

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

BURUNDI

18 July 2002

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No.: 01.08 /2002: Appeal Target: CHF 3,075,978; now revised to CHF 1,142,978 (USD 782,058/EUR 779,179); Programme Update No.1: Period covered: January - June 2002

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 87.2%

Related Appeals: East Africa regional programmes (Appeal 01.07/2002)

Outstanding needs: CHF 146,599 (USD 101,173, EUR 99,999)

Update: Despite the transitional government now being in place, the conflict situation has not been resolved and the living conditions for much of the population of Burundi has probably worsened in recent months. At the same time the actual operational capacity of the Burundi Red Cross (BRC), and donor confidence in them, has weakened. Following a Partnership Meeting in March, a Task Force was established to work with the BRC, with the aim of rebuilding the Society and increasing its countrywide impact. Inevitably this means a major change in the Society's activities for the rest of this year, concentrating on organisational development work rather than programme work. This also has meant a reduction in the annual budget to CHF 1,142,978 (USD 782,058/EUR 779,179). The revised budget is incorporated into this report.

Operational Developments:

Although the transitional institutions foreseen in the Arusha peace accords, namely a government, a parliament and a senate, were set up between 1 November 2001 and end February 2002 and the CSA (monitoring committee for the implementation of the Arusha accord) was repatriated, the civil war in Burundi actually worsened in most of the country's provinces, and affecting at times districts on the northern outskirts of the capital, Bujumbura.

The civilian population continues to be overwhelmed by the impact of this ongoing war. The social indicators for all areas; political, health, socio-economic and security found in the various reports from the United Nations agencies and the World Bank are all negative, some of the reasons being high birth rate, HIV-AIDS, malaria, diseases caused by improper disposal of human waste and the socio-political crisis.

The average income per inhabitant has dropped from USD 240 in 1993 to USD 120 in 2001, and fell further in early 2002. Foreign debt is 175 per cent of GDP. Fifty-two per cent of the population lives below the poverty level. About 375,500 Burundians have been displaced internally and live in 211 sites (OCHA figures, June 2002). Refugees living in Tanzania and elsewhere in the region (about 600,000) have been returning voluntarily, as announced, since the end of March. UNHCR and other humanitarian NGOs assist returnees (by mid-June 2002, 22,914 persons had already returned to Burundi, according to UNHCR). As fighting has continued in

recent months, more people are being displaced, especially in the provinces of Bujumbura Rural and Ruyigi (about 100,000 persons displaced (OCHA, June 2002).

An average of 771,000 persons continue to receive food aid from WFP each month. More than one million Burundians, around 15% of the country's population, depend on humanitarian aid.

Disaster Response

The general aim of the Federation-supported BRC disaster-response programme is to try and improve the lives of the population affected by the combined effects of war, poverty and health problems. Internally displaced persons living in sites, or persons who regularly flee combat in their zones, as well as vulnerable persons living on their hills of origin are the main beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance. The aim has been to provide returnees with a minimum return package to facilitate their reinstallation as most of them are empty-handed and find nothing on returning to their hills of origin.

Since 1996 non-food distributions have been the crux of disaster response, along with the distribution of food and market-garden seed and items for cattle breeding to combat food insecurity. The German Red Cross farming programme came to an end in November 2001; FAO now supports this programme.

Since the beginning of 2002, in response to the many requests made, non-food distributions have primarily benefitted persons fleeing the fighting in the province of Bujumbura Rural (commune of Isalé at Rushubi), as well as the provinces of Muyinga and Ruyigi. Other plans are being considered for the province of Makamba.

- rural Bujumbura/commune of Isalé at Rushubi: 16-19 April 2002, distributions by the BRC with ECHO-financed stock: the beneficiaries (6,298 families, about 31,490 persons) received 12,357.2 kg of soap; 6,300 blankets and 6,300 kangas.
- rural Bujumbura/commune of Isale at Rushubi: 06-15 May 2002 by NGO/GVC, from Finnish Red Cross, DPP stock for 7,766 households, about 38,830 persons, who received 7,758 blankets; 7,616 kangas and 39,946 kg of soap.
- Muyinga, in 8 communes, 15-17 May 2002, with ECHO stock; distributions by the BRC to 3,181 households, about 15,905 persons who received 2,000 tarpaulins, 1,000 blankets, 2,800 kg of soap, 2,000 jerrycans, 1,999 hoes and 1,518 kangas.
- Ruyigi: following the displacement of nearly 35,000 persons fleeing fighting and their regroupment announced in mid-May, the humanitarian community in Burundi become mobilised under the leadership of OCHA to gain access to these populations living in increasingly critical conditions. Following advice from ECHO Burundi, on 25 May 2002, GTZ was provided 6,500 kangas, 5,124 blankets, 6,500 tarpaulins, 13,000 kg of soap and 6,500 jerry cans for immediate distribution.
- Other activities: on 22 May 2002 the Finnish Red Cross stock was also used, firstly a group of poor children in Cibitoke province (80 blankets) and on 30 May 2002, 87 children in the care of another NGO received 87 tarpaulins, 82 kg of soap, 87 cooking sets, 100 blankets, 4 bales of clothing (Swedish RC) and 96 hoes.

The main constraint on programme implementation is the security situation. Insecurity makes it difficult and at times impossible to have access to the beneficiaries. Lists are not always received on time, at the beginning of distributions. Activities can be disrupted or completely stopped at any time.

During this period there were also some problems during distributions being carried out by the BRC, and the decision was taken - with the donor ECHO - to continue distributions of their stocks but using the field services of another NGO.

Disaster Preparedness

The stalled political situation has led to an increasing number of persons fleeing the fighting who need to be provided shelter in makeshift or temporary sites. Since the end of March 2002, Burundian refugees living abroad, in particular in Tanzania, are returning, in conformity with the Arusha peace accords. The authorities, the UN and all the humanitarian organizations are very concerned that large numbers of persons might come at once. The BRC and the Federation had therefore planned to replenish their emergency stocks of non-food items to be able to respond to the need for assistance of war victims and other vulnerable populations living in their hills of origin, as well as of returnees. Details of some of the distributions are given above.

The warehouses in Ngozi currently contain DPP stock provided by the Federation, and the British, Finnish and Belgian Red Cross Societies: blankets, cooking sets, jerry cans, kangas, soap, tarpaulins, mosquito nets and chemicals. The DPP stock in the Bujumbura warehouse contains small quantities of other non-food goods.

The ECHO stock (BDI/210/2001/01020) totalling EUR 500,000 was intended for 14,500 households, and as a contingency stock in case of a mass repatriation. In agreement with ECHO, and as repatriation did not occur, the goods have been distributed to displaced families within Burundi. This operation has now been completed.

Disaster preparedness, in terms of emergency stock, and disaster relief, in terms of distributions to needy families, are inevitably closely linked, and the continuing displacement of people means that incoming stocks are quickly used up. It was anticipated to have a strategic stock built up for an eventual mass return of the refugees, but this so far has not proved possible in anything more than the short-term (thanks to ECHO for their consistent support over recent years). Capacity constraints within the Burundi Red Cross have now made the continuation of this and other relief programmes more problematic and such activities have been temporarily halted - despite the major needs around the country.

In agreement with UNHCR, training was given to the emergency brigades in the province of Makamba where 31 volunteers were taught how to care for returnees and handle emergency relief. The UN budget for Burundi was cut as funds were not available, and this training was therefore funded by the Red Cross.

Humanitarian Values

Human rights in general, and those of children and women in particular, are flouted as the civil war continues. Some young people are regularly involved in ethnic disputes or enrolled by force to fight on one side or the other. Women are marginalised, regularly victims of rape and discrimination. The Twa ethnic minority, most often engaged in household chores, has little access to education, public services or any kind of humanitarian assistance. The BRC thus set up this programme to promote humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles of the Movement among the beneficiaries of the National Society's programmes such as young people in clubs and women in groups who can become agents of change in their communities, creating a spirit of solidarity conducive to respect for human dignity and promotion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) all over the country.

The main constraint is the lack of funds, with nothing received for these activities since the beginning of 2002.

Health and Care

All aspects of life are affected by the crisis afflicting the country since 1993. Farmers, cattle breeders and fisherman make up 93 per cent of the population; insecurity, compounded by a major drought over the past three years, has led to a drop in production. These combined factors have caused severe malnutrition, affecting the health of the population who are then more susceptible to disease and sickness - cholera, typhus fever, diarrhoea diseases, malaria and HIV/AIDS. The aim of BRC's community health programme aims to limit and prevent these diseases by promoting hygiene and cleanliness and improving the health of the vulnerable, via specially trained community health workers (CHW). Since the beginning of 2002, this programme has primarily been supported bilaterally, with funding from the French and Spanish Red Cross, UNFPA and UNICEF.

UNFPA/BRC are carrying out a bilateral HIV/AIDS programme for displaced persons at sites in the provinces of Bururi, Rutana and Makamba. The programme is progressing well, to the satisfaction of the donor. In all, 700 peer educators will be trained in the context of this programme.

UNICEF/BRC are carrying out a bilateral community health programme for the production of slabs and SanPlat covers, as well as to train PHAST volunteers.

General health programme activities have encountered serious problems since 2001, with some aspects of the programme interrupted for lack of funding, and increasing problems of programme management capacity.

Institutional and Resource Development

The greatest challenge for the BRC is to meet the needs of the vulnerable constantly on the increase due to the combined effects of the economic crisis, insecurity due to the war and the weather conditions mentioned above.

The National Society became effectively operational in 1994 following the mass influx of Rwandan refugees. The range of its activities expanded in 13 of the 17 provinces in the country only in 1998.

In the 2001 Annual Report, it was stated that the BRC should seriously address its own development and initiate changes to address the following areas: to ensure good governance; to set up effective operational structures at all levels, to develop and diversify its financial and material resources so as to reduce its heavy dependence on external aid, to establish and ensure the management of a network of volunteers in all the local branches; to have competent, qualified human resources able to ensure the sustainability and good conduct of programmes, in a professional manner, both at national headquarters and in the local branches.

Following dialogue with the BRC, a partnership meeting was held (in Kigali) on 9 March 2002. The NS president clearly set out the current situation of the BRC at that meeting. All the participants also agreed to his proposal to create a Task Force (TF) to try and identify solutions and help the BRC redefine a strategy enabling it to ensure sustainable development. The TF held its first meeting from 8 to 12 April 2002 in Bujumbura.

The main recommendations of that meeting, together with plans of action, were presented to all the partners at another meeting held in Nairobi on 6 June 2002. Implementation of these recommendations as per the established plans is the main institutional development programme on which all the partners must focus until the holding of the ordinary elective general assembly planned for May 2003. The statutes and the rules of procedure were amended and adopted during this process and a new organizational chart was adopted on 20 May 2002.

This is the National Society's current priority although it plans to carry out other limited health and relief activities. This Organisational Development work will become the main focus of the Federation's support for the rest of year 2002, ensuring that the necessary groundwork is in place ahead of the general assembly in early 2003. The 2002 budget has been revised to take account of these changes in direction and emphasis and the revised budget is incorporated into this report.

The BRC has recognised the need to accept the initiative, take ownership of it, promote it, and develop and encourage the effort needed for its own development, making the necessary reforms required. The other components of the Movement (the PNS, the Federation and the ICRC), donors and partners (including the government, the United Nations system and NGOs) play a support role, stimulate efforts, contribute their expertise, in line with their specific mandate, and make commitments in the context of special partnership agreements, providing the means required.

The objectives set out in the Appeal 2002 have therefore being revised, and now primarily encompass the following activities, by May 2003:

- National Society institutional development: assigning an OD delegate by end July 2002 to coach the local branch development process and capacity building at all levels of the BRC;
- strengthening in particular the information/dissemination programme, explaining what the Movement, its principles and humanitarian values are and making them better known, enhancing awareness, motivating, mobilizing and encouraging the general public to join the BRC;
- restructuring the entire National Society from the headquarters down to the local branches, creating branches where they do not yet exist;
- helping design and implement programmes relevant at grassroots level, that take into account Strategy 2010, ARCHI 2010 and the Ouagadougou Declaration and the National Society's real capacities; and ensuring training for the persons involved in the elaboration and conduct of these programmes;
- holding, in May 2003, an ordinary elective general assembly of the BRC national committee and its executive bureau.

Regional Cooperation

The Regional Delegation Nairobi is strongly supporting the current process of change within the BRC. The Red Cross-NET of National Societies in the region also played a significant role in the Task Force and follow-up process. The President of the Seychelles Red Cross participated in the work of the TF, as did members of the Rwandan, German and Spanish National Societies.

Two BRC telecommunications officers attended a training seminar in Nairobi in May 2002.

Coordination and Management

Full-time finance and administration (FAD) and logistics delegates completed their missions in February 2002 and the Head of Delegation is the only delegate still in Bujumbura at this time, though the FAD delegate based in Kigali visits once a month for financial matters. A staff member from the Abidjan Regional Delegation has been in Burundi for three months assisting with logistics and relief distributions.

At the request of the National Society, one of the TF's recommendations was to provide the BRC with a development delegate to coach the process and it was planned that this person would be in place before the end of July 2002. Despite this position being advertised for some months, no suitable and acceptable candidate has been proposed.

On the whole, all the humanitarian activities in Burundi are carried out in a context of ongoing consultation, in close cooperation/collaboration with the other humanitarian actors, the NGOs, the local authorities, the United Nations agencies, coordinated by UNDP, with OCHA technical support. The Federation makes a major contribution at this forum.

Outstanding needs

Programmes planned in appeal 2002 have so far not been implemented as foreseen, for several reasons, the most important being that apart from the relief programmes and the management of the delegation, no programme has received funding since the beginning of the year. This is clearly a result of the declining credibility of the NS which has aroused little donor interest. Donors want to be reassured that the BRC now has statutes, elected central and branch governance bodies, management bodies and functional and operational teams both at headquarters and in the local branches, able not only to carry out activities for the vulnerable, but also to make a clear report on how funds made available for its programmes are used.

As the current national crisis continues, compounded by natural factors such as epidemics, emerging (HIV/AIDS) and re-emerging diseases, drought, floods and other natural disasters, the number of victims increases daily. Their needs and those of other vulnerable persons grow in number and urgency. We must provide them with appropriate humanitarian assistance. The NS is confronted with this major challenge.

With the change of emphasis now being on supporting the institutional changes within the BRC, the partner members of the Movement (working bilaterally or multilaterally) are expected to commit themselves to respond to this effort in any possible way in all their contacts with the BRC, to help the BRC become a more dynamic, more visible national society, enjoying integrity and growing credibility among the general public, and making a real impact on the beneficiaries of the programmes it implements.

Immediate needs are a French-speaking OD delegate able and willing to work in this challenging context, and financial contributions towards the costs of implementing this change process, as budgeted, will of course be welcomed.

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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>.

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Burundi						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.08/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			17.07.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'142'978		TOTAL COVERAGE 87.2%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				669'413		
BELGIUM - RC		17'670	EUR	25'904	09.04.2002	DP, EMERGENCY STOCKS
BRITISH - RC				4'992	31.01.2002	DELEGATE COURSE FEE
GERMAN - RC		2'800	EUR	4'106	16.05.2002	GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NORWEGIAN - RC		20'000	NOK	3'810	08.04.2002	TASK FORCE ONS PARTICIPATION
SWEDISH - GOVT		750'000	SEK	268'770	24.05.2002	DP & DR, H&C, OD, H. VALUES, COORDINATION & MGT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				976'995	CHF	85.5%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GERMANY	DELEGATE(S)			9'692		
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATE(S)			9'692		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				19'384	CHF	1.7%

APPEAL No. 01.08/2002

BURUNDI - Revised budget (16/07/2002)

PROGRAMME	Disaster Response	Disaster Prep	Health & Care	Human Values	OD	Reg. Co-operation	Co-ord. & Mgmt	TOTAL
Shelter & Construction							30,045	30,045
Clothing & Textiles	69,701							69,701
Food & Seeds								
Water								
Medical & 1st Aid								
Teaching Materials								
Ustensils & Tools	49,691							49,691
Other Relief Supplies	22,359							22,359
Subtotal Supplies	141,750						30,045	171,795
Land & Buildings								
Vehicles								
Computer & Telecom							4,450	4,450
Medical Equipment								
Other Capital Equipment								
Subtotal Capital							4,450	4,450
Programme Management	23,923	1,443	5,015	754	19,106		26,830	77,071
Technical Services	7,161	432	1,501	226	5,719		8,031	23,071
Professional Services	7,942	479	1,665	250	6,343		8,907	25,586
Subtotal Programme Support	39,026	2,353	8,182	1,230	31,168		43,768	125,728
Warehousing/Inspection	5,931	2,349	520		58		1,520	10,378
Transport & Vehicles	64,513	1,170	7,230		13,983		31,099	117,994
Subtotal Transport & Storage	70,443	3,519	7,750		14,040		32,619	128,372
Delegates & Expatriates	14,580	1,650					128,273	144,502
National Societies and Local Staff	56,956	1,654	44,093		144,378		29,700	276,782
Subtotal Personnel	71,536	3,304	44,093		144,378		157,973	421,284
Travel & Related Expenses	1,142		84		8,674		21,933	31,832
Information	232		340		1,175		989	2,736
Consultants	11,205	8,076	58				5,551	24,890
General Expenses	19,451	2,446	13,873		18,896		100,563	155,229
Training Workshops & Seminars		1,695		9,954	65,014			76,663
Security								
Subtotal Training, Information & General	32,030	12,217	14,355	9,954	93,759		129,035	291,349
TOTAL BUDGET	354,786	21,393	74,380	11,184	283,345		397,890	1,142,978