

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

WEST AFRICA

23 January, 2002

Appeal No. 01.01/2002

Appeal Target: CHF 7,342,916; budget revised to CHF 3,354,107

Programme Update No. 3; Period covered: September - December, 2002

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 77.1%

Related Appeals: 34/02 - Burkina, Mali, and Niger: Population Movements

Outstanding needs: Due in large measure to a significant budget reduction this appeal was reasonably well covered in 2002. Donors are encouraged to focus their support on the Federations 2003 Annual Appeals for this region.

Operational Developments

The West Africa region continued to experience turmoil through out the reporting period. Fighting between Liberian rebels and pro-government forces was reported in northern Liberia early in the quarter. Violation of human rights was recorded in form of arrests of activists and supporters of human rights defenders.

In Cote d'Ivoire, a conflict started by an army rebellion which began on 19 September 2002 has now entered its fourth month. About 2500 French soldiers are serving as buffer forces in the northern and western part of the country, AFP said. ECOMOG soldiers were promised by ECOWAS before the end of the year but this has not yet materialized. Thousands of lives have been lost in the conflict, the latest being a mass grave of 120 people discovered in a town 60 kilometres SW of Vavoua, about 300 km NW of Abidjan, and another mass grave in Bouake, central Cote d'Ivoire, AFP said. Both the government soldiers and dissidents have been accused of human right abuses.

Country in the Mano River Union have been affected by the fighting in the Western part of the country. This has led to the loss of many lives and over 30,000 people pouring into neighbouring Liberia and Guinea, UNHCR said. Among these people are Malians, Liberians and Guineans. The report said thousands of Ivorians have fled into neighbouring Niger, Mali. Burkina Faso has so far repatriated 30,000 of its nationals. Niger has repatriated over 2,000 while Mali has repatriated over 10,000 people. Hundreds of other foreign nationals have also fled the country. The Federation launched an appeal to assist returnees and refugees in the Mano River Union.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Objective 1: *Support West African National Societies of one sub region to improve their disaster management capacities so that they may then train the other National Societies of the Region.*

Within the framework of building the capacity of the national societies, the Secretary General of Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross and the Guinea Red Cross DP Officer attended the Reach-out conference in Nice, France from 16-20 September.

Benin Red Cross prepared a strategy for revising their national emergency plan in collaboration with the government while Nigeria Red Cross is currently drafting a national disaster Management Response Plan. An Emergency Appeal was launched for Mauritania Red Cross to enable it assist drought victims in the entire country. The sum of CHF 61,000 was approved for its food security project. Furthermore, Regional DP facilitated the approval of CHF 10,000 DREF and a further 30,000 for the Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross to distribute blankets and mats to displaced people in the current conflict. CIRC capacity was further supported through fuel, repair of vehicles, first aid kits and telecommunication equipment which was useful in providing home care and psychological support to Bouake residents, evacuate the wounded to hospitals and assist the Bouake Blood Transfusion centre in blood collection, in collaboration with the ICRC.

A DREF of CHF 10,000 was approved for the Gambian and Senegalese Red Cross, for an emergency assistance to victims of the Ferry accident in September. Both national societies provided psychological and logistical assistance to the families of the victims. Please refer to an Information bulletin on the same.

A Regional Disaster Response Team conducted an assessment mission to Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger from October 31 to 8 November to evaluate the situation of returnees and refugees from Cote d'Ivoire to the above-mentioned countries. This mission is being supported with a DREF allocation of CHF 50,000. An Emergency Appeal was prepared and is posted on the web.

Regional DP delegate had an evaluation mission to Mauritania to evaluate the famine situation and find out how the Mauritanian Red Crescent is facing the challenge.

Objective 2: Give sufficient organisational reform in the LNRCS, support to develop their engagement in small-scale food security projects enabling branch development.

Regional DP delegate participated in a ToT workshop on Disaster Management in LNRCS organised by ICRC in collaboration with the Federation. A food security project will be launched by the LNRCS, with technical assistance from the Federation technical consultant.

With support from the Federation and funding from DFID, LNRCS has initiated project activities in eight districts within four counties: Bong, Margibi, Bassa and Rivercess. The project aims at assisting 1,000 beneficiaries in Margibi, Grand Bassa and Rivercess counties in small scale farming activities to produce complementary food commodities for their dietary needs and possibly for future farming activities. Project staff has been recruited and a field trip was carried out 9-18 October to mobilize stakeholders and prepare for the selection of beneficiaries.

Two districts in Bong county included in the original plan were excluded from the plan of action on ICRC request. A second field trip was carried out end of November to set up a management team comprising of community members, the LRRRC, local Red Cross staff and the beneficiaries. A narrative and financial project report covering the months of October and November has been prepared.

Objective 3: Support West African National Societies of one sub-region to improve their Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) capacity so that they may train other national societies in the region.

Discussions are ongoing for the realization of VCA in Guinea Conakry. Regional delegation awaits their propositions on the possible dates.

A regional workshop organized by the OD delegate was held in Lome during which VCA was discussed as a prerequisite for developing the strategic development plan for the national societies.

Objective 4: *Support development of Regional Response Teams (RRTs) for intervention when a West African national society's capacity is exceeded on the basis of an agreed terms of reference.*

The DP Programme Officer and the Telecom Officer from the Abidjan delegation participated in a training (Disaster Management) with the Disaster Response Team of Central Africa from 14 to 22 October in Kribi, Cameroon. A similar workshop is planned in West Africa at the beginning of 2003 to train a similar team for the West Africa region.

Other activities

Regional DP participated in a planning meeting for the Consolidated Appeal of the United Nations for the Mano River region from 9-11 September 2002 together with OCHA and other partners with the objective of drafting a plan of action to be used in the *Centre d'Accueil* in Western Côte d'Ivoire. Regional DP also took part in Inter Agency meetings on the Côte d'Ivoire crisis situation.

Health and Care

Primary Health Care

Objective 1 : *Support West African National Societies of one sub-region to improve their ARCHI 2010 capacities by developing, strengthening and improving volunteer networks, community capacity and preparedness, so that they may then train the other national societies of the region.*

Togo (ARCHI 2010)

Malaria

Security health agents organized hygiene and health activities as well as surveillance of cholera and malaria patients within their community. The sensitization activity of 77 community health agents on malaria and the use of impregnated mosquito nets increased the demand of nets in the community. Public health activities involved the entire Zio, Golf, Vo and Lacs communities. The capacity of the NS in providing health services to the communities was strengthened as they worked with community leaders who were first sensitized on the role of the Red Cross and its basic principles. The participation of the community, RC volunteers, local NGOs and community leaders in information dissemination and resource mobilization was very effective. However, the work of the local committees, from planning to implementation of activities in the field, is an area that need to be strengthened.

Water and sanitation

Within the framework of providing sanitation support to communities, the construction of community latrine blocks in Kpalime and five family latrines planned for Ayagba, Tsafe-Honoe and Kodgo-Aza are at an advanced stage and will soon be handed over to the communities.

The final report was finalized and sent to the donor in October. The evaluation of the one-year project is planned for January to measure the impact of the project on the capacity of the national society to ensure the durability of the ARCHI project. The evaluation team will comprise of a resource person from the Senegalese Red Cross and someone from the regional delegation.

Ghana

An agreement has been signed between the Ghana Red Cross and UNICEF to facilitate the transfer of approximately CHF 22,350 granted to the GhRC by the Measles Partnership Fund which is sent through UNICEF, for implementing its social mobilization activities. Ghana Red Cross is quite advanced in the preparatory phase of the measles activities. The campaign preparations have taken off in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other partners. The campaign took place on 9-15 December and was attended by observers from American Red Cross and the Federation.

Benin (Measles)

A total of approximately CHF 67,950 allocated to Benin Red Cross will be soon be released for the measles campaign planned for 11-18 January. Awareness creation sessions and social mobilization in the four departments of Atlantic littoral, Borgou alibori, Mono couffo and Oume Plateau are ongoing. The number of children to be reached in this campaign is 698,811. Benin Red Cross will use 1,116 volunteers for its social mobilization activities at the community level.

Niger (polio)

The Niger Red Cross participated in the polio national vaccination day in October and November. Niger Red Cross participated in NID in October and November in collaboration with other partners such as MSF, UNICEF, WHO. Funding of CHF 41,000 was provided by the Federation to support the NS in the implementation of its polio social mobilization activities. A total of 8,132 children were vaccinated at the Madoua and Savongida health centres About 907 households made up of at least three families of ten members were visited in Madoua while 187 homes with 1,430 under-fives were visited in Savonganda.

Regional health meeting

The Sahel regional health and HIV/AIDS meeting was held from 18-20 November in Dakar. Among the themes discussed on the implementation of ARCHI 2010 are resource mobilization, strengthening of partnerships, the Red Cross contribution in the EPI, project planning, follow-up and evaluation of health activities. The approach was participative as a lot of discussion was held on lessons learned. The health meeting gave rise to many recommendations made by the participants:

Recommendation to the Regional Delegation

- Organize training for the NS executives
- Increase field visits to the countries in order to help the NS to improve their corporate image before the partners.
- Play the role of facilitator between the NS and the partners to access the Global Fund.

Recommendation to the National Societies

- Involve all parties concerned in the project from its conception to evaluation in conformity with the recommendations of the ARCHI process.
- Ensure that competence and professionalism be the guiding factors for choosing NS representatives.
- Take an active approach towards the government and partners in view of strengthening partnerships at the local level.
- Solicit the government so that the NS becomes a member of the coordination mechanism of the country for the Global fund.

Recommendation to the regional group

Draw some lessons from past experiences of the sub-regional groups during the formulation of the regional groups.

Objective 2 : *Enable, encourage and support national societies in the region to target vulnerable communities and provide them with the means of improving their health and life through the establishment of new or improved water and sanitation activities.*

This project was not focussed on this month.

Objective 3 : *Promote regional standards in training and best practices for First Aid. This will be aligned with the Global First Aid.*

This project was closed due to lack of funding.

HIV/AIDS

Objective 1: *Improve knowledge and understanding of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease infection and prevention while promoting responsible sexual behaviour.*

Liberia

In Liberia, the LNRCS scaled up its HIV/AIDS activities by concentrating on one chapter (Grand Bassa county) to increase the impact of concerted efforts. The project is included in Appeal 2003, but thanks to immediate support from Swedish and British Red Cross Societies, the project has got an early start. Thus, in late September, the Project Coordinator visited all five districts in Bassa, meeting with chapter officials, volunteers and local authorities. The objectives of the project were discussed, roles and responsibilities of the chapter and the Headquarters agreed upon and some 125 volunteers and students were selected from the chapters and communities.

In Buchanan, the Liberian Red Cross day launched a six months' intensive HIV/AIDS prevention and education campaign on World AIDS Day. Hundreds of volunteers and community youth marched down the city's main street, making sure that "the truth about AIDS is known, and passed on". More than 100 youth are being prepared to reach out to 20,000 schoolchildren and students in the county's five districts. Activities include community campaigns with awareness sessions in towns and villages, drama and dance performances, pop music and church choirs as well as distribution of condoms and IEC materials. Three new posters have been produced together with a "What is AIDS" pamphlet.

The Mayor, local NGOs and representatives from the community all committed themselves to support the campaign and extend their assistance to the project staff. A training workshop followed the launching.

A baseline study on knowledge, attitude, beliefs and practices (KABP) of adolescents in the county has been carried out with the assistance of NACP, the government's AIDS authority, to determine the best approach of enhancing the outcome of the prevention and awareness campaign.

Objective 2: *Increase safe blood transfusion and strengthen blood donation services by increasing the number of non-remunerated blood donors and the quantity of safe blood.*

This objective was not focussed on this month.

Objective 3: *To increase care and support for persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and their families.*

This objective was not focussed on this month.

Objective 4: *Strengthen the capacity of the Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies in implementing their HIV/AIDS country plans through targeted support.*

Regional HIV/AIDS Coordinator assisted selected National Societies in elaborating plans of action for the 2003/2004 appeal. The National Societies selected for HIV/AIDS activities in the appeal include: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Togo.

Ten participants from the Gambia, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Cape Verde, and Mauritania Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies attended the sub-regional health and HIV/AIDS meeting for the Dakar group on 18-20 November, 2002. Three members of the Regional Health, Regional Reporting Officer, as well as partners such as UNAIDS and local associations and networks of Persons Living With HIV/AIDS were among the group. Topics discussed include regional and global HIV/AIDS programme for the federation, home-based care strategy, global campaign against HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination, the UNAIDS regional study on HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination and the RANY-WA (Regional AIDS Network for Youth, West Africa).

Recommendations include:

1. The Regional Delegation should facilitate training of health and/or HIV/AIDS Co-ordinators on counselling and community management of PLWHA.

2. National Societies need to be more proactive in approaching partners and networks of PLWHA in order to involve volunteers in home based care of PLWHA at the community level.
3. Governance should reflect on the relevance of RANY-WA and need to review the Terms of Reference.
4. National Societies need to be more proactive in mobilizing resources at the national level, as well as becoming members of the Country Co-ordinating Mechanisms (CCM) for the Global Fund.

Country plans

Côte d'Ivoire

The project memorandum for Phase II activities has been sent to the National Society for signing and money for the activities have been released.

Regional HIV/AIDS Coordinator met with the Health Coordinator of Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross, the interim HIV/AIDS Coordinator, as well as the former HIV/AIDS Coordinator, to discuss current HIV/AIDS activities, priorities, as well as the role of the Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross in the Crisis Committee set up to tackle HIV/AIDS. The major issues that were discussed include:

- Reporting expectations from field activities to the National Society Health Coordinator.
- Funds to all four local committees for purchasing fuel for activities.
- Advance money to local committees provided for evaluation activities to be used to cover allowances until money for the Phase II activities has been transferred.
- The Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross is part of the AIDS Crisis Committee set up by the National AIDS Control Programme in conjunction with the UNAIDS Country office. Five theme groups have been set up, namely: Coordination, Condom distribution, Drugs, Safety Blood transfusion, and NGOs. The Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross is part of the Coordination as well as NGO group, and will be assisting with coordination of all HIV/AIDS prevention activities, including use of peer educators to conduct sensitization activities. The Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross will also be part of an evaluation mission to assess the situation and needs in rebel held zones (Bouaké, Korhogo, Daloa), relative to HIV/AIDS.
- The French Red Cross HIV/AIDS activity is being delayed due to the conflict in Cote d'Ivoire.

Togo

In addition to World AIDS Day 2002 activities, other activities included:

- Sensitization vis a vis blood donation in Adidogomé, Sanguéra, and Hahotoé, as well as formation of blood donor clubs in Hahotoé. Over 35 volunteers were involved in this campaign.
- Participation of five HIV/AIDS peer educator coaches/trainers of the Togolese Red Cross in a national forum of youth trainers on the fight against HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancies among youth. This was organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in collaboration with UNFPA and UNAIDS.
- Training of 62 intermediary level local coaches in the planning, follow-up and monitoring of health projects including HIV/AIDS in the Kara region.
- Home-based visits to People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) by members of the AIDS committee of the Togolese Red Cross, the Medical Assistant of the Togolese Red Cross clinic, as well as members of the various religious groups. The overall aim was to reinforce the Red Cross' support towards PLWHA, in line with the global campaign against HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination as well as the distribution of home-based care kits financed by UNDP.
- Training and sensitization of Togolese Red Cross personnel on HIV/AIDS (42 participants).
- Home based care visits and follow-up of PLWHA (14 women were visited, with four being referred to hospitals for care and treatment).
- Training of 22 psycho-social counsellors for home-based visits to PLWHA.
- Monitoring of project activities by the National HIV/AIDS Coordinator and a member of the AIDS Committee to Maritime (Aného, Tsévoé, Vogan, Avé, Zio, and Lomé districts) and Kara (Bassar, Kozah and Binah districts) regions respectively.
- Training of 81 local coaches on planning and monitoring of project activities.
- Renewed contract between the Togolese Red Cross and PSI-Togo regarding HIV/AIDS prevention among youth through a youth friendly clinic, 'Clinique Amie des Jeunes'.

Some of the difficulties encountered include the inexistence of VCT centres in the project zones, making it difficult to motivate volunteers conducting sensitization activities, difficulty of social marketing due to free distribution of condoms by certain organizations as well as delay in funds transfer. Furthermore, Phase II memorandum for continuation of HIV/AIDS activities has been signed between the Regional Delegation and the Togolese Red Cross, and an initial amount of 15,000 CHF has been transferred to the Togolese Red Cross, out of a total of 50,000 CHF allocated to them.

Ghana

Cape Coast and Awutu/Efutu/Senya Districts

- A total of 276 youth between the ages of 14-25 years were reached in organized educational sessions in the two districts, while 45 young people were reached outside regular educational sessions.
- Only one Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) referral was made during September.
- The number of Peer Educators in the two districts remains at 39.
- A new HIV/AIDS Project Officer was appointed to co-ordinate the project in the region, as the former Project Officer resigned in August.
- Difficulties encountered include increasing demand for female condoms; high defaulting rates of participation of some group members registered to go through the four weekly educational sensitization sessions, forcing the peer educators to increase their group visits to more than six times in some cases, before completing the programme.

Ketu District

- A total of 192 youth aged 15 years on average were reached during regular educational sessions, while 67 youth were reached outside regular educational sessions.
- There are 24 peer educators enrolled to date.

Ho District

- A total of 130 youth between the ages of 13-15 years were reached in organized educational sessions, while 84 were reached through activities outside regular educational sessions.
- There are 24 peer educators enrolled to date.
- In both districts, target groups participated well in the programme, and even though peer educators faced a lot of financial constraints, they managed to reach their target groups.

Peer educators held educational sessions reaching a total of 1,052 and 1,016 people in the Volta and Ho regions respectively. Participation has been generally encouraging during the sessions. House to house peer educational activities adopted by the Ho district peer educators have contributed to increasing HIV/AIDS awareness in the communities.

Constraints in both Ketu and Ho Districts include: lack of funds to pay volunteers; monitoring visits not conducted due to lack of and/or delay of transfer of funds; inability of some religious groups to participate in peer education activities due to their heavy schedule of activities, delays in accounting, difficulty in recruiting youth by out-of-school peer educators in certain communities, high defaulting rates on the part of the groups registered to go through the education sessions. A total amount of CHF 14,900 was transferred to the Ghana Red Cross this quarter for the continuation of HIV/AIDS activities.

Niger, Mali and Gambia

A total of CHF 5000 was transferred to the Niger Red Cross and the Mali Red Cross respectively as a contribution towards their World AIDS Day 2002 activities. A project memorandum regarding a similar CHF 5000 contribution from the Regional Delegation to the Gambia Red Cross for World AIDS Day 2002 activities, was sent to the Gambia Red Cross for signature.

Training

The Regional HIV/AIDS Coordinator attended a one-week course on 'Evaluation of Health Programmes in Complex Emergencies', which was held at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, from the 16 - 20 September, 2002 with the aim of increasing the capacity of Regional health in doing evaluations in the health sector.

Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values

Objective 1: *Encourage national societies to improve knowledge about legal instruments and the international framework, to promote the development of a legal base in their countries and to clarify their role within the system of assistance.* **Objective 2:** *Support national societies in having well-trained staff that is aware of problems and issues arising from migration and population movement, able to start concrete activities on behalf of the most vulnerable, familiar with methods for trainer training, and able to consider conflict negotiation and peace building between the different populations.* **Objective 3:** *Support national societies in working together to avoid parallel structures in other programmes for the same target groups and with similar objectives, such as disaster response and preparedness, and health and organizational development programmes.* **Objective 4:** *Support national societies' self-reliance in population movement issues and well-assessed programmes, such as emergencies and long-term programmes, by the use of regional networking within the Movement and with outside partners.*

This project experienced financial difficulties during the first quarter with only few activities realized. In the second quarter, a meeting of different donors during the Regional Red Cross conference in Berlin was held in a bid to finding additional funding. To date, funds have not been received to enable this programme.

Organizational Development

Objective 1: *Provide technical assistance to national societies in (self) assessment, planning, implementation, communication and knowledge sharing, and evaluation and reassessment.*

Regional Working Groups:

Progress was made in the Regional Working Groups with chairpersons, secretaries and other officials already in place.

Côte d'Ivoire: The new President of Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross had a three-day induction at the Secretariat and met with the Federation Secretary General.

A meeting was held with the newly elected President of Abidjan Group to discuss concerns about regional communications that came up in the last Group meeting of 19-20 August 19-20. The Regional Delegation gave infrastructure assistance to CIRC. In addition, communication support has been added to the 2003 appeal for each Regional Working Group.

Appeals Process: Regional OD department was involved in facilitating the Regional appeal process.

Regional delegation convened a Regional workshop for West & Central Africa on 16-18 October in Togo covering the important 3-phases process for National Society's future Development namely, Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA), Development Plan and Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS). Twenty five participants representing 14 West African countries and eight Central African countries, including RC bi-lateral, ICRC, Federation Country & Regional Delegations, and Secretariat Staff attended. Regional OD Delegate was one of the facilitators. The workshop goal was to clearly define each process and explain the inseparable link that binds them all together to create long-term sustainable programming and development for the National Societies. NSs are committed to move ahead with the 3-step process. In brief, National Societies have concluded that:

- 1) VCA is a flexible tool, with adaptable methodology and costs to meet NS resources.
- 2) Partners need to be involved early in the process.
- 3) National Societies must be true to their own objectives and vision.
- 4) Strategy 2010 is a tool to help select & prioritize objectives.
- 5) The Development Plan is a long-term strategic plan.
- 6) That CAS is an important process to build positive cooperation between NSs. and Partners for sustainable programmes and NS Development.

In conclusion, National Societies emphasized the need for support from the Federation and commitment from NS Governance to enhance the potential success of this process.

Objective 2: *Support national societies in establishing efficient financial management systems and resource development.*

The Finance and Resource Development (FRD) delegate visited all seven Sahel countries including Gambia, Senegal, Cape Verde, Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso and helped the NSs evaluate their accounting procedures and practices. An analytical report was prepared on the mission.

Mali

A cooperation agreement with Mali Red Cross has been signed in relation to revising their past and present management systems. Due to lack of accounting and budgetary information, the FRD recommended that an experienced person in systematic research, filing and archiving of receipts/bank statement on income and expenditure and other useful documents for the 1999-2000-2001-2002 and budgetary forecasts for 2003, be engaged and this person was recruited on November 1 for a 1-year period .

Burkina Faso

The MoU signed between the Dakar Office, Mali and Burkina Red Cross regarding information sharing and exchange with the goal of strengthening the accounting capacity of each NS in management and reporting led to a working mission of Mali Red Cross Accountant to the Burkina Red Cross on 2-9 December, 2002. Additionally, the FRD delegate had a mission to Burkina Faso during the quarter and met with the Danish Red Cross representative in the region and the French/Spanish Red Cross that were visiting. The meeting was on how to support the four economic centre of the NS with the aim of helping the NS become financially autonomous. A project proposal was written and presented to the secretariat in December.

Cape Verde

A cooperation agreement between the Federation and Cape Verde Red Cross is being developed to cover three areas: safe guarding the current system, establishing an intranet network in the accounts department and the purchase of an accounting programme. However, due to lack of further information from the NS, this initiative is put on hold.

Sierra Leone

The FRD delegate gave technical support to the Finance Development delegate in the Sierra Leone delegation by putting in place a new financial management programme in the SLRC.

Senegal

In the Senegalese Red Cross community health programme partly financed by Danish Red Cross and the Dakar office, a new management system is being put in place. External auditors are now involved in this initiative. Needs assessment is in progress and a specific job description will be written shortly.

Gambia

To strengthen the capacity of the Gambian Red Cross and initiate future support from the Icelandic Red Cross on finance and resource development, the FRD delegate had a mission to Gambia to meet with Gambian Red Cross and the Icelandic Red Cross delegate with the goal of evaluating its current management system and the quality of reporting. An audit of the Gambian Red Cross financed by the Regional delegation is being planned to help put together some resource management recommendations.

Regional working group

During the regional working group meeting of presidents from the Sahel region, the FRD delegate presented an analysis of the accounting, financial and budgetary situation of the RC/RC in the region with the aim of putting in place a workplan for developing a financial and resource mobilization system.

Objective 3: *Provide technical support to national societies to enhance communications and information sharing in coordination with ICRC.*

Regional Information worked in collaboration with the Information Departments of the ICRC and Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross on the Ivorian crisis. The team covered emergency operations of the Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross assistance to victims of the Ivorian uprising. Four articles on the humanitarian situation in Côte d'Ivoire have been posted on the Federation website and published in the "Federation News." OCHA. Regional information also attended meetings organized by the UN Office for Humanitarian Coordination and the ICRC on the Ivorian crisis and maintained regular contact with the Media Service in Geneva regarding the crisis.

Additionally, he took part in an Information Delegates Workshop in Geneva where he learnt about the new Advocacy, Communications and External Relations (ACE) Strategy of the Federation.

Furthermore, regional information wrote an article on the emergency assistance offered by the Nigeria Red cross to the victims of anti-Miss world riot in Kaduna, northern Nigeria during which over 100 lives were lost and over a 1000 injured.

In preparation for the World's Aids day, regional information, in collaboration with regional HIV/AIDS co-ordinator, advised West African National Societies on documenting their activities for the occasion.

Objective 4: *Support organizational change within the LNRCS, enabling better delivery of relevant services to the most vulnerable.*

Following a VCA survey with more than 600 interviews carried out and a SWOT analysis on the capacity of the National Society, a draft development plan - "Plan 2007" - was prepared. The plan calls for five areas of intervention and has been shared with key partners within and outside Liberia. It will be approved by the General Assembly in early December 2002.

The audit of LNRCS finances for 2000-2001 and a survey providing baseline data on LNRCS financial situation as a point of departure for future development of the restructuring program has been followed by the drafting of Terms of Reference for a finance development project in two phases. Phase I will concentrate on mapping the current LNRCS accounting system indicating its coverage, accuracy and reliability and further do a planned chart of accounts and a system specification for a suitable computerized financial system to be installed at LNRCS HQ. The objectives of Phase II - planned for early 2003 - will be to assist the NS in procuring and installing a computerized accounting system at the Headquarters and to secure a smooth transition from the existing manual system to the new computerized accounting package.

However, the implementation of the restructuring program approved by the Executive Committee on 19 September has been delayed due to ongoing deliberations regarding the legal consequences of the planned reorganization of the National Headquarters and the release of all staff. Furthermore, since the reform is a major financial undertaking, LNRCS would like to see progress in their own efforts to increase domestic income and some commitment from major partners before moving on. According to LNRCS budget 2003, the program is supposed to be effective as from July 1, on certain conditions, which have been defined.

Regional Cooperation

Objective 1: *Support national society sub-regional cooperation and information exchange*

Regional Working Groups:

All Regional groups have held their meetings as follows.

	<u>Dakar Group</u>	<u>Abidjan Group</u>	<u>Lagos Group</u>
First Meeting	June 8-10	July 15-16	July 18-19
Second Meeting	November 12	August 19-20	January

Results of the Working Groups activities convened under revised Terms of Reference (agreed April 2002) will be evaluated very carefully at the end of the year, however results to date indicate the process moved forward more slowly than anticipated, however this was due to a sustained effort by the NSs and the RD to place responsibility for all aspects of planning, organization and implementation with members of the groups

themselves. This has been successful and the NSs are beginning now to develop strong agendas and a renewed sense of purpose.

International organizations, Embassies, Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross, the press and government authorities were invited for the launching of the West Africa Emergency Appeal for Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. A team was dispatched to Mali and Burkina Faso to determine what has been done so far on the population movement appeal. Furthermore, an appeal on food insecurity is being prepared for the Mauritania Red Crescent. The regional delegation invited the Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross to evaluate their training needs to enable them manage the Côte d'Ivoire crisis better. The SG was accompanied by 13 staff members and a brainstorming was done on how their counterparts in the delegation could provide them with training.

Dakar regional office

The Finance and Resource Development delegate continued to act as the HoO and supervise the activities of the Regional office. The Regional office supported Senegalese and the Gambian Red Cross in their emergency operation to the ferry tragedy and in collecting data for reporting. It also helped it in preparing projects to be submitted to Kuwait Red Cross. Food security programmes of the DP department was coordinated. The 12 November regional working group meeting addressed the following issues:

- The election of sectorial group representatives;
- Coordination of sectorial working group with the regional groups as the terms of reference for the regionalization process is not sufficiently clear;
- Organization of wider regional group meetings to the sectorial group representatives;
- Developing the 2004/2005 Federation Appeal in collaboration with the sectorial representatives, the NSs, the regional delegation and the Dakar Office.

Mr. Craveiro Miranda, the SG of Cape Verde Red Cross was elected the representative of the sectorial group for OD. Mr. Sidou Mane, Head of First Aid and Youth with the Senegalese Red Cross becomes the sectorial group representative for Disaster Preparedness while Dr. Cisse of Mali Red Cross was elected the Representative for health.

In the absence of an HoO, the FRD delegate followed up the financial management of four programmes, namely the sub-regional working group meeting, Dakar regional office, regional health/HIV/AIDS meeting in November and the Ferry disaster in September. Additionally, the regional office assisted in the preparation of an appeal on population movement by the Regional delegation for Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso as well as the Mauritania RC food insecurity appeal.

Objective 2: Support human resource development and deployment in West Africa

The delegation received two recommendations for two members of the Ghana and Togo Red Cross for the posts of delegate and submitted it to the Human Resource department in Geneva.

In addition, the Secretary General of Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross was recommended to do his BTC with the French Red Cross from November 29 to 7 December, 2002.

Coordination and Management

Delegation Management

Objective 1: Improve Regional delegation management and coordination

Finance, a major concern for the Regional Delegation throughout 2002, has been addressed satisfactorily with the assistance of the RFU and technical departments in the RD and with Africa department. Expenditure for the RD is returning within budget. Cooperation with the Regional Offices and Country Delegations is being strengthened - with increasingly well-coordinated but autonomous offices throughout the region. Work on the 2003 Annual Appeal - West and Central Africa section - is reaching completion.

The interim Head of Regional Delegation took part in meetings organized by the ICRC and partners like UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNICEF, among others, on the Ivories crisis.

The HORD and the programme officer made presentations on good governance in a seminar organized by the ICRC for presidents of Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross local committees.

The Ivorian Ministry of External Affairs has agreed in principle to issue the Regional Delegation a legal Status. The date for signing the final version is to be announced by the ministry

In line with the security measures put in place by the ICRC, the Regional Delegation now has a permanent telephone radio and telephone contact as well as a driver on weekends and public holidays.

Reporting

Objectives 2: *Provide timely reporting according to federation standards*

Regional Reporting assisted the Regional delegation and other delegations in WA in preparing their monthly and quarterly reports through out this reporting period. Additionally, regional reporting contributed in deliberations and preparation of the appeal 2003 appeal. Furthermore, Regional reporting assisted the Senegalese Red Cross and Gambia Red Cross in preparing Information bulletins for the ferry disaster which happened in Senegal in early September. Togolese Red Cross was also assisted in editing their final report of ARCHI 2010 capacity building project sponsored by the Swiss Government.

Furthermore, the reporting officer attended a Reporting Workshop in Sweden from October 26-30, 2002 with the aim of learning more about the Federation new strategy for change. The workshop provided an opportunity to exchange ideas with other Reporting officers from other delegations and continents as well to listen to the PNSs assessment on reporting in the Federation.

Regional reporting participated in a sub-regional workshop organized for Health and HIV/AIDS coordinators in Dakar in November during which she made a presentation on reporting as a public relation function that strengthens partnerships for the National Societies.

Furthermore, Regional Reporting was in constant touch with the regional offices concerning outstanding reports for 2002 and also collaborated with regional Information in preparing various Information bulletins for the region.

Finance

Objectives 3: *Improve accounting and financial management performed by Federation financial regulations and procedures.*

CODA accounts for supported delegations in West Africa were checked using Business Objects reporting system. Accounts for supported delegations using the FRT system were checked and processed. Cash request analyses were prepared for supported delegations in West Africa. As part of the regional staff development, Liberia Finance Officer was brought to Abidjan to enter all revised budgets for 2002 and Appeal budgets for 2003 into BuSy budgeting system.

The department reorganised itself to service the new Abidjan structure and other supported offices. Abidjan budget had to be revised downwards due to low donor funding. HoRFU has contributed to senior strategic discussions in Geneva. Together with the Senior Accounts Officer from Sierra Leone delegation, the RFU Analyst, attended a technical training in Coda matters, which should increase our ability to support delegations experiencing technical Coda problems.

Supported by the Finance Development Officer, HoRFU undertook intensive work to bring the 2003 Appeal Budget process to conclusion. The cost reallocation proposal was approved and implemented bringing expenditure on some projects back within budget. However, a slight adjustment might need to be made to obtain the most out of funds available for 2002.

RFU Analyst made a mission to Yaoundé to work with the delegation in closing the books for October and to resolve some accounting problems. A cost reallocation proposal was made and submitted to Head of Finance and Budget Department, Geneva to enable us reach the year end with no significant deficits save, Population Movement, for which we will probably have to request a write off to reserves.

Objective 4: *Institute knowledge management services supporting Federation work in core areas with special attention to volunteer management.*

This objective was not realized in 2002 due to insufficient funding.

Objective 5: *Provide support for the achievement of the Federation's objectives for 2002 and 2003 in Liberia by efficient and cost effective management.*

The Federation technical consultant assisted in drafting the LNRCS 2003 annual appeal. Disaster management, Health care, Organizational development and Federation Co-ordination form part of the appeal.

A VCA survey was completed with 641 interviews. The chapters benefited from their participation in the preparations of the new development plan. A preliminary compilation of the VCA was presented to the chapter chairperson and the field officers in a September workshop. A summary has since then been prepared and a complete report is underway.

A SWOT analysis was carried out on the capacity of the national society to determine the areas of intervention for the development plan and the specific focus within these areas.

An audit of the LNRCS finances for 2000-2001 has been concluded. Auditors approved baseline data of LNRCS financial situation as a point of departure for future restructuring. A detailed plan of action for this restructuring is already in place and includes a timetable for various important steps to be taken during the rest of 2002.

The Federation Technical Advisor assisted the LNRCS in the renewed development cooperation (Food Security and HIV/AIDS projects) and further planning of activities in 2003. The last month of his visit was mainly to support financial development and the starting of a CAS process. This did not materialize due to constraints and changed plans by the Federation as well as delays in the implementation of the LNRCS plans. The post of Federation Representative from January 2003 is on the list but no appointment has been made as of yet.

Outstanding needs

Due to lack of funding the following programmes have been closed or put on hold in the hope of future funding: HR Development, Population Movement, First Aid and Water and Sanitation.

For further details please contact: Anne Kirsti Vartdal, Phone : 41 22 730 4485; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; e-mail: vartdal@ifrc.org.

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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

John Horekens
Director
External Relations Division

Bekele Geleta
Head
Africa Department

Western Africa Regional						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.01/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			24.01.2003	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3'354'107		77.1%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
Programme support				461'784		
Programme support RFU				114'641		
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		70'000	USD	116'480	17.04.2002	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS/RESPONSE, RELIEF
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				182'500	19.02.2002	FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, HUMANITARIAN VALUES, FOOD SECURITY, COOPERATION, DAKAR OFFICE
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				185'000	07.08.2002	FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, HUMANITARIAN VALUES, FOOD SECURITY, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
BRITISH - RC		20'000	GBP	46'654	10.10.2002	HIV/AIDS
BRITISH - RC		12'500	GBP	28'854	13.12.2002	LIBERIA DP
DANISH - GOVT		250'000	DKK	49'300	10.09.2002	HEALTH & CARE
DANISH - RC		231'250	DKK	45'602	10.09.2002	DAKAR OFFICE, HUMAN. VALUES
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		59'248	EUR	87'622	22.01.2002	REGIONAL OD PROGRAMMES
NORWEGIAN - RC				10'000	06.06.2002	IN COUNTRY COSTS DELEGATE
NORWEGIAN - RC				3'800	02.07.2002	DELEGATE WORKSHOP
NORWEGIAN - RC		100'000	NOK	19'952	14.10.2002	REGIONAL DELEGATION
TUNISIAN - RC		2'000	USD	3'406	12.03.2002	SENEGAL FLOODS
SPANISH - RC				1'778	28.02.2002	POPULATION MOVEMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		4'700'000	SEK	758'580	30.05.2002	HEALTH, ORGANISATIONAL DEV., DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, COOPERATION
SWEDISH - GOVT		300'000	SEK	47'610	13.09.2002	VCA AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SWEDISH - GOVT		370'000	SEK	58'830	29.10.2002	HIV/AIDS, DEVELOPMENT
TURKISH - RC				10'000	25.10.2002	SENEGAL RCS PROCUREMENT MEDICINES & MEDICAL EQUIPMENTS
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		5'000	USD	8'514	12.02.2002	SENEGAL FLOODS
PRIVATE DONOR ON LINE		30	USD	50	14.05.2002	
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				83'500		P61201
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2'324'457	CHF	69.3%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CANADA	DELEGATE(S)			30'061		
FRANCE	DELEGATE(S)			56'837		
NETHERLANDS	DELEGATE(S)			2'300		
NORWAY	DELEGATE(S)			42'053		
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			102'340		
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATE(S)			27'433		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				261'024	CHF	7.8%