

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

CENTRAL AFRICA

1 July, 2002

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.05/2002

Appeal Target: CHF 2,850,239

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January - March 2002

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 49%

Related Appeals: N/A

Outstanding needs:

Summary/Update: Activities in the first quarter of 2002 focused particularly in the area of health. The Federation gave its full support to the region’s national societies, which accomplished their humanitarian mission to the satisfaction of the beneficiaries. This improved the visibility of the national societies and strengthened the partnership between the Red Cross and the government and other UN system agencies, such as UNFPA, WHO, and UNICEF.

Background

The social and political situation in the region has been marked by the efforts of some political leaders to achieve a lasting peace in their countries. People in the DRC have set their hopes on the Inter-Congolese dialogue, which has, in part, achieved the expected results, with the signing of an agreement, which did not require unanimity. However, the outbreak of hostilities in the Pool region of the neighbouring Congo has jeopardized the prospect of a successful outcome, holding up the peace process which had seemed so promising since the presidential elections. The humanitarian situation has therefore become critical again, with several thousand displaced people registered in the Pool area and in Brazzaville’s communes.

Other countries in the region have enjoyed a certain degree of stability, permitting the implementation of traditional activities to help the most vulnerable.

Operational Developments

In contrast to the situation in 2001, there was a glimmer of hope in the first quarter of 2002 sparked by the support pledged for National Society programmes at the meeting of secretaries general held in Yaoundé in January to plan activities.

For the first time, the Delegation received a contribution from the Capacity Building Fund to support the Red Cross of Chad programme and from the DFID to implement our programmes. The health programme was carried out as planned thanks to the support provided by the Federation, which also continued to support the programme to combat the Ebola epidemic in Gabon and the Congo.

In Cameroon, activities to raise awareness were carried out with the support of the Federation as part of the AIDS programme. The Gabonese Red Cross Society acted as a reliable auxiliary of the public authorities in the fight against the epidemic of Ebola haemorrhagic fever, which is now almost under control. The national society played an important role in raising awareness and providing psycho-social support for families affected by the epidemic.

The Federation's Regional Delegation has been busy preparing for the meeting of the Head of the Africa Department at the General Secretariat and the presidents of the 8 National Societies, a meeting where the Delegation's future is at stake.

It became patent in the first quarter of the year that the objectives of the 2002 Appeal cannot be fully achieved unless funding is received. It is therefore essential to readjust all the 2002 Appeal programmes accordingly.

The Regional Delegation for Central Africa (DRAC) provided the Congolese Red Cross with technical support through the Info and Reporting Services to set up a local communications network. Thanks to a fortnightly newsletter, certain national societies have also begun to provide the DRAC with regular information on volunteer activities, which improves reporting to partners.

Organizational Development

The support provided by the DRAC has three main focuses:

- strengthening national society capacities at the internal level.
- access to local resources.
- Focus three: improvement of volunteer management in the sub-region's national societies.

Focus 1: strengthening national society capacities at the internal level.

Objective 1: to help the National Red Cross Societies of Cameroon, Gabon and the CAR to improve their legal base with a view to good governance (democratization, ensuring all competent people, particularly young people and women, have access to posts) and to acquire competent human resources to provide efficient services to the most vulnerable.

Activities carried out

- **Preparation and staging of the annual regional review to plan activities for the 8 national societies:** The meeting, held from 14 to 16 January 2002 in Yaoundé, assessed the activities carried out by the national societies in 2001 and the support provided by the DRAC. It also provided an opportunity to identify and focus on priority national society activities and the types of support provided by the DRAC and other partners for 2002 and to update databases on each National Society's partnerships. Further efforts are required in each country to implement the Ouagadougou Declaration and regional cooperation. The national societies appreciated the efforts of the DRAC to provide support for each of the national societies in spite of the limited funding available in the first half of 2001. The meeting to plan activities was attended by 7 secretaries general, the president of the Gabonese Red Cross Society on behalf of the secretary general, who was absent owing to illness, the vice-president of the Red Cross of the DRC in his capacity as chairman of the coordinating committee, the ICRC regional cooperation delegate and the French Red Cross delegate currently posted in Chad.
- **Support for the Cameroon Red Cross Society:** The Federation assisted the national society in setting up a new committee to revise its statutes and adapt them to the guidelines established by the Movement. The DRAC provided support to improve the project and it was submitted to the Joint Commission in Geneva. Further support was provided for structural development, specifically to analyse the role of the "Women and Development" section in the national structure. The lack of a clearly defined policy in this area means that the national society will require Federation assistance in carrying out preliminary groundwork to clarify and take ownership of it with the Secretariat staff at a workshop which will analyse the relationship between the activities of the women and development section and the national society's other sections. This analysis should enable the DRAC to organize the support it will provide to the national society, on the basis of the results of the workshop, and to formulate a specific project agreement under which the assistance will be provided.

- **Support for the Gabonese Red Cross Society:** The task of monitoring the Ebola operation carried out by the DRAC in Gabon provided an opportunity to encourage the national society, which is undergoing an institutional crisis, to find internal solutions. The national society held the first meeting of its governing board in March, during the course of which certain priorities were defined, including the recruitment and training of volunteers and members and putting its web site on the Internet. A departmental committee was set up in Lebombi-Leyou in the province of Haut Ogooué.
- **Support for the Central African Red Cross Society:** With a view to strengthening the capacities of its human resources and extending the database of regional resources, a member of the coordinating committee responsible for restructuring the General Secretariat took part in a training of trainers workshop in Douala from 12 to 15 February. The workshop was organized by the “STRATEGIES” consultancy with which the DRAC would like to establish a partnership. The seminar focused on teaching how to organize and manage a seminar.
- **Support for the Congolese Red Cross:** Visits to provincial and communal committees - The DRC country delegation assisted the Congolese Red Cross in training teams to visit the provinces and communes in addition to the staging of regional and communal assemblies. The teams also include Federation and ICRC representatives. Renewal of executive and communal committees - In the elections held in the regions of Kouilou, Niari, Lékoumou, Bouenza and Pool, 85% of the district delegates turned out to vote. Around 45% of the regional and communal committee members and 15% of the executive committee members changed. In the elections held in Brazzaville, the Plateaux region, Central Cuvette, Western Cuvette, Sangha and Lékoumou, there was a turnout of around 80%. At the commune level (Ouessou), 405 new council members and 1005 executive committee members were voted in; the return of intellectuals to the area was noted. At the regional level (Sangha), 58% of the regional council members and 60% of the regional executive committee members changed, with the election of a new president, formerly the president of the Pointe-Noire communal committee.
- **Support for the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo:** Recruitment - The national society is in the process of recruiting to fill the posts of Finance and Administration, Organizational Development and Gender and Development heads of department. Capacity building: A training course was held from 10 to 25 March for elected officers, technical staff and volunteers in Goma (North Kivu), Kisangani (Province Orientale) and Bukavu (South Kivu). The course was given by a team formed by representatives from all three components of the Movement. Additionally, 20 members of the General Secretariat staff received training in computing and information technology. As part of the follow-up and evaluation of the literacy programme for women Red Cross volunteers in the communes of Bandalungwa and Ndjili in Kinshasa, a course was organized to improve the reading and writing skills of women working in the Red Cross.
- **Support for the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea:** The national society held its yearly planning and evaluation seminar from 28 February to 2 March in Bata to improve the planning and evaluation skills of participants from 19 regional committees and to promote team spirit. The development delegate was unable to attend owing to problems with his flight.

Objective 2: to help the National Societies of Gabon, the CAR and Sao Tome and Principe to assess the vulnerabilities of people in their countries and to prepare or finalize coherent plans/programmes.

No activities have been carried out to achieve this objective. A mission to Sao Tome and Gabon was scheduled for March, but was not carried out owing to the ill health of the delegate.

Objective 3: to support the Gabonese Red Cross Society to prepare and implement efficient logistics and financial management systems and procedures.

Support for the Gabonese Red Cross Society: The Gabonese Red Cross Society received financial support to create an accountant's post as a capacity building initiative. The funding covered the training of the person recruited for the post. The national society will now have an efficient management system once the required accounting and logistical procedures are in place. However, the institutional crisis affecting the national society since December 2001 continues to seriously hinder efforts to achieve these objectives.

Focus 2: access to local resources.

Objective 4: to help the National Societies of the CAR and Chad to frame a financial resource development policy to enhance the capacities of the national societies in the areas of communication and advocacy.

Activities carried out

The activities planned for the national societies of the CAR and Chad were not carried out as scheduled. It will not be possible to carry out some of the planned activities until the second quarter, because the specific capacity building project for the Red Cross of Chad involving the improvement of vehicle fleet management and communication between 6 regional committees and headquarters was accepted (FRC). A contract has been drawn up for the project and will be signed before it starts. Following the mission carried out in September 2001, in March the DRAC representative installed accounting software for the Red Cross of Chad and trained its accountant to use it. Some activities were, however, carried out in the DRC and in the Congo, including the following:

DRC

- Preparation of 2 self-financing, food-related micro-projects: These micro-projects are to open a restaurant and terrace and to grow food crops in Kamba-Mulumba. A total of 16 bankable micro-projects were submitted to the Management Committee for consideration and approval.
- Installation of required accounting software: In February, the Federation Delegation consulted PricewaterhouseCoopers about acquiring software that would enable the RCDRC to process accounting information efficiently and prepare the national society's financial statement. The Delegation assisted the national society in setting up and maintaining effective management and financial control systems.
- Radio network maintenance: The radio operator visited Kinshasa to check the entire communications system, carry out maintenance work on the radio network and inventory equipment and material.

Congo

- Setting up and maintenance of management and financial control systems: The Federation assisted the Congolese Red Cross in setting up and maintaining reliable management and financial control systems.

Focus 3: improvement of volunteer management in the sub-region's national societies.

Objective 5: to support the national societies of Cameroon, Gabon, the CAR, Sao Tome and Principe and Chad in formulating their volunteer policies, setting up volunteer management systems and increasing the involvement of young people and women in the planning process.

Activities carried out

Capacity building

Equatorial Guinea

Instead of the planned work sessions in the field for branch development, each national society was asked to prepare the two regional committees to receive support this year.

Objective 6: to support the implementation of a volunteer management system in two branches per national society through ARCHI activities.

Activities carried out

No activities were carried out in this area under the development programme. However, the ARCHI delegate carried out a mission to the DRC and the Congo in February.

ARCHI/DPP

Objective 1: to set up a multi-disciplinary regional emergency response team formed by people from the national societies with the required expertise and skills.

Activities and achievements

- Presentation of programme to secretaries general. The programme was approved by the secretaries general at their planning meeting held in January 2002, and they undertook to contribute to its implementation.
- Production of a database containing available regional capacities and resources. The DRAC team will be led by 18 technicians. The list of technicians has been submitted to the national societies for approval.
- Planning and organization of two practical workshops on disaster preparedness and response to provide the regional team with hands-on experience and expertise.

There have been talks with the Emergency Response Preparedness Department and the DMC in Geneva, which has pledged the technical and financial support of the Secretariat.

Objective 2: to set up a regional disaster response mechanism based on a regional risk mapping.

Activities carried out

- Risk mapping: The Regional Delegation provided assistance to the Congo and the DRC in gathering and interpreting data to produce a risk map. They will be used as a model by other national societies to produce their own risk maps. The Congo is currently in the process of producing its risk map. In the DRC, the preliminary draft of a natural disasters risk map has been produced thanks to the data gathering efforts of volunteers. The data has been sent to the Health Ministry. An agreement was reached with the DRAC to enable an ARCHI 2010 coaching delegate to provide the North Kivu Red Cross Branch (DRC) with assistance to identify and implement CBFA and ARCHI programmes

Objective 3: establish regional stocks of emergency supplies.

Activities carried out

Congo

- The Federation provided support for the head of the Health Department to take part in joint missions to assess the effects of the floods in the Makotipoko and Mossaka-Loukolela-Ntokou areas and of the Ebola haemorrhagic fever epidemic in the Kéllé district.
- 75 key people from different localities affected by the epidemic and 23 CRC volunteers were briefed in communication skills in addition to an awareness campaign carried out in Kéllé and other villages affected by the Ebola epidemic.
- Emergency stocks have not been established in Brazzaville, Ndjamena and Libreville, since this activity is linked to the first objective.

DRC

- Flood- and erosion-prone areas were identified and 3 risk maps produced for the city of Kinshasa, specifically a map showing flood-prone areas, a map showing erosion-prone area and a third showing national society headquarters and branches.
- The national society participated in providing training to treat people suffering from anaemia at the Kimbanguiste reception centre in DRC.
- In partnership with the ICRC, 3 CBFA training sessions were organized, the first from 12 to 22 February in Yalusaka in the province of Equateur for 65 volunteers from the Red Cross of Mondombe 1, 2, 3 and Yalusaka, the second for 53 combat stretcher bearers from the 221st Infantry Battalion of the Congolese armed forces/Equateur and the third from 20 to 24 February in Kananga in the province of Western Kasai for 20 instructors from both Kasai provinces.
- The national society, with the support of the Federation, participated in various disaster response activities to provide relief after the Nyiragongo volcano erupted in Goma.

These activities aimed to improve the volunteers' expertise and skills in carrying out relief operations in the event of floods and to implement the prevention measures required to help flood victims.

Equatorial Guinea

Ten new relief workers were trained in Bata with the support of the Swiss Red Cross.

Objectives 4 and 5 were not met because they are linked to objective 1.

Objective 6: to support two food security pilot projects in Chad and the north of Cameroon

The activities planned to achieve this objective are also linked to building up regional disaster preparedness and response capacities.

Objective 7: to assist the Cameroon Red Cross Society in building up the disaster response capacities of the Limbe regional committee to deal with the effects of flooding.

The Delegation financed a mission to evaluate the emergency relief operation carried out in Limbe when floods occurred last year. This mission gave the local committee the opportunity to meet with volunteers and community leaders (district leaders and the prefecture leader) over three days to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the operation and to ensure that it was prepared to deal with floods in the future. Stocks of emergency supplies were established with the support of the DMC to be used in these activities and to ensure an effective response to disasters occurring in the future. Community leaders are aware of the need to mobilize the population right away on the basis of community activities, such as the reinforcement of house foundations, water canalization and protective dikes made of sand and stone.

Other activities carried out

CBFA training: in partnership with the ICRC, 21 instructors in Kinshasa, Bandundu and Lower Congo attended a CBFA training course held from 18 to 22 March 2002 in the capital. The Federation also provided technical support for the course. The Regional Delegation agreed to provide support to the national society headquarters and the Goma branch for the CBFA project.

Health

The regional health delegate completed his mission at the DRAC at the beginning of the year. Since that time, health programme activities have been monitored by the regional ARCHI/DPP delegate. He supervised support provided to the Gabonese Red Cross Society in the fight against the Ebola epidemic, focusing particularly on evaluating the national society operation and the lessons learnt, with a view to planning the second phase in cooperation with the Health Ministry and WHO. He also supported the health programme by organizing a regional meeting on Ebola in order to produce a guide for the region's national societies on how to be prepared to provide an effective response in the event of an Ebola epidemic. The health directors of 6 national societies attended the meeting. He helped to finalize AIDS action plans and the programme contract with the Red Cross of Chad, CAMCROSS and the Congolese Red Cross.

Objective 1: to assist the 8 national societies in contributing to the fight against AIDS.

Activities carried out

DRC

Most of the activities carried out in this area were aimed at contributing to strengthening national coordination in the fight against AIDS and increasing STD/HIV/AIDS awareness through preventive measures. Six containers were bought and taken to sites in 6 communes in Kinshasa where the activities were being carried out.

Awareness: The role of volunteers in promoting grassroots awareness and social mobilization was reinforced. The ARCHI coaching delegate carried out a mission to Matadi in the province of Lower Congo to support the launching of a pilot project to combat AIDS, to be carried out by the RCDRC. The project has three main focuses: discussion groups for peer education, theatre, local anti-AIDS clubs, schools, religious denominations; home care for people living with HIV, training families to provide care at home and providing support for easy access to basic care for people suffering from STD.

Volunteers organized an IEC session on STD and HIV/AIDS at a school in Matadi in the province of Lower Congo. They handed out 950 calendars and posters on HIV/AIDS to partners, provincial committees and at 20 schools involved in the project. Three awareness campaigns were carried out for 3000 people.

3,000 calendars and 500 T-shirts were printed.

Peer education: Training was provided for 34 peer educators, 57 peer educator trainers from among the volunteers of the Red Cross of Kinshasa and teachers at 20 schools involved in the project. 17 bicycles were bought for peer educator activities in various localities. Anti-AIDS clubs were set up in 50 schools located in 5 of the city's communes.

Educational discussion groups: Three discussion groups were set up in Kinshasa, Bandundu Lower Congo.

Republic of Congo

Awareness: The CRC set up a theatre troupe formed by 20 actors. It is currently working on a production entitled "Drama in the community". Four IEC sessions were organized on STD/HIV/AIDS in public places in Brazzaville for 678 people and in Pointe-Noire for 346. A total of 2880 condoms were distributed during the awareness sessions.

Educational discussion groups: A discussion group was set up in Pointe-Noire on 29 March 2002, and 5 anti-AIDS clubs were set up in schools in Pointe-Noire. Educational discussions were conducted in schools in Brazzaville, involving 6485 pupils, 150 teachers and 40 administrative agents.

Peer education: Four anti-AIDS clubs were set up in Brazzaville. The national society was involved in coordinating a national forum of health NGOs organized by the Health Ministry in association with WHO from 24 to 27 January in Brazzaville.

Cameroon

Awareness: Awareness campaigns were carried out in prisons, sanatoriums, schools, churches and companies for a total of 28,800 people. Two theatre troupes set up in Yaoundé and Douala gave 21 performances to 9110 spectators including civil servants, students and church congregations. 4000 leaflets were printed as part of the programme.

Peer education: 274 peer educators of the planned 500 were trained. 50 trainers received peer education training.

Educational discussion groups: A discussion group, run by 15 volunteers, was set up in Douala,

Psychosocial support: Eight patients received psychosocial support from peer educators in Maroua.

Equatorial Guinea

Awareness

A theatre troupe was set up as planned. Awareness campaigns were carried out in churches throughout the country for 1300 adults, 3547 young people, 231 elderly people and 60 traditional healers.

Peer education: 22 peer educators were trained.

Educational discussion groups: Two discussion groups were set up and discussion sessions took place door to door in March and in schools.

Sao Tome and Principe

Awareness: Awareness activities aimed at 500 young people and adults were carried out in the towns of Trindade and Bombon and in 7 districts throughout the country with the support of Unicef. They were carried out in cooperation with the national programme for the fight against AIDS and the ASA association. The Health Minister participated in the campaign.

Peer education: 22 peer educators were trained

Educational discussion groups: Two door-to-door sessions were carried out in March and others in schools.

Central African Republic

Awareness: At headquarters level, an awareness campaign was carried out by the Central African Red Cross theatre troupe, which performed to 7500 people, and some thirty people were encouraged to be tested voluntarily for HIV/AIDS.

Peer education: 100 peer educators were trained. Awareness campaigns reached 3669 people. 70 per cent of these people were aged between 15 and 45. The activity was carried out in associations, Christian churches, mosques, schools, cinemas, health centres and in various districts of the town of Bangui and at the provincial level in Sibut, Begoua and Kaga Bandoro, where peer educators targeted sectors in urban districts, villages, schools and local churches. They also trained 29 people to promote activities in the fight against HIV/AIDS in schools. Door-to-door awareness campaigns reached 143 people. 15 of these were heads of family and 35 traditional dancers in Bangui.

Educational discussion groups: 32 debates were conducted in schools and 4 patients suffering with tuberculosis and 3 living with AIDS were visited and encouraged to go into hospital for treatment. Surveys were also conducted on the sale of condoms in shelters, homes, kiosks and by street sellers.

Chad

Awareness: Awareness activities were carried out in schools for 8734 students, in churches for 958 members of the congregation, in markets and other public places for 7022 people and for 950 people in Biltine and Mongo. The 3 theatre troupes contributed to these awareness campaigns.

Gabon: 300 people were trained at the ambulatory centre in Libreville by the Congolese Red Cross.

Objectives 2 to 4: to provide support to set up central, intermediary and local coaching structures for the programme in the 8 national societies.

These objectives have been revised in view of the shortfall in funding. The structure supporting the AIDS programme will also provide AIDS coaching. The national societies are encouraged to appoint volunteer management officers. A total of 54 bicycles have been delivered to trainers in the CAR, Guinea, Cameroon and Chad.

Objective 5: to assist 6 national societies in bringing malaria under control.

Activities carried out

Activities to achieve this objective were not carried out as planned owing to a lack of funding. Some sanitation activities were carried out, however, in the DRC. The tools developed under ARCHI 2010 were implemented in national society local branches, permitting the introduction of the malaria modules in the training curricula.

In Sao Tome and Principe, where people were using the mosquito nets as fishing nets, the Health Ministry authorized the national society to carry out an awareness programme before resuming the sale of products to impregnate mosquito nets. The theatre troupe produced a play conveying this message. UNICEF agreed to provide mosquito nets to the national societies of Chad and Guinea, until funding is acquired to impregnate them.

Objective 6: to help the 8 national societies play an effective role in the fight against diarrhoeal diseases and epidemics.

Activities carried out

Congo

- The national society was involved in the planning phase of the national vaccination campaign (JNV) at the regional level, working with national Health Ministry delegates. The volunteers will operate in 3 regions in the country.
- Volunteers and supervisors were included as part of the Health Ministry's scheme.
- The national society took an active part in the Interagency Coordinating Committee meeting on the polio vaccination campaign for 2002. CRC national volunteers and supervisors were part of the Health

Ministry's operational scheme to improve vaccination coverage, which involved 3 rounds in each of the 11 regions, including Brazzaville.

CAR

Social mobilization efforts were carried out by 200 volunteers in 4 of the 14 prefectures with technical support from the Regional Delegation.

Cameroon

With the support of the American Red Cross, 350 volunteers played an active part in the measles vaccination campaign, carrying out activities aimed mainly at raising awareness.

Chad

In the fight against polio, 1500 volunteers carried out a door-to-door awareness campaign. A total of 1.2 million children were vaccinated as a result of the campaign.

Other activities

DRC

- Fight against the cholera epidemic in Katanga. Health care was provided for people affected by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano. A project was prepared to provide health care for those most seriously affected by the eruption, covering 6500 families.
- Access to primary health care was improved for the people most affected by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano. People were warned of the dangers of inhaling the gases at 3 places in Bukavu.

Environmental sanitation: The national society was involved in planning the activities of the Kalembe-Lembe paediatric hospital in Kinshasa for the next 5 years.

Congo

Access to basic health care was improved in the Pool region with financing provided by the German government through the German Red Cross. Equipment and medicines were delivered to Kinkala hospital and 8 health centres in the Pool region. In order to ensure more efficient management of these resources, 18 health workers, 2 per centre, received a 5-day training course in Kinkala.

Awareness: With pedagogic and promotional support (3100 leaflets, 100 T-shirts and 1296 condoms), 32 volunteers trained in IEC skills carried out awareness activities for 4800 people over 3 days in Kinkala. An awareness campaign was also carried out to teach people in Kéllé about Ebola haemorrhagic fever, with the participation of 23 volunteers, with communication training and briefed in EHF, and 2 volunteer nurses trained by MSF/Holland.

Support of reproductive health services was strengthened for women who are victims of sexual violence. Three draft subcontractor agreements were exchanged between the Directorate General for Population (DGPop) and the Federation to carry out activities under project PRC-00.01, pending the signing of the contract. At the request of the DGPop, the CRC proposed a training curriculum. At a meeting held on 27 February, the partners involved approved the project after introducing several amendments. The DGPop will set the dates for the training to take place and will invite participants.

Promotion of Humanitarian Values

Goal: to promote a culture of peace in the 8 national societies and improve the visibility of Red Cross humanitarian services to the benefit of vulnerable sectors of the population.

Objective 1: to formulate an information and communication strategy with the Regional Delegation for Central Africa.

Activities carried out

Evaluation of each national society's human, logistical and financial potential: This activity was carried out in the national societies of the two Congos during a mission we undertook in February 2002 to Kinshasa and Brazzaville.

Congo

The service is staffed by a head of service and two assistants, one of whom is a journalist with Radio Congo. The service was on a dissemination mission with the ICRC in one of the regions when we visited Brazzaville. It has a good relationship with the press and makes weekly broadcasts on Radio Congo. It also publishes a quarterly newsletter, which is financed by the ICRC. The two assistants are hardworking and motivated. However, a few weaknesses have been observed: we have not been able to contact the head of service at any time either during morning working hours or through sporadic correspondence. The Congolese Red Cross Information Service has not passed on any information so far in spite of the presence of the Federation.

DRC

The Information Service makes weekly broadcasts and publishes a quarterly newsletter with ICRC support. It trains communicators at the branches and reports to the DRAC. Although the service is very dynamic, those running it are unable to achieve as much as they would like because their work is hindered by the fact that they have no computer to produce working documents, even though the DRAC gave each national society two computers in 2001. During our visit, we asked the national society to make a computer available to them in order to facilitate their work.

An evaluation of the capacities of the national societies of Chad and the CAR was planned in the first quarter, but this had to be postponed to the second quarter owing to unforeseen circumstances. In the meantime, we are continuing radio contact with other national societies.

Proposed regional action plan: The plan was prepared and submitted to the secretaries general at the planning meeting in Yaoundé in January 2002. Prior to this, we had sent technical guidance and advice to the heads of service with copy to the secretaries general.

Objective 2: to help the 8 national societies assess the situation in their countries and identify needs.

Activities carried out

DRC

- Media coverage of events: 687 pupils at the Monseigneur Bokeleale primary and secondary school sent clothes to around 50 war-displaced children in Nganda Mosolo on 22 February. Official installation of Red Cross school sections in 55 primary schools in Kinshasa on 23 February as part of the project to promote humanitarian values.
- *Press releases:* Two press releases were drafted on sanitation activities carried out by volunteers from Kinshasa University and the participation of the president of the RCDRC in a meeting with sponsors in Geneva.
- Awareness: Talks were given on the history of the Movement and the RCDRC to 34 peer educators (HIV/AIDS) on 4 February and to 458 people in schools and Red Cross circles in Kinshasa.
- Radio broadcasts: Seven broadcasts giving general information on the Red Cross were made on RTNC national radio. A special programme has been produced for TKM television on Red Cross operations in Goma after the eruption of the volcano.
- Printing of dissemination material: 6,000 copies of the magazine *Echos de la Croix-Rouge* and a leaflet on the RC DRC were printed.

Congo

Volunteer recruitment: 30 volunteers were recruited in Djambala in the Plateaux region to carry out IHL awareness activities with the support of the ICRC from 26 to 28 February 2002.

DRAC

- Publication of DRAC INFOS: we managed to complete the latest issue of the *DRAC INFOS* quarterly newsletter for 2001, which was published late owing to logistical problems.

- Coverage of activities in the Congo and the DRC: we covered the delivery of medical supplies by the CRC to hospitals and health centres in the Pool region in the Congo and the preparations to launch the AIDS programme in the DRC. This mission enabled us to meet with the regional information delegate for East Africa, who had come to make a report on the programme. He took advantage of his visit to train the DRC information team in filming techniques. The Congolese Red Cross team missed this training as they were late arriving in Kinshasa. Mr Sigggi suggested that he be invited to repeat the training when he next visits Kinshasa to make a documentary on AIDS.
- *Publication of a fortnightly newsletter*: the initiative to publish a fortnightly newsletter entitled *Afrique Centrale en bref* has prompted the national societies to take the importance of information more seriously. In the last few days, a number of national societies have responded and have sent updates of their activities to us. So far, the national societies of Cameroon, Gabon, DRC and Sao Tome have fulfilled their obligations in this regard. Equatorial Guinea has sent photos and has promised that an update will follow shortly. The remaining three (Chad, CAR and Congo) know that their updates are needed and have promised to deliver. The production of this fortnightly newsletter has enhanced the presence of Central Africa on the web site and serves as a means of providing regular updates to the Media Service in Geneva. It also serves to keep donors informed about activities that are carried out with their contributions.

Objective 3: to improve reporting on operations in all the national societies.

Activities carried out

- Training: a training course given by those in charge of information and reporting with the support of the ARCHI 2010 delegate was held in Kinshasa. The purpose of the course was to familiarise national society information officers and delegates with standard report writing procedures and skills and to coordinate information and appeal documents at a regional level. Around fifty people took part in the seminar, which highlighted the need to train staff to write reports properly according to Federation standards. Those taking part in the seminar welcomed it as a profitable experience which should be repeated for the other national societies in the region.
- Production of Regional Delegation quarterly, annual and final reports: We assisted the head of the Reporting Service in producing the Federation Delegation monthly report for the two Congos, annual reports for the DRC and annual reports on AIDS and polio for Congo Brazzaville.

Objective 4: to improve the visibility of National Societies and the Federation in Central Africa.

Activities carried out

- A network was set up to provide information to media representatives interested in the Red Cross Movement, and to advocate for national society activities on the network.

Cameroon

As we are running behind schedule, this activity has been postponed to the second quarter. A branch of the network is being deployed in this country.

Congo

A branch of the Red Cross journalists club was set up during our mission in the Congo. The branch is to be monitored by the national society, which should benefit from the support provided by the Federation Delegation for the two Congos.

DRC

The RCDRC completed the project to set up a dissemination committee in the ministries. A branch was already in place and it remained to make it effective. This interministerial dissemination committee will ensure better coordination of dissemination activities in government ministries with which the Red Cross cooperates. The objectives of the interministerial committee were harmonized with the ICRC. With a view to improving the visibility of the national society, 12 women volunteers took part in demonstrations to commemorate International Women's Day on 8 March.

Constraints

The lack of funding for the project to promote humanitarian values hindered the progress of activities in this area.

Regional Cooperation

Activities carried out

- Annual meeting of Africa's heads of delegation: the meeting was held from 13 to 15 February in Abidjan. The Delegation was represented by the head of delegation and the organizational development delegate.
- The experience of the Delegation in gathering data on national society partnerships was judged to be simple and practical (data set out in tables). This working instrument is produced within the framework of regional cooperation. Meeting of secretaries general to plan activities and meeting with the head of the Africa Department to discuss regionalization policy

Coordination and Management

Objective 1: to assist the national societies, in close cooperation with the DRAC in Yaoundé, in implementing Strategy 2010, the Africa review, the Ouagadougou Declaration and other regional decisions cost-effectively.

Activities carried out

- *Operation to help victims of the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano:* the head of delegation made a field visit to coordinate activities and complete the investigations conducted by the NAM mission. With logistical and administrative support from the ICRC, the organizational development delegate continued to train members of the new governance in Goma, Bukavu and Kisangani. The Delegation provided full technical and logistical support to the national society to carry out planned activities to train peer educators in Matadi and Kinshasa.
- The president of the RCDRC and the president of coordination for activities in Central Africa took part in a meeting to discuss the restructuring of the DRAC. The Delegation in Kinshasa completed the annual financial report on assistance for Cabindan, Angolan and urban refugees in Pointe-Noire and submitted it to the HCR. The narrative report for the HCR has been sent to GVA for comments.
- The Delegation organized and made several visits both inside and outside the two Congos (Nairobi, Yaoundé). Staff and volunteers from the two national societies carried out missions on both sides of the River Congo.

Objective 2: to assist the national societies in achieving coherence and coordination when formulating the strategic development plan and the country assistance strategy.

Activities carried out

DRC/Congo

- Regular weekly meetings were held between the Federation delegates and the national society secretaries general and programme directors, with a view to ensuring a strategic orientation in line with programme implementation.
- Two meetings were held in Brazzaville and three in Kinshasa to plan activities and prepare for the meeting that the HoD attended in Abidjan with the heads of regional and country delegations and the Africa Department and the Africa desk officer in Geneva. Discussions were held on the future of the DRAC.
- Under DRAC supervision, a workshop on information and reporting was held at the beginning of March in Kinshasa for the two national societies and the Delegation staff.

Objective 3: to ensure effective, profitable cooperation with the ICRC in compliance with the Seville Agreement and the standards of the Movement.

Activities carried out

DRC/Congo

- Weekly (Kinshasa) and fortnightly (Brazzaville) coordination meetings bring together all the components of the Movement. They enable each component to present the activities it is carrying out and exchange views and experiences with the other components in all areas. In Brazzaville, the emphasis is on coordinating common programmes and the support needed by the CRC for coordination. In Kinshasa, the meetings are also attended by representatives of the Participating National Societies of Belgium and Spain.
- The finance and administration delegate and the ICRC programme manager met for two other work sessions to discuss the remuneration of programme coordinators. Security operations for the presidential elections held in the Congo were perfectly coordinated by the Federation and the ICRC, which is responsible for security in the two Congos.

DRAC

Regular meetings were held between the heads of delegation, the cooperation and development delegates and ICRC and Federation information officers. During this quarter, discussion focused specifically on the institutional crisis affecting the Gabonese Red Cross Society.

Objective 4: to strengthen the existing relations between operational partners and establish new ones.

Activities carried out

DRC

During this quarter, members of the Delegation made visits to our partners on numerous occasions to plan and report on our activities. Frequent meetings were held with the UNFPA representative to discuss the reproductive health project. The Federation and the RCDRC attended all the daily and weekly interagency coordination meetings concerning assistance for the victims of the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano. The head of delegation, the finance and administration delegate and the organizational development delegate met regularly to support national society governance and management. Fruitful contacts were established with economic operators and embassies with a view to raising funds to help the victims of the disaster. On this occasion, the telecommunications company CELTEL pledged USD 20,000 for the RCDRC. The new health delegate also attended various meetings to coordinate AIDS, polio and cholera programmes with the head of the Health Department.

Congo

CRC leaders had several meetings with the UNFPA representative and the Directorate General for Population of the Health Ministry to discuss the agreement for the Brazzaville reproductive health project. Other meetings were held between the national society and the Delegation at the offices of the health director in Brazzaville to prepare for the missions to evaluate the effects of the floods in the north of the country. These meetings, like those held to discuss the fight against Ebola, were also attended by the ICRC, the CRC, the Federation, the director general for health, OCHA, UNICEF and NGOs such as ACF and CRS. The CRC has put two nurses financed by the Federation at the disposal of MSF/Holland to strengthen the team working in the field.

Objective 5: to ensure integrated planning and the implementation and evaluation of delegation activities.

DRC/Congo

The Delegation recruited an information and reporting officer. It arranged a retreat for the 30 and 31 March to plan activities for the second quarter. The quarterly programmes were reviewed with all the delegates, and the shortfalls in implementing them were discussed. It was also an opportunity for everyone to be briefed on the missions of the HoD in Goma, Nairobi and Yaoundé and those carried out by the organizational development delegate in Goma, Kisangani and Bukavu. After visiting the DRAC, Brazzaville and Kinshasa, where she was briefed, the new health delegate took part in the retreat for Africa health delegates and officers in Geneva.

For further details please contact: Terry Carney, Phone: 41 22 730 4298; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: carney@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.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

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

John Horekens
Head
Relationship Management Department

Bekele Geleta
Head
Africa Department

Central Africa regional						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.05/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED				27.06.2002
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'850'239		TOTAL COVERAGE 49.0%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				218'638		
Programme support				244'405		
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				102'500	19.02.2002	INSTITUTIONAL & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, ARCHI-HIV/AIDS, HEALTH
NORWEGIAN - GOVT		225'000	NOK	42'046	10.12.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, COMMUNITY BASED HEALTH, INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - RC		800'000	SEK	128'960	23.04.2002	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH, ARCHI, HIV/AIDS, ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		2'700'000	SEK	426'870	30.05.2002	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH, COOPERATION, INSTITUTIONAL & RESOURCE DEV.
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				83'370		CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC RC
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				102'870		CHAD RC
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'349'659	CHF	47.4%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			45'667		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				45'667	CHF	1.6%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	