

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

16 January 2004

Appeal No. 01.01/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 713,368 (USD 484,322 or EUR 484,259)

Budget revised in September 2003 to CHF 285,300 (USD 215,800 or EUR 185,400)

Programme Update No. 2

Period covered: July – December 2003

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 148.2%; see attached [Contributions List](#) for details or refer to the Federation website.

Outstanding needs: N/A

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Burundi Annual Appeal no. 01.01/2004](#)

Programme Summary: During the period, the restructuring programme of the [Burundi Red Cross](#) has been on hold. This follows the second Annual Task Force meeting held on 3 April 2003 and disagreement between the leadership of the national society and the Burundi Task Force over the recruitment of the Secretary General. This situation created a crisis of trust and confidence in the mandate of the Task Force and despite various mediation efforts and consultations with several African bodies of the Movement, the impasse has prevailed. However, in December during the International Statutory meetings in Geneva, new contacts were established between the governance of the Federation and Burundi Red Cross to resume dialogue in 2004. The restructuring programme however remains on hold until a politically negotiated solution is found.

Operational developments

Efforts to bring peace in Burundi have progressed very well. By the end of the year, all rebel groups except one (the Hutu FNL group) had signed the peace agreement. It is expected that the FNL will meet with the President of Burundi in early January 2004 for discussions on the possibility and conditions of joining the peace process.

This development has resulted in largely improved security through out the country and the ceasefire is general being respected; armed rebel attacks have decreased except in isolated cases such as the recent assassination of the Apostolic Nuncio to Burundi in December 2003, which was largely condemned by the international humanitarian and diplomatic community.

The African Union Force (AMIB) of 3,500 soldiers has been fully deployed. One of the roles of the AMIB is demobilization and disarmament, which has started on a small scale and remains a serious challenge for sustainable peace in Burundi. In addition, the issue of cantonment of forces is not moving as fast as originally expected. Financial constraints facing the AMIB have prompted some African governments to call for its

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replacement with a United Nations Peace Keeping Force. This change would increase confidence in the peace process and ease the financial burden by moving the funding from African Union to United Nations.

On the political side, the new Government reshuffled its cabinet in December 2003 to allow appointments of members of the CNDD party. This went smoothly without much resistance because the President conducted wide consultations in view of forming a coalition government capable of making all necessary reforms to allow for peace. Time is however of the essence; six months have already elapsed and the first Hutu president has only 18 months to complete the process and organize elections.

The general improvement in security has allowed access to all provinces; voluntary repatriation of refugees has increased. The level of return of refugees from Tanzania has increased from 21,989 in May to 81,201 in December; this figure includes 36,237 refugees facilitated by the UNHCR and 44,964 spontaneous repatriations. A lot more population movement has been observed on the border of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Monuc forces have also facilitated the voluntary repatriation of FDD/CNDD combatants from the Democratic Republic of Congo and more is expected to come.

The new figure of caseload reported by the Regional Contingency Plan of OCHA¹, will only be available in February 2004. Below is a summary of the situation as at August 2003:

- There were 281,052 internally displaced people (IDP) in sites.
- Monthly, 100,000 were temporarily displaced with a possibility of a further 20,000 being displaced.
- There were 81,201 returnees from Tanzania, with a possibility of a further 200,000.
- There were 37,938 refugees (predominantly from the DRC), with the possibility of a further 40,000.
- There were 700,000 people facing food insecurity, with the possibility of a further 400,000.
- There were 788,124 children in need of special protection, with the possibility of a further 400,000.
- There were 8,350 prisoners, with the possibility of a further 500.

The socio-economic situation has not improved and there will be many serious issues to face in the advent of peace and stability in the whole country. Factors such as population growth, access to land for subsistence farming, numbers of people below the poverty line, vulnerability to natural disaster (seasonal drought, floods), crime and banditry, pillaging and looting continue to stretch the coping mechanisms of the population.

The health situation continues to be very difficult with increased prevalence and infection rates of HIV/AIDS and spread of epidemics, especially malaria. However, a good sign is the recent decision by the government to facilitate access to Anti-Retroviral (ARV) treatment to all public service employees.

Organizational Development

Goal: Burundi Red Cross is a well-functioning national society that renders efficient service to the community according to the basic principles and humanitarian values of the Movement, and formulates and implements good quality programmes that respond to the needs of vulnerable people at branch level.

Objective 1: To institute an effective decentralization through the establishment of operational structures at branch and headquarters levels.

Progress/Achievements

Following a request by the Government of Burundi to understand the situation between the Burundi Red Cross and its partners in the Movement, and after consultation with the Task Force members, the ICRC and Federation representatives met with the authorities and presented the background to the crisis. Similar contacts were made with the humanitarian community, especially UN agencies and the NGO coordination body in Burundi who were working in partnership with the national society.

¹ OCHA – (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

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All other expected achievements under the objective are still suspended and will hopefully be pursued in 2004 should a solution to the impasse be obtained.

Impact

The continued crisis between the governance of the Burundi Red Cross and the Task Force resulted in all programmes planned for 2003 being put on hold.

Constraints

The lack of trust and confidence between the two parties prevails; more dialogue and willingness probably with external mediation is needed to resolve the crisis.

Objective 2: To separate governance and management, strengthen the capacity and involvement of members of the national committee to deal with major problems related to governance; to have management take responsibility of day to day affairs of the national society, and to establish a volunteers management policy.

Progress/Achievements

As agreed in the Action Plan, the Task Force sent a letter to all branches in July informing them about the mandate and the work done so far by the Task Force, the background of the crisis and the current stalemate. Consequently, several provincial leaders requested a meeting with the President of the Burundi Red Cross. The meeting was held on 11 October 2003 with all provincial leaders in which the situation and possible local solutions were discussed.

Although the national committee composed of four people is in place, it does not meet regularly. Nonetheless, the President and the treasurer of the national society attended the statutory meetings of the Movement in Geneva.

All other expected achievements under the objective are still suspended and will hopefully be pursued in 2004 should a solution to the impasse be found.

Impact

No progress can be reported on governance development since no solution was found to the stalemate. Unfortunately, the last option left is for the Task Force to solicit the intervention of the Integrity Task Force of the Federation.

Constraints

The failure of all efforts at mediation and the possible delays in solving the governance problem will restrain the planned activities.

Objective 3: To put in place policies, procedures and systems with a view to realising efficient coordination of the national society's activities at all the levels; the resources allocated for programme or project implementation are well managed.

Progress/Achievements

No progress can be reported on this objective which has been suspended until a solution to the impasse is found.

Impact

Some branches have met with the ICRC delegation in Burundi and expressed their interest and readiness to contribute towards a solution to the crisis.

Constraints

The heavy political agenda in the country does not allow local stakeholders to allocate sufficient time towards finding a sustainable solution to the problem with the Burundi Red Cross.

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Objective 4: Production of reliable information and dissemination of the basic principles and humanitarian values; to create public awareness and knowledge of the Movement, the International Humanitarian Law, and of the activities of the Burundi Red Cross in the country through a reliable communication system.

Progress/Achievements

The programmes supported bilaterally by FAO, UNFPA and UNICEF were completed according to the terms of the contract. No information is available on possible future partnerships.

All other expected achievements under the objective are still suspended and will hopefully be pursued in 2004 should a solution to the impasse be found.

Impact

The image of the Burundi Red Cross in the country continues to deteriorate; some articles in the local press are criticizing the role of the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement. The Task Force continued to inform all partners of the situation. Despite this, ICRC programmes are developing in many areas of Burundi and the population benefits from this support.

Constraints

There are no new elements in the debate which permit the Burundi Red Cross to conduct dissemination activities.

Disaster Management

Overall Goal: To build capacity for Burundi Red Cross to respond effectively to the needs of the vulnerable and the populations affected by the current armed conflict.

Objective: To define and implement a national policy for disaster management, and to develop an intervention plan for Burundi Red Cross that will be included in the government plan. Train, equip, and supervise the intervention teams to prepare them to respond effectively to emergency situations.

Progress/Achievements

All other expected achievements under the objective are still suspended and will hopefully be pursued in 2004 should a solution to the impasse be obtained.

Impact

No impact can be reported.

Constraints

The crisis between the leadership of the Burundi Red Cross and the Task Force may jeopardize attempts to start the Disaster Management programme.

Federation Coordination

Objective: Through constant dialogue, good coordination is achieved with the various partners with a view to building the capacity of the Burundi Red Cross.

Progress/Achievements

Federation presence in Burundi is coordinated through the Regional Delegation in Nairobi since the end of the last delegates' contract in February 2003. The support to the Task Force is still coordinated with the Spanish bilateral delegate who was relocated to Nairobi in July. The coordination between ICRC and Federation continues smoothly and regular exchanges exist with the ICRC delegation in Bujumbura and the ICRC Cooperation delegate based in Kigali.

Except for the briefing meeting held in early August with UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA and the NGOs coordinating body, RESO, no direct contacts have been made with external partners during the period. No meetings of the monitoring cell of the Task Force were organized during the period; several telephone conferences and email discussions were however

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maintained to closely monitor the situation. Donor support did not need to be increased since the balance of funds from the 2002 appeal was sufficient to cover the limited activities of the Task Force that have been taking place.

All other expected achievements under the objective are still suspended and will hopefully be pursued in 2004 should a solution to the impasse be found.

Impact

The Federation's role has mainly focused on actively contributing to the work of the Task Force, facilitating the follow up and implementation of their decisions, and liaising with Geneva based colleagues to keep them regularly informed of the situation. Despite the leadership crisis of the Burundi Red Cross, the Task Force remained united and continued to steer the process; it is not the intention to give up but rather to adjust to the evolving situation.

Constraints

Statutory meetings in Geneva and the implementation of the Strategy for Change in the Federation did not allow the leadership to provide adequate attention to the Burundi case. However, if the Task Force decides to present Burundi Red Cross at the Federation Integrity Task Force, a commitment has been made to immediately deal with the situation.

International Representation

Overall Goal: The Federation has a high profile as a key humanitarian actor and advocate in the region with the added advantage of a network of national societies able to deliver services at community level.

Programme Objective: The Federation is an effective and reliable partner in support of Burundi Red Cross and in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable.

Progress/Achievements

Partners have been continuously informed of the situation in Burundi.

All other expected achievements under the objective are still suspended and will hopefully be pursued in 2004 should a solution to the impasse be found.

Impact

International profile of Federation has been maintained but its limited presence and the decreasing activities of Burundi Red Cross did not provide the best image among the partners.

Constraints

Due to the status quo with Burundi Red Cross, all future plans of a key humanitarian role in the country have been seriously jeopardized.

For further information please contact:

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

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

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APPEAL No. 01.01/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

20/01/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

				TOTAL COVERAGE		
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				285,300		148.2%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				49,749		
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				33,862	24/02/2003	ORGANISATIONAL DEV.
REALLOCATED FUNDS PBI001				228,777	31/12/2003	
REALLOCATED FUNDS PBI512				56,500	31/12/2003	
SALE OF ASSETS				54,052	31/12/2003	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				422,940	CHF	148.2%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	