.**

- The first two regional coordinators – one for the Nouadhibou region (North), and the second one for Aleg (southwest) provided the first training (ICRC and Federation) on dissemination, principles and values, disaster preparedness and response, community health, for the major local committees in their region.
- Each pilot branch elaborates and executes at least one income-generating project to support its volunteer network.  
Only the Nouadhibou branch has developed a new project (school canteen, community health and first aid). Agro-pastoral projects are being developed.

### **Impact**

- The recruitment of an accountant showed the willingness of the Red Cross towards better accountability.
- Regional coordinators have successfully launched the decentralisation process.

### **Cons traints**

The programme is totally dependent on ICRC support. The Mauritanian Red Crescent needs to harness more funding for its organizational activities if it is to diversify its resource base and engage fully in planned activities.

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

APPEAL No. 01.36/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

23/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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## CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				379,033		7.1%
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				27,000	29.01.04	FOOD SECURITY
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				27,000	CHF	7.1%

## 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	