

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

DJIBOUTI

4 July 2003

Appeal no. 01.03/2003; Appeal target: CHF 183,721

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: 1 January to 30 June 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: 143.1 %; please refer to the Contributions List for this appeal on the Federation's website at: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap010303.pdf

Outstanding needs: None

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: None

Programme Summary: The Federation's annual appeal for the Djibouti Red Crescent Society includes projects in Health and Care and Organisational Development. There are no on-going bi-lateral programmes. The national society also receives occasional funding from sister societies in the Middle East, for special one time initiatives. Implementation of the Health and Care projects are running close to schedule, and are having an impact at community level. However the very limited human resources capacity at the Society's headquarters has prevented the necessary follow-up and monitoring from being sufficiently systematic. A key project within the Organisational Development component of the Appeal is the organisation of local and general assemblies. Preparation for these is behind schedule due to differing views of members of the National Committee regarding the number of participants who should be invited and the required budget for such events.

Health and care

Goal: The Djibouti Red Crescent (Djibouti RC) has a sustainable impact upon the general health of targeted communities through its health programming.

Objective: The Federation facilitates the development of the National Society's capacity in community-based health and care programming, including through HIV/AIDS and water and sanitation activities.

Progress

The community health information programme started in the three southern districts of the country at the end of 2002, was extended to the northern districts in the first half of the year. A facilitator from the Sudanese Red Crescent, assisting Djibouti RC with the programme, spent three months assisting the national society in the design and implementation of training programmes in the area of Malaria and HIV/AIDS prevention, and in the preparation of subsequent community information campaigns. More than 20 volunteers have been trained in each district and equipped with IEC materials, T-shirts and caps, and are carrying out community information activities on a regular basis.

Following a joint assessment for an integrated health project carried out in the Belbala area of Djibouti City in May by Djibouti Red Crescent and the Regional Health and Care Support Unit, a detailed project proposal, budget and work plan for an integrated health project has been developed. The project comprises the rehabilitation of tap stands, vector control by larviciding, health promotion using PHAST, condom distribution and advocacy against female genital mutilation (FGM) for improved reproductive health as well as promotion of use of insecticide treated nets by pregnant women and children under five are some of the activities expected to be carried out. In addition partnerships with key players including government, UN agencies and the EU are expected to be key outcomes of the project. Funding for the six months project is availed through DFID. A second phase of the project is likely after completion of the first six-month phase and documentation of lessons learnt. Implementation is to begin in September 2003 after the national society hires a project co-ordinator with public health experience.

During the reporting period the national society signed an agreement with Save the Children US for an HIV/AIDS programme on the Ethiopian corridor whose implementation begins in June.

Impact

The visibility of the Djibouti Red Crescent has increased due to its closer contact with communities. The fact that most districts managed to recruit almost equal numbers of male and female volunteers means that malaria and HIV/AIDS prevention information is being passed on to women who would normally have very little access to it. Women are also reporting fewer incidences of illnesses amongst their children in some districts. Volunteers feel more comfortable in discussing HIV/AIDS with their peers.

Constraints

The national society has not yet appointed a national health co-ordinator and as a result there is nobody who can devote sufficient time to monitor the activities being carried out in the branches. Djibouti Red Crescent does not possess any roadworthy vehicle and continues to incur high costs for hiring vehicle rental for trips to the field. An appeal to the Empress Shoken Fund at the end of 2002 for the purchase of a vehicle was unsuccessful.

Organisational Development

Goal: Implementation of the characteristics of a well-functioning national society has improved in Djibouti Red Crescent in the three key areas; foundation, capacity and performance.

Objective: The National Society's institutional capacity and its progress towards operating as a well-functioning national society is enhanced through Secretariat support.

Progress

The implementation of the community health information activities has attracted new members to the national society. Branch Steering Committees have been set up in five districts which is quite an achievement considering that there was almost no Red Crescent structure beyond the Headquarters less than one year ago. These Committees will prepare local assemblies later in the year. The national society's good relations with local government have earned it two offices in two branches in the north and two in the south. The community health information programme has also funded some minor repairs to these buildings and equipped them with basic office furniture.

A senior lawyer was appointed to prepare a revised draft of the national society's Statutes, and was briefed by the Regional Organizational Development (OD) delegate to familiarise her with the Federation's Guidance document and specific national society procedures.

Impact

The establishment of branch offices and Steering Committees has given a very visible presence to the national society outside the capital city. Volunteers now have a place to meet and come together frequently to plan activities. Branch offices are open most mornings and community members realise and appreciate that there is a new resource available to them when they need help and advice.

Constraints

The National Committee continues to be made up of very senior government representatives. Although most of them are highly committed to the organisation, their other responsibilities mean that they are often unavailable or absent from the country resulting into Committee meetings not being held regularly and a slow down in decision making. This has held up decisions regarding Assemblies at local and national level. It is important that the momentum that has been built up at district level is maintained.

The Secretary General was elected to Parliament in January and is no longer in a position to give sufficient guidance and support to staff at the Headquarters. He is expected to step down from his national society functions at the forthcoming General Assembly.

Federation Coordination

Goal: To build capacity and empower the Djibouti Red Crescent to achieve its mandate through better partnerships.

Objective: Djibouti Red Crescent's integrated capacity building planning and implementation skills are ensured by the Federation through participatory facilitation.

Progress

ICRC and the Federation have developed a coordinated approach to supporting the Djibouti Red Crescent, and conducted one joint mission during the reporting period.

Contacts were made with a number of UN organisations, particularly in the design of the Water and Sanitation Pilot Project. The OD Delegate provided regular coaching to National Committee members on Movement Policies, including Strategy 2010, Statutes Guidance and the Strategy for the Movement.

Impact

There has been a very positive reaction from the various humanitarian actors in the country to the emergence of a stronger, more visible National Society and possibilities for eventual closer collaboration have been discussed.

Constraint

The capacity of the national society to design and implement programmes, although improving, is still quite limited and has meant that they are not yet in a position to enter into potential new partnerships. The Agreement that was signed recently with Save the Children US over the implementation of a HIV/AIDS Prevention programme on the corridor to Ethiopia will be a test case.

APPEAL No. 01.03/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

04.07.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				183'722		143.1%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				19'427		
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				36'000	24.02.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEV.
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				78'000	24.02.03	HEALTH
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		88'299	EUR	129'557	14.02.03	HEALTH & ORG. DEV.
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				262'984	CHF	143.1%

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				ERR	CHF	