

ANNUAL REPORT



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 REGION

Appeal No. 01.05/2002; Appeal target: CHF: 2,850,239; Appeal coverage: 83%

Overall analysis of the programme •

Despite some signs of calming down, the region of central Africa is still prey to social and political tensions and peace remains illusive. Highlights include: the different parties to the crisis in the Congo finally signed an agreement in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in December; the border conflict between Cameroon and Nigeria concerning the peninsula of Bakassi; social unrest in Gabon with several strikes in the very sensitive education sector; political unrest in Equatorial Guinea with accusations of violations of human rights; in Congo's Brazzaville the democratically elected government was confronted by an armed opposition in the Pool as well as political leaders of the diaspora.

Political instability and deteriorating economic, environmental and health conditions brought on extreme poverty and increased the vulnerability of several sectors of the population in the Congo, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad and the DRC. Prostitution is fast gaining ground against this backdrop, with a concomitant spread of HIV/AIDS, mainly in the combat zones where armed men commit many acts of violence and rape. The prevalence rate remains high in most of the countries in the region with the exception of Equatorial Guinea at present. Sao Tomé is the only country with a degree of political and social stability.

Operational Developments •

The International Federation pursued its support to the region's National Societies (NSs). At the beginning of the year, the regional bureau for Central Africa (BRAC) was able to support the Red Cross of Chad with funding from the capacity building fund (CBF) for the first time. The Federation also supported the Red Cross Societies of Cameroon, CAR and Chad in their efforts to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS and to combat HIV/AIDS-related stigmatization. BRAC also supported the Cameroon Red Cross' measles campaign and synchronized polio vaccination days.

With regard to disaster preparedness, the Federation supported the creation of a regional disaster response team (ERDAC) and the disaster preparedness initiatives by the NSs in the region. The Federation, the Cameroon Red Cross and the UNHCR signed a partnership agreement whereby the regional bureau supported an evaluation that should enable an assistance operation for refugees from Nigeria living in Adamaoua (northern part of Cameroon). The regional bureau made human and material resources available to support the NS with this project.

In different areas, the regional bureau undertook visits to diplomatic circles and ministries in Cameroon and Gabon in the context of international representation. BRAC maintains excellent relations with the Ministry for territorial administration through its directorate for civil defence. The

purpose of these activities was to enhance the image of the Red Cross Societies not only in Cameroon but also in all countries in the region.

BRAC also helped the National Societies of Gabon and Cameroon to prepare and hold their national assemblies.

Objectives, Achievements and Constraints •

Organizational development programme •

The goal of the development programme in Appeal 2001-2002 was to strengthen the capacities of the National Red Cross Societies in the sub-region so that they can better carry out their humanitarian mission by providing services adapted to the vulnerable.

The need to build an identity and for regional cooperation were the key driving forces. The ensuing collective global approach did not take into account the specific nature of each of the eight National Societies. During the implementation phase, the development programme, not without difficulty, tried to focus on the specific needs that proved to be crucial. Project funding began in June 2001, hampering the regional delegation's efforts to support the National Societies.

Most of the NSs still need to build their human, material and financial capacities, but each national context and respective priorities should also be taken into account.

This report does not cover the two Congos that were the subject of a separate Appeal.

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

Achievements: Preparation and co-facilitation of the annual regional programming meeting of the eight NSs in Yaounde on 14-16 January 2002.

The eight NSs appreciated BRAC's efforts to provide each of them with real support despite serious funding problems for regional programmes, especially during the first six months of the year. The efforts still required in their countries were highlighted to implement the 'Ouagadougou Declaration' and strengthen regional cooperation. Databases on each of the eight partnerships of the NSs were updated at this programming meeting.

Support for the Cameroon Red Cross Society

- The regional development delegate facilitated a think-tank on gender and development issues on 28-29 May.
- BRAC provided technical support to the Women and Development section, bringing to completion two small income-generation projects developed by two departmental committees in the north and south. Only one of these two projects (raising poultry for food) received funding this year.
- The head of the regional bureau and the development delegate attended the general assembly (GA) of Cameroon Red Cross from 12-14 December 2002. BRAC provided financial support for this event. The revised statutes were not adopted, but the president of the Cameroon RC was re-elected. The other members of the management committee were not elected. Following the GA an internal crisis, sustained by rumours and accusations in the headlines of some newspapers in the capital, broke out directed against the elected president.

Support for the Gabonese Red Cross Society

The organizational crisis in this National Society is experiencing since December 2001 is an obstacle to any form of support. The head of the regional bureau went on a mission in September 2002 to pursue discussions to unblock the situation in consultation with the Gabonese Government, while ensuring the independence of the NS.

A new temporary governing board was elected for a term of office ending at the next general assembly in October 2003. The priority tasks of the temporary governing board will be to finalize the audit of the management of the National Society, prepare a plan of action, budget for 2003, recruit the secretary general and a team of permanent officers, develop a capacity building programme for the National Society and prepare for the general assembly scheduled for October 2003.

Support for the Central African Red Cross Society

In order to maintain the organizational framework, the management committee appointed a new Secretary General and a number of national technical directors. These new officers took up their duties on 15 June 2002. The new management structure comprises a technical coordination body and six divisions, under the responsibility of the Secretary General.

The next step is to finalize the revision of the statutes and draw up the development plan. The support scheduled on the basis of Department for International Development (DFID) funding was provided through the capacity building fund. The support mission planned for October 2002 was postponed as a result of armed conflict in the CAR.

Support for the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (RC DRC)

The development delegate provided support for a workshop organized by the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), the Federation and the participating national societies (PNSs) present in Kinshasa on 25-26 June to help the RC DRC analyze the functional difficulties of the society at the national level.

The workshop had three specific objectives: improve understanding of the Seville Agreement; clarify interpretation of the legal texts of the RC DRC (statutes, rules of procedure) and in particular the role of the members of the management committee, the finance commission and the secretariat; and propose initial measures to improve the situation in respect of the functioning of the management committee and the performance of the secretariat, highlighting the concept of separation/complementary functions of governance and management.

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

Achievements: No activity was carried out for this objective. The first mission to Sao Tomé and Gabon scheduled for March was cancelled. To make up for the loss of time, the RC of Sao Tomé was asked to propose a plan of action on the basis of the support received in January in the framework of organizational development. Other missions planned could not be carried out due to the state of crisis in the Gabonese RC.

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

Achievements: The organizational crisis negatively impacted the functioning of the NS structure, visible in the monitoring of support for the position of bookkeeper.

Following the extraordinary general assembly on 21-22 December 2002, the new governing board will manage the society openly and an organizational development programme will enable it to start again

on a new and more solid foundation. A full-time delegate for the National Society would be beneficial to coach it in its recovery programme.

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.

Achievements:

Red Cross of Chad

In order to strengthen the capacities of the National Society, the CBF provided funds to the Red Cross of Chad to refurbish its garage. The work was started, and comprises fitting an electricity supply and installation of a vehicle lift. This will improve the efficiency of the garage and help generate some more financial resources for the National Society.

From 25-28 November 2002, BRAC co-facilitated a workshop with the ICRC on how to prepare and manage small income-generation projects, attended by 30 persons from departmental committees. With the knowledge acquired, they will be able to develop and monitor small projects to raise income for the vulnerable and their committees.

Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea and the Cameroon Red Cross Society

To make the Red Cross Societies of these two countries better known nationally and demonstrate their contribution to reducing vulnerability and improving living conditions of certain sections of the community, BRAC supported a preparation and presentation of the specific activities of the two National Societies.

Equatorial Guinea RC: The presentation meeting was held in Malabo on 23 April before an audience composed of government personalities and representatives of diplomatic missions and international organizations. The head of the regional delegation at that time, whose initiative led to the arranging the meeting, was present. The head of state of Equatorial Guinea intended to preside over the meeting personally, but was out of the country at that time.

Cameroon Red Cross Society: The meeting was held in Yaounde on 24 May under the presidency of the wife of the head of state and in her capacity as Honorary President of the Cameroon Red Cross Society. A number of ministers, heads of diplomatic missions and international organizations and some heads of private companies were present at the meeting. Few economic players invited from Douala, the economic capital of Cameroon, were present.

The very positive reaction on the part of the audiences at Malabo and Yaounde indicated that meetings of this type are necessary from time to time to give the national players a better understanding of the activities of the Red Cross and to increase their participation. Few people were aware of the work carried out by the Cameroon Red Cross on the occasion of the floods at Douala in 2000 and Limbé in 2001. Dynamic social marketing of this type can improve visibility and facilitate access to local resources for the benefit of the vulnerable populations.

Objective 5: To support implementation of the mechanism to increase the number of programmes in two branches of each NS, using the African Red Cross and Red Crescent Health Initiative (ARCHI) 2010 strategy (coaching).

Development of volunteers/implementation of ARCHI 2010

Achievements:

Facilitate a better sharing of information on successes

The eight health directors from the central African NSs met together in April 2002 to:

- take stock of the health activities of the NSs over the past year. Activities the volunteers carried out from October 2001 to April 2002 to combat HIV/AIDS were particularly stressed. As a result, the strengths and weaknesses of each National Society were identified, along with lessons learned to better plan future activities. It was decided to strengthen cooperation with national programmes to combat HIV/AIDS, and to have a plan of action of the RC included in the national plan the governments are going to submit for UN global funding;
- develop local partnerships;
- measure the impact of their activities and identify the ways to further improve these actions;
- contribute to the fight against stigmatization and to launch the campaign against stigmatization on 8 May; and
- recall the need for better volunteer management in order to heighten the impact of their activities to increase communities' awareness of HIV/AIDS.

The activity reports from the HIV/AIDS coordinators in Chad, the CAR and Cameroon (NSs that submit regular, timely reports) now reflect the impact of that meeting. These reports show:

- A development of a network of community volunteers;
- A better organization of volunteers, little by little eliminating the practice of giving volunteers a per diem, as a pre-condition;
- A broadened volunteer base by transferring skills to community relays, resulting in community ownership of the programme;
- A desire to measure the impact of volunteers' work by conducting surveys on the use of condoms; and
- Home visits with a view to choosing relatives to be trained to care for persons in their home who are sick or have the virus.

Support the creation of local, intermediate and central programme coaching structures in the eight National Societies

The activities to achieve these objectives were reviewed in line with budget constraints. The only programme coaching structure maintained was for HIV/AIDS. However, each National Society designated a national ARCHI 2010/volunteer coach who follows implementation of a volunteer policy.

Lessons learned:

- Institutionally speaking, societies with strong governance and/or management are able to take initiatives with several partners and develop relations with them for concrete programmes benefiting the vulnerable. The statutory texts are not always applied despite orientation sessions for the members of governance. A self-evaluation system for governance should be set up and monitored.
- Financially speaking, it became clear this year that a number of financial partners are needed, beginning with the government but maintaining the principle of independence of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- With regard to support from the BRAC team, it must focus on target NSs in order to improve the impact of complementary regional programmes and implementation of these programmes must be integrated.

Health Programme •

The countries of central Africa (Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Príncipe), are among those with a high number of victims of vaccine-preventable disease.

A deteriorating health infrastructure contributed to making malaria the main cause of morbidity and mortality. The National Societies of the region are aware of this situation. Following the Ouagadougou Declaration and adoption of the ARCHI 2010 strategy, they identified the following priority activities:

- fighting HIV/AIDS;
- reducing malaria incidence;
- supporting activities to contain epidemics and to encourage vaccination campaigns;
- water and environmental sanitation; and
- ensuring effective coaching for volunteers in the field.

Objective 1: To assist the eight National Societies in contributing to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Achievements:

Using peer education to increase young people's awareness, training of trainers (ToT) in peer education was conducted in all eight National Societies at the beginning of the year. These trainers trained peer educators who, in turn, trained other peer educators, thus perpetuating the training in schools, universities, churches, mosques and other community associations. The results are set out in the table below.

	Trainers in peer education	Peer educators trained as at 31/12/03	Population affected by peer education	Number of chats organized	Population reached by chats
Cameroon	28	608	13,000	120	3,000
Chad	36	379	5,000	252	7,000
CAR	36	618	10,514 students, 8,030 clergy 8,838 other 426 households: 1,811 persons	42	6,500
Equatorial Guinea	24	64	4,200	157	2,500
Sao Tome	24	56	3,000	96	5,000
Gabon		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	148				

Play performances

Each NS has between two and four theatre troupes putting on performances relating to ways of transmission, risky behaviour, and advocacy for condom use and combating HIV/AIDS-related stigmatization. These performances were carried out in schools and churches and at public places such as bars, dancing halls and markets. Approximately 200 to 300 persons attended each performance. During the third quarter in Cameroon, the volunteers, girls living with HIV/AIDS and prostitutes put on a play on HIV/AIDS-related stigmatization in the community and companies during the international business fair which coincided with national HIV/AIDS week. The results of these performances are set out in the chart below:

	Number of theatre troupes	Number of performances	Population affected	Number of chat centres	Population using the chat centre
Cameroon	2	22	7,000	2	
Chad	3	42	12,000	2	
CAR	2	18	8,500	*	
Equatorial Guinea	1	N/A	N/A	1	1,200
Sao Tome	2	12	4,500	1 mobile	5,000

				centre	
Gabon	1	N/A	N/A	*	
Total	11			4	

* supplies for the chat centre already purchased

NB: the institutional crisis in the Gabonese Red Cross negatively impacted its activities.

Creation of chat centres

At the beginning of the year, only Cameroon had a chat centre at Yaounde. Chad opened two chat centres, one in N'Djamena, the capital, and the other in Moundou, the industrial city. In April 2002, the Cameroon Red Cross opened a chat centre at Douala, the economic capital of the country.

The Red Cross of Sao Tomé and Príncipe opened a mobile chat centre so that the entire population on the island of Sao Tomé can benefit. A four-wheel drive vehicle was outfitted with bookshelves and video equipment. Twice a week, the vehicle goes around the island and makes two-hour stops in villages, provides the time for young people to see a video and hear a presentation by a peer educator. The young people can also read some magazines. This mobile centre has become very popular in the country.

Supporting people living with HIV/AIDS

Red Cross volunteers train relatives of sick persons on home care. HIV/AIDS-related stigmatization makes this activity difficult. Few sick persons state they are HIV positive. Volunteers have thus adopted the strategy to visit all bedridden sick persons in their community. Only 75 relatives in the CAR, 40 in Cameroon and 35 in Chad were trained in skin care, administering rehydration salts in the event of diarrhoea and how to lower fevers. Peer educators regularly visit 300 bedridden sick persons (half of whom are HIV positive).

Advocacy among community and opinion leader

This activity helped get the support of religious leaders for the awareness programme since they previously considered HIV/AIDS to be a punishment from God. Many young people in churches were trained in peer education, at the request of the clergy. In the city of Abéché in Chad where religious leaders destroyed posters and pictures put up by the national HIV/AIDS programme, peer educators managed to increase awareness in mosques. In Cameroon some priests agreed to talk about condoms in discussions with young people. The 'in' slogan in the region is "HIV/AIDS concerns us all".

A number of groups at risk is identified for the awareness campaign

The National Societies in the CAR, Chad and Cameroon established ties with networks of people living with HIV/AIDS. Contacts with truck drivers and prostitutes have so far been ineffective. Only in Cameroon, with the help of the regional bureau, contact was established with the network of prostitutes. Active cooperation with the group of young volunteers resulted in the following activities:

- putting on a play with people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWA) on HIV/AIDS-related stigmatization;
- elaboration of projects to help prostitutes improve their lives;
- participation in the celebration of World AIDS day; and
- elaboration of a leaflet to increase HIV/AIDS awareness of prostitutes.

Objective 2: To make financial and technical training aids available to the National Societies for the post of national programme coordinator.

Achievements:

- BRAC financially supported the post of national HIV/AIDS programme coordinator in five National Societies for a period of twelve months.
- A loan to facilitate activities of the National Societies was made available, helping them supervise activities in the field.

- This monthly supervision helped bring the volunteers closer to headquarters and ensure good coaching at the local level.
- The national coordinators sent the Federation's regional bureau monthly reports, thus keeping them informed of field activities.

Objective 3: To make financial and technical aids available to the National Societies for the training and work of the two regional coaches.

Achievements:

The number of persons trained in each of the five National Societies, is as follows:

Cameroon: nine provincial coaches in nine of the ten provinces of the country.

CAR: six prefectural coaches in five of the 14 prefectures in the country.

Chad: three coaches in three regions of the country where the programmes were implemented.

Equatorial Guinea: one coach worked on Bioko island.

Sao Tomé and Príncipe: two coaches, one per island, coached the volunteers in their fieldwork.

Their presence in the region ensured good coordination of activities and facilitated the circulation of information between the headquarters and outlying areas. This strengthened the image of the National Society among the local public services. Information received by headquarters was reliable. In countries such as the CAR, Chad and Gabon, the Ministry of Health found the statistics provided by the NS closer to the reality in the field than those from its local services. Bicycles and mopeds were provided to facilitate the work of the regional coaches. Camels and pirogues were hired in some regions.

Objective 4: To make financial and technical aids available to the National Societies for the post of ten local coaches.

This objective was not fully met. Local coaches were, however, provided with bicycles for some activities, such as vaccination campaigns and activities to combat the Ebola epidemic:

Chad: 15 local committees;

Cameroon: five local committees;

CAR: five local committees.

Objective 5: To support National Societies in reducing the incidence of malaria.

Achievements:

At the beginning of the year, volunteers from ten local branches in five NS were trained in mosquito net impregnation techniques. The ministries of health in the countries were approached for their agreement to launch the activity.

Chad: since the beginning of the year, volunteers in the city of N'Djamena and surrounding areas coach their communities in activities to destroy breeding grounds. As part of a programme to maintain the loyalty of volunteers through income-generation activities, the National Society opened a sewing workshop in November. Here mosquito nets are made and sold at a low price. The impregnation activity is blocked by an administrative procedure at the Ministry of health.

Cameroon: There are two mosquito net impregnation centres, one at Yaounde, and the other at Douala. UNICEF is willing to provide the National Society with mosquito nets for the activity. The Ministry of health was approached for its agreement.

CAR: Mosquito net impregnation activities began in the city of Damara, but the war caused an obstacle to this programme.

Sao Tomé and Príncipe: Since 2001 the Ministry of Health and the National Society were carrying out a public awareness campaign to dissuade people from using the mosquito nets for fishing. Impregnation activities will resume when all the communities are convinced that what is caught in impregnated mosquito nets is harmful to health.

Objective 6: To support National Societies by participating effectively in the fight against diarrhoeal diseases and epidemics.

Achievements:

Chad: at the end of the rainy season, the volunteers coached the communities in the city of N'Djamena and the cities around Lake Chad on how to prevent a cholera epidemic. The Ministry of Health sent a letter of recognition to the National Society for the work done by the volunteers.

Activities that began in 2001 to eradicate polio were increased in Chad. Screening campaigns, local vaccination days and epidemiological surveillance of flaccid paralysis saw the participation of 1,500 volunteers.

There were no cases of polio since 2001; but it remains present along the border with the state of Nigeria and requires intervention. In this context 150 volunteers were trained in the communities living on Lake Chad that trade extensively with cities in Nigeria. These volunteers took part in local vaccination days in November. They take an active part in epidemiological surveillance of flaccid paralysis.

Equatorial Guinea: The volunteers coached the communities in protecting 44 water points.

In Cameroon, the National Society was a major partner in the measles campaign of the Ministry of health. During the first phase of the campaign in January 2002, 500 volunteers participated in social mobilization in three provinces, resulting in 98 per cent vaccination coverage for the 2,899,330 children between the ages of nine months and 14 years and preventing the certain death of several hundred children.

The second phase of the campaign took place in December; some 1,505 volunteers were involved in social mobilization in seven provinces. The partners were able to measure the National Society's ability to work in the local communities. The Ministry of Health and UNICEF congratulated the volunteers on their work and hoped they would automatically be involved in daily activities so as to maintain the skills they had acquired.

Disaster Preparedness and Response Programme •

Objective 1: To set up a regional multi-disciplinary operational team comprising human resources available in the NS.

Achievements:

With the support of the disaster management coordination (DMC), BRAC conducted training to set up the Central African Disaster Response Team (ERDAC). This training was carried out with 39 leaders from seven NSs in the region and adopted the standard training agenda for regional teams, as planned by the DMC.

As soon as the training was completed, five members were deployed to Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso, at the request of Abidjan, to help evaluate the needs of the populations returning from Côte d'Ivoire, in order to plan a Red Cross action. This was completed in the space of 72 hours and fully met expectations in terms of skills and the quality of the evaluation.

Furthermore, as a result of this training, the RC of the DRC is using a resource person from Congo Brazzaville to support the NS team in the operation to combat the cholera epidemic at Mbuji-Mayi. The CAR ERDAC members were very useful to the NS during the last uprising in the country.

Objective 2: To set up a regional disaster response mechanism based on a regional risk map and preparing for and responding to disasters, and to develop and use community based early warning systems.

Objective 3: With the NSs and the regional response teams, coordinate regional emergency stocks in consultation with the societies and assure that appropriate logistical arrangements are met by them during preparation and response to disasters.

Objective 4: To strengthen the regional communication network.

Objective 5: To strengthen the development of the local branches of the NS by energizing effective management and volunteer mobilization structures, in particular for young people.

Achievements:

Following the review of the 2002 appeal, the establishment of ERDAC and the analysis of objectives 2-5 were planned and included in the Appeal 2003-2004. Additional time is provided to the regional resources in order to replicate this training within their NSs so to guarantee the standards and mechanisms for a flexible, appropriate response in the event of a disaster, and with the national level playing the primary role.

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

Achievements:

No activity was planned for this objective.

The problem of food security requires:

- each NS to understand what an undertaking such a programme is and demonstrating commitment and accountability;
- the development of a network of volunteers within the local committees in the rural zones;
- an in-depth study of the (structural and economic) causes of food insecurity in order to make the proper choice of the method to adopt.

As all this had not been done, this objective will be reviewed and included in the appeal for 2003.

Objective 7: To assist the Cameroon Red Cross in strengthening the flood response capacity in the Limbe Committee.

Achievements:

An evaluation of the last operation in Limbe helped define what needs to be done about developing an emergency stock (ploughing equipment for community activities). The recommendations of that evaluation, carried out by the local authorities and the communities which are beneficiaries of the Red Cross' activities, encouraged the Cameroon Ministry for territorial administration responsible for civil defence, to appoint an inter-ministerial committee to establish a flood plan for Limbe, in which the Federation/Cameroon Red Cross would play a part. This committee started to meet in order to define the framework for work and frame a flood plan for Limbe.

Promotion of Humanitarian Values Programme •

Objective 1: To formulate an information and communication strategy for the regional bureau for Central Africa.

Achievements:

An evaluation of the human, logistical and financial potential of each National Society and identifying the kind of support to provide each NS was to be carried out. This was done in the Congo, the DRC and Chad with the assistance of a regional info-reporting resource person.

Objective 2: To help the eight National Societies assess the situation in their countries and identify needs.

Achievements:

Although most of the National Societies had difficulty in reporting regularly, the bureau gave the heads of the information department in the eight National Societies simple, dynamic regional information tools: monthly and quarterly bulletins as well as the "Afrique Centrale en bref" bulletin and the quarterly bulletin "DRAC INFO", published at the regional level. With these tools produced by the NSs, the region developed dynamic, active communication with Geneva, the donors and other bodies interested in their work, highlighting the activities of the volunteers in their communities.

Objective 3: To improve the visibility of National Societies and the Federation in Central Africa.

Achievements:

Chad: On 26 September 2002, an information day was organized with the print press and radio and television networks, with the assistance of the leaders of the RC in Chad. During this event the journalists stated they would like to create a club of friends of the Red Cross so as to enhance the visibility of RC humanitarian activities. Following this, the RC campaigns for environmental sanitation and activities to combat HIV/AIDS received good media coverage.

Cameroon: On 21-22 October 2002, the regional bureau helped the Cameroon RC set up a focus group, comprising 15 journalists from the print press and radio and television networks in Cameroon and professors from the University of Cameroon, including a jurist. The aim was to:

- clarify the importance of volunteers for the community and the Cameroon Red Cross;
- highlight volunteers' rights and duties with regard to the community for which s/he works; and
- show the impact of the work of the Red Cross volunteers in the community.

This focus group, the fourth one after those in the DRC, the Congo and Chad, created a network of journalists to advocate on behalf of the vulnerable. Some of the recommendations were:

- To strengthen the partnership with the journalists by meeting more often and better sharing of information. The RC should offer training in humanitarian journalism for journalists, and the journalists should explain to the RC how to talk with journalists.
- To reflect with the jurist on the status of volunteers: with the support of the professor in law, a study will be conducted in Cameroon to work out a status for volunteers, recognized by the legislative body. Other NSs could be inspired by success in Cameroon.

Workshop on the Promotion of Humanitarian Values

This workshop, facilitated by the head of the principles and values department at the Secretariat, was held at Kribi, Cameroon, from 10-12 July 2002. There was good participation by NS leaders.

In follow-up to the recommendations of the workshop on the promotion of humanitarian values in Kribi in July 2002, the Red Cross of Chad was helped to finalize the project on integrating persons excluded from the society because of HIV/AIDS. This project was submitted to BRAC for funding.

Cameroon was helped to organize a national youth camp on 'Participation of young people in combating HIV/AIDS-related discrimination'.

Coordination and Management Programmes and Regional Cooperation •

Achievements:***Meeting to prepare Appeal 2003***

This meeting, attended by the heads of regional delegation for West and Central Africa and the head for the delegations in the two Congos, set the priorities for 2003, in light of the difficulties encountered in implementing programmes in 2002.

Partnership meeting in Geneva

The head of the regional bureau attended a partnership meeting in Geneva bringing together the regional heads and the participating national societies during the last week of September 2002. Some PNSs expressed interest in the Central Africa region despite their governments' tendency to fund humanitarian programmes prepared for the thousands of forgotten vulnerable persons.

Intervention for the victims of Nyirangongo volcano eruption

The head of delegation went on a field visit to coordinate activities and complete the investigations of the NAM mission in the DRC.

The president of the RC DRC and the president of the Central Africa activity coordination committee took part in the meeting on the restructuring of DRAC and the extraordinary general assembly in Gabon.

In the context of the implementation of the Ouagadougou Declaration, the Red Cross actively took part in World HIV/AIDS Day. The regional bureau established relations with the World Bank, enabling it to obtain an agreement to strengthen the HIV/AIDS committee. The bureau is making every effort to create and maintain good relations with the economic actors.

The regional bureau is paying special attention to the promotion of HIV/AIDS prevention, stressing support for prostitutes and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Under the supervision of DRAC, a reporting and information workshop was held in Kinshasa at the beginning of March for the two NSs and the delegation's staff members.

The head of bureau had regular contacts with the ICRC. On 20 September a working meeting with the ICRC team was held, led by the head of mission in Yaounde. The BRAC delegates also took part in this meeting intended to harmonize views on programmes being carried out in the region. It was decided that different delegates should maintain regular contact with their ICRC counterparts to avoid overlapping and duplication of programmes.

As part of coordination and management, the regional bureau initiated a number of contacts with diplomatic and business circles, international organizations and NGOs with HIV/AIDS programmes with a view to enhancing the profile of the Movement and seeking genuine partnerships in order to strengthen the operational capacities of the Cameroon Red Cross and of the other NSs in the region and, above all, to advocate on behalf of the vulnerable.

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>.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

Interim report	
Annual report	X
Final report	

Appeal No & title: 01.05/2002 Central Africal regional

Period: year 2002

Project(s): PCM521, 62160, 62410, 62900, 62901, 62902, 62911, 62913, CF001, CF410, TD001

Currency: CHF

I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Comments	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	2,182,596				
less					
Cash brought forward	228,638				
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	1,953,959				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
American Red Cross (DNUS)	50,000				50,000
DFID - British Government (DFID)	201,000				201,000
DFID 3- British Government (DFID03)	146,482				146,482
Donor - Capacity Building Fund (DCBF)	185,240				185,240
Donor - Unidentified (D000)	245,193				245,193
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross (DGNSE)	431,360				431,360
Swedish Red Cross (DNSE)	124,400				124,400
Swiss Govt.via Swiss Red Cross (DGNCH)	81,600				81,600
Unilever/Domestos (DPS007)	44,368				44,368
Sweden				36632	36,632
TOTAL	1,509,644			36,632	1,546,276

II - Balance of funds

OPENING	228,638
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	1,509,644
CASH EXPENDITURE	-1,451,948

CASH BALANCE	286,333

Appeal No & title: 01.05/2002 Central Africal regional

Period: year 2002

Project(s): PCM521, 62160, 62410, 62900, 62901, 62902, 62911, 62913, CF001, CF410, TD001

Currency: CHF

III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures

Description	APPEAL Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction		2,498			2,498	-2,498
Clothing & Textiles		4,543			4,543	-4,543
Food & Seeds		7,382			7,382	-7,382
Water & sanitation						
Medical & First Aid	14,775	801			801	13,974
Teaching materials	93,450	3,004			3,004	90,446
Utensils & Tools		717			717	-717
Other relief supplies	4,000	12,402			12,402	-8,402
Sub-Total	112,225	31,345			31,345	80,881
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles	50,800	3,288			3,288	47,512
Computers & Telecom equip.		15,372			15,372	-15,372
Medical equipment	5,600					5,600
Other capital expenditures	2,097	21,499			21,499	-19,402
Sub-Total	58,497	40,159			40,159	18,338
<u>TRANSPORT & STORAGE</u>	147,797	151,301			151,301	-3,504
Sub-Total	147,797	151,301			151,301	-3,504
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	540,500	322,184		36,632	358,816	181,684
Personnel (national staff)	459,344	256,921			256,921	202,423
Sub-Total	999,844	579,104		36,632	615,736	384,108
<u>GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts	62,905	39,407			39,407	23,498
Travel & related expenses	192,478	112,143			112,143	80,335
Information expenses	56,055	18,564			18,564	37,491
Admin./general expenses	283,240	210,721			210,721	72,519
External workshops & Seminars	29,470	64,279			64,279	-34,809
Sub-Total	624,148	445,113			445,113	179,035
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>						
Programme management	147,172	96,428			96,428	50,744
Technical services	44,056	25,502			25,502	18,554
Professional services	48,857	28,290			28,290	20,567
Sub-Total	240,085	150,220			150,220	89,865
Operational provisions		54,705			54,705	-54,705
Transfers to National Societies						
TOTAL BUDGET	2,182,596	1,451,948		36,632	1,488,580	694,016