

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

THE GAMBIA

18 December 2006

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

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA028; Programme Update no. 2; Period covered: June to October 2005; Appeal coverage: 67.5%; Outstanding needs: CHF 84,648 (USD 64,518 or EUR 54,074). [Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

For Programme Update no. 1 please refer to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA02801.pdf>

Appeal target: CHF 260,790 (USD 207,100 or EUR 168,000).

Programme summary: The Gambia Red Cross Society¹ developed strategic plans and formalized priority projects. The main priorities are: financial resource development, disaster preparedness, relief, and HIV/AIDS awareness creation through the ARCHI 2010 methodology. The national society collaborates with the Ministry of Health (MoH) on health care delivery, is an active member of the local association of non-governmental organizations and has worked with ANCHOR in reception and assistance of refugees. It has also worked with Concern Universal on its "Stepping Stones" AIDS project.

The ICRC helped in creating a network of trained tracing volunteers, reinforcing emergency response capacities in at risk regions as well as sustaining motivation of emergency response teams through community hygiene and public service. In addition, the ICRC supported dissemination activities by hosting the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day celebrations, supporting the production of a newsletter, conducting a workshop for head-teachers in two divisions and aiding the Bantaba youth camp.

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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. 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>

¹ Gambia Red Cross Society- refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=70>

Operational developments

As Gambia gears up for presidential elections in 2006, the government has announced the arrest of three opposition leaders for alleged involvement in "subversive activities". The president, Yahya Jammeh, has once again exhibited his government's usual intolerant colour towards the opposition. Panapress news agency quoted Jammeh saying that "such figures will not witness the next presidential elections scheduled for 2006".

The Gambian president is also accused of muzzling the press. According to Reporters Without Borders, "The silence of his African and European counterpart's leaves his hands free to turn Gambia into one of the West African countries that restricts freedom of press".

The dispute that has disrupted cross-border travel and trade over (July and August 2005) between Senegal and Gambia was of serious concern too with the boycott of the Gambian ferry by Senegalese road haulers following a unilateral decision to significantly raise the price.

Health and care

Goal: The rate of HIV/AIDS in The Gambia is reduced.

Objective: An intensive awareness campaign on the truth about AIDS has been carried out among adolescents and youth (13-35 years) in Upper River Division (URD).

So far this year, the following has been achieved:

- HIV/AIDS prevention activities among youths (Gambia Boys Scout Association) have been carried out. These activities aimed at increasing awareness and condom use.
- A network of trained volunteers with ability to organize and implement national programmes has been set up.
- A strong relationship with the national blood bank in the central area has been maintained. The national society is recognized as a key player in the recruitment of blood donors (33% of regular donors being Gambia Red Cross Society volunteers).
- A home-based care programme for People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) has been established.
- Hands on care trainer counsellors with nursing background provided the pre and post-test counselling at the Brikama health center counselling and testing (VCT) center and also referred the most destitute clients to the national society for further support on the clients' consent. The criteria used were: HIV positive, lack of income, no relative/family to provide care and support, internally displaced and unemployed.
- The project is using Red Cross volunteers as care providers. The project trained 15 volunteers on home based-care for PLWHA for three days. The contents of the training included basic facts on HIV/AIDS, prevention of HIV infection, care for PLWHA (first aid, management of stress, diarrhoea, vomiting, fever and pain, wound care and careful handling of body fluids), counselling and referral of PLWHA. In addition, 25 family members of PLWHA, community members, the youth, community leaders and PLWHA together with Red Cross volunteers were trained for six days on awareness raising, HIV prevention, prevention of cross infections and simple home-based care for PLWHA. The training was carried out in the local language. Moreover, the national society volunteers were provided with a home-based care kit to assist them in care provision for PLWHA.
- The Red Cross volunteers provided nursing care and psychosocial support for the PLWHA during home visits and assisted patients during referral for further treatment to the health facility. For those who had no family or relatives to provide care, the volunteers have a responsibility to assist them during referral, admission and after discharge from the health facility. The Red Cross volunteer's commitment is remarkable as they provided the service with the utmost dedication. The PLWHA receiving the support expressed their strong satisfaction with the service they are getting from the volunteers.
- The national society collaborated with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). Areas of intervention include national coverage, blood safety, information, education and communication/behavioral change communication (IEC/BCC), and condom distribution.
- The national societies established anti-aids and blood donors clubs.

Cholera epidemic

With chances of the Senegal cholera outbreak (during the Magal pilgrimage of Touba) spreading into the Gambia, the Gambia Red Cross Society implemented a prevention programme- with the Federation's technical and financial support. Red Cross volunteers were trained to respond to the epidemic. The training took the form of a seminar and adopted a participatory approach. Participants were selected from both the Disease Control Unit of the Directorate of Health Services, under the Department of State for Health and Social Welfare. Representatives from the divisional level were selected. Trainers were allocated with a specific time to lead the discussion of their papers and trainees were provided with handouts for future reference. Post evaluation was carried out after each training session to gauge the level of understanding of the concepts discussed.

The cholera response operation achieved the following:

- Diarrhoea and cholera control is enhanced;
- 100 in the Lower River, North Bank and Central River divisions are trained;
- 100 volunteers are mobilized after being trained to implement social mobilization activities. Their intervention mainly consisted of vigorous advocacy campaigns for high hygienic practices as a control mechanism as well as distribution of materials to improve the sanitary conditions at both boarder and crossing points of the Gambia;
- Detergents were distributed at border posts in the three divisions and communities were sensitized.

Malaria and tuberculosis

Although malaria and tuberculosis (TB) projects were not in the 2005 annual appeal, the Gambia Red Cross Society is implementing two projects with funding from GFATM. For tuberculosis, implementation is being done through home-based social mobilization in Kanifing, Kombo north and Kombo south. As regards malaria, the national society is implementing insecticide-treated bed nets (ITN) intervention in the Upper River division through a partnership between the Federation and WHO, funded by the Dutch government.

The volunteer supervisor and the branch programme coordinators supervised the volunteers. The national society's health programme officer oversees the overall home-based and community health-care programme activities. The health programme was supported and supervised by the regional delegation in Dakar, through the regional health officer.

Impact:

- Volunteers' capacities on implementing cholera epidemic programmes have been strengthened.
- Cooperation and partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH) has improved.
- Participation in emergency programme implementation has enhanced the visibility of the national society.
- With its network of volunteers working within the community, the national society is playing a basic complementary role and has had a significant impact on the health of the vulnerable by acting on all the factors likely to increase their vulnerability to sicknesses.

Constraints:

- A general denial of HIV/AIDS still exists.
- Unprotected sex remains the main mode of HIV transmission.
- Most of the activities planned under the 2005 appeal were not implemented due to limited funding.

Disaster management

Goal: Gambian households have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food.

Objective: 2,500 school children (grades 4-6) understand, practice and benefit from food adequate to meet their dietary needs.

Achievements:

No progress has been made under this programme as it has not received any funding.

Organizational development

Goal: The Gambia Red Cross Society is a well-functioning national society capable of alleviating human suffering and delivering development services effectively and efficiently.

Objective 1: The national society strengthens its governing, managerial and financial capacities at headquarters, branch and link levels.

Objective 2: The Gambia Red Cross Society increases its financial management skills and develops its ability to advocate and market its programming and mobilize its own resources.

So far this year, the following has been achieved:

- The Gambia Red Cross Society developed strategic plans for 2005-2008 and formalized priority projects.
- The national society formalized its restructuring process with the appointment of new staff for its headquarters.
- A governance and management workshop has been organized in which governing board, programme coordinators and national representatives from local branches participated. The following issues were addressed: understanding of the Movement policies; better planning monitoring and evaluation; roles of the different bodies (governance and management); image building; reporting (narrative and financial); programme and branch development as well as volunteers' management.
- The national society started developing a policy on volunteering. Terms of reference were elaborated at regional level with input from concerned national society. The recruitment of a focal point for volunteers' management is under process with Federation support.
- The national society conducted a financial audit which highlighted the weaknesses of its finance management system.

Impact:

- At the end of the governance and management workshop, the participants' knowledge and understanding of the different topics had improved and they used the skills acquired to set up a plan of action which will focus on other specific topics like financial management system (the process to recruit a new finance manager is on going) and volunteer management.

Constraint:

- The national society was sued for firing the old staff without paying dues as required by the national law. This situation should be addressed. A mission conducted by the head of regional delegation and the delegate in charge of organizational development will be organized in the coming weeks.

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

APPEAL No. 05AA028

PLEDGES RECEIVED

10/01/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				260,790		67.5%
OPENING BALANCE				55,562		
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT				58,000	01.01.05	
ICELANDIC - RC				50,000	07.06.05	FINANCE DEVELOPMENT, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
IRISH - GOVT		8,124	EUR	12,580	04.02.05	FINANCE DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				176,142	CHF	67.5%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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	