

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

RWANDA

Date 10 July 2003

Appeal no. 01.08/2003; Appeal target: CHF 1,944,726 (USD 1.46m/ EUR 1.26m)

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: 1 January to 30 June 30 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: 30.2 %. See the attached Contributions List or see the Federation's website at: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap010803.pdf

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,357,299

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: None

Programme Summary: The annual appeal for the Rwanda Red Cross Society (RRCS) includes projects in Disaster Preparedness and Response, Health, and Organisational Development. Bilateral programmes are implemented in a parallel structure, thereby presenting an organisational challenge in ensuring that projects are under the overall coordination of the national society, and within priorities identified in its strategic development plan.

The core areas of Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Response, Health and HIV/AIDS, and Organisational Development including Humanitarian Values, identified by the national society and reflected in the annual appeal are all under funded, which prompted a drastic revision of budgets and plans leading to less implementation of activities than planned. RRCS took certain decisive steps in 2002 to build its internal capacities, and is well underway towards acquiring the characteristics of a well functioning national society. Support is needed to consolidate existing progress and continue the positive developments.

Operational developments

Rwanda Red Cross Society (RRCS) had its partnership meeting in April 2003. The CAS developed for the same period as the National Society strategic development plan (2003-06) initiated increased cooperation and coordination between the many partners (bilateral and multilateral) supporting the society. The lower than anticipated response to the appeal has required some adjustments to the plan of action and operational budgets for programme areas within Disaster Preparedness and Response, and Health. The revised programme plan is being implemented according to schedule, and the Society is actively exploring possibilities for developing new development oriented partnerships for two of the priority areas, Health and Disaster Preparedness which were identified in the strategic development plan.

Health and care

Goal: Rwanda Red Cross contributes significantly to the reduction of major health threats in Rwanda in close cooperation with the authorities and local and international NGO partners in the Public Health Sector.

Objective: Federation Secretariat support has strengthened the Rwanda Red Cross health programme delivery.

Progress

The RRCS mobilized 2,456 volunteers countrywide during the measles campaign organised by the Ministry of Health in February, whose social mobilization activities contributed to well over 100% vaccination of the 9 through 59 month infants and 95% coverage of the 6-15 year old children in the country. There are no exact figures for the former due to lack of registration of all babies.

Forty-six volunteer coaches have been trained in Community Based First Aid (CBFA) in Butare and Kigali. These coaches trained 479 volunteers in nine local committees in Gisenyi, Kibungo and Umutara, thereby greatly improving the community health volunteer network. Community Based First Aid books and ARCHI information sheets were translated into local languages, and other educational health materials were purchased and distributed during the reporting period.

Training of Trainers in youth development activities was also undertaken in May with the participation of two branch representatives from each of the branches of RRCS, with the objective of cascading the training to the youth at the local committees.

Sixteen volunteer co-ordinators in HIV/AIDS were trained in peer education, support was given to peer clubs and HIV/AIDS educational materials, condoms, home kits and mosquito nets distributed.

The provision of safe water, the training of 28 volunteers in community health and hygiene promotion activities using PHAST tool kits has led to improved sanitary conditions for a targeted population of 3,000 people in Rukara district.

The breakdown of the training provided to district administrators, volunteers, peer educators and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) is given in the table below:

	Gikongoro	Gisenyi	Kibuye	Kibungo	Total
District Administrators	7	6	3	3	19
Volunteers	65	90	40	37	232
Peer Educators	38	40	24	21	123
PLWHAs	7	4	3	4	18
					392

Impact

The involvement of RRCS volunteers in social mobilization activities during the measles campaign led to wide immunisation coverage across the country. The large investment made by the national society to provide training for branch representatives and youth in community based health training has resulted in a great expansion in the community health volunteer network, improved awareness and knowledge about HIV/AIDS, and improved health and sanitation in the community.

Constraints

Financial constraints in relation to the appeal coverage have necessitated the reduction of activities. Additionally, the failure to receive anticipated funding from the Ministry of Health during the immunization campaign placed a further strain the national society's limited financial resources. Lack of funding also prevented the purchase of educational material for volunteers and planned training was scaled down.

Disaster Management

Goal: The disaster risks in Rwanda are successfully reduced through joint disaster preparedness measures in the public sector, and the Rwanda Red Cross plays a key role in mitigation and management of national disasters.

Objective: The Federation Secretariat provides technical support and assistance to strengthen the capacity of Rwanda Red Cross in Disaster Preparedness/Response, as well as to increase awareness and capacity of vulnerable communities in Disaster Management.

The DFID/Federation Risk Reduction Partnership initially scheduled to end in December 2002, was extended to March 2003, and all the planned activities were completed and financial reports provided. The DFID support finances a part of the overall RRCS Disaster Preparedness/Response programme and is an integrated part of the appeal reported against below. A separate report for the DFID funded programme covering several countries in East Africa is available.

Progress

A food security programme was implemented in Gikongoro district, including the identification of beneficiaries, distribution of goats and agricultural activities. Appropriate structures have also been established for follow up and entail the participation of beneficiaries, volunteers and local authorities at all levels.

The development of a community based early warning system in the districts of Gikongoro, Butare, Umutara and Kigali-Ngali for food security is in the process and training has been scheduled for the regional coordinators and volunteers in data collection, monitoring and the application of essential information.

Activities towards development capacities for appropriate disaster response at Headquarters and branches include the training of Red Cross volunteers and Brigade de Secours d'urgence in Gitarama, Cyangugu and Kigali-Ngali; and the establishment of strategic emergency stocks for disaster preparedness consisting of non-food items for 5,000 persons in the districts with assistance from ICRC, the Federation appeal, and the re-allocation of the regional stock from the Volcano operation. Two officers from RRCS have also been trained and inducted as members of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) and will in turn participate in national training in Rwanda during the second part of 2003.

With technical support from the Regional Disaster Preparedness/Response department, RRCS has developed its plan of action and budgets and implemented components for mitigating food insecurity among selected households through restocking, provision of agricultural inputs and soil conservation that is being supported by the Federation/DFID partnership. The final report on the DFID project has been to the Regional Delegation for consolidation with other reports from the region.

Cross border cooperation with the Red Cross in the Democratic Republic of Congo, especially with Goma Branch was strengthened during the period for better planning and management of natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions with support from the Federation's Disaster Preparedness delegate based in Goma.

The development of the national disaster preparedness plan for Rwanda, in which RRCS was nominated lead agency is on-going although slower than planned mainly due to non-commitment by other partners from the NGO sector to the relevant ministries.

Impact

Better food security for the most vulnerable in the district of Gikongoro, and the disaster preparedness stocks established at branch level ensures rapid response to local needs. Technical support given by the Regional DP/DR department has led to improved quality and timeliness of the programme implementation. Monitoring skills at district level have improved through the community-based early warning system on food security. The two RRCS officers trained together with the RDRT will provide back up, and transfer of knowledge to the branches.

Constraints

Time constraints presented a challenge to the Gikongoro project, while the early rainy season might also have a negative impact on the expected harvest. Budgetary constraints have hampered part of the planned activities for disaster preparedness stock

Organisational Development

Goal: To build a well-functioning national society that upholds the fundamental principles and values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and provides quality services to the most vulnerable in Rwanda, in accordance with Strategy 2010.

Objective: The Federation Secretariat provides technical support and assistance to strengthen the capacity of Rwanda Red Cross in branch development and decentralisation, good governance and volunteer management, and operational management and coordination.

Progress

Work on RRCS decentralisation policy is on going under the supervision of the National Branch coordinator. The second draft of the document has been finalized and presented to the RC-NET that is assisting the national society in soliciting input from partners in the region in view of its completion and implementation. The aim for 2003 is to reorganise 85% of the 114 branches, and so far 39 local committees have been reorganised to suit the local administration units.

The registration of members and volunteers and the development of a database are planned for the second half of 2003. The national society's draft volunteer policy developed through a participatory process with the participation of 90 volunteers will be presented to the Board for endorsement. Meanwhile, the human resources package has been endorsed following a study conducted in 2002 and an extensive consultative process at the last partnership meeting. The vision is to adhere to the regulations for all programmes implemented through the national society.

The Financial procedures manual was completed with assistance from the Federation's Finance Development Delegate, and involved a consultative process with technical staff, branches and volunteers. The manual is now being applied to all of Headquarters' transactions, and will soon be disseminated to all branches of the National Society for compliance. The finance department has made a milestone in conducting comprehensive annual external audits for 2001 and 2002. In addition to creating the financial procedures manual, the Finance department has demonstrated remarkable progress over the last few years introducing a computerised finance system, and updating its financial records.

This year's annual partnership meeting was more professional and better organized than previous meetings, in the sense that all resource materials were provided well in advance, discussions focused and time bound, therefore leading to a higher level of satisfaction of partners.

The Head of Regional Office for East Africa continue to provide technical advice and coaching to the senior management where there is good cooperation. Coordination with partners is an integral part of the Secretariat assistance, and good progress has been noted although a bit slow.

Impact

The RRCS has a human resource policy which is harmonious with the policy's of sister societies in the region. The decentralisation policy document is in its third draft. The finance department has a well functioning system allowing it to provide more efficient service. There is also better support by partners to organisational development and capacity building

Constraints

The human resources in the Organizational Development department are insufficient to deal with the huge needs for assistance in branch development, volunteer and member recruitment and management, the decentralisation policy,

and coordination of the many social welfare programmes. The performance of the finance department is mainly dependant on the head of the department, and a challenge will be to delegate responsibility to lower levels. Some bilateral partners are conducting activities which clash with the national society's strategic plan, and priorities continue to absorb resources and divert the focused approach to address core priorities in the National Society

Federation Coordination

Goal: To build capacity and empower Rwanda Red Cross to achieve its mandate through better partnerships.

Objective: Rwanda Red Cross' integrated capacity building planning and implementation skills are ensured by the Federation through participatory facilitation

Progress

The Sub Regional Office for East Africa began operating in January 2003 and covers Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda in a representative function. The Finance Development Delegate completed his mission in February 2003 and it was decided to close the position, as the national society had made sufficient progress through the support provided over the past years. After completed a six months mission in March 2003, the Disaster Preparedness Delegate has relocated to Goma, the delegate continues to provide advice and support to RRCS as per his activity plan and has been instrumental in the re-allocation of regional DP stock to Goma and Kigali.

Monthly coordination meetings between the national society, the ICRC, bilateral partners present in Rwanda and the Federation representative have started through the Federation's initiative, and are aimed at achieving a coordinated and complementary assistance to the Rwanda Red Cross. The Head of the Sub Regional Office for East Africa (HSO) also meets regularly with all bilateral partners to coordinate programme support to RRCS as an endeavour to harmonise and streamline the huge number of bilateral programmes. Towards this end, Strategy 2010 and the Ouagadougou declaration have proven to be useful and essential tools to achieve a common understanding of the way forward. Regular meetings are held collectively with all partners to guide the development process.

The second partnership meeting was held in Kigali in April 2003 and saw the participation of representatives from sister societies in Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, Norway, United Kingdom, and Spain together with Movement representatives from ICRC and the Federation. The Secretary General of the Kenya Red Cross participated as a co-facilitator of the meeting, and as an extension of the regional cooperation between the societies in East Africa. The main agenda of the meeting was the presentation of the RRCS strategic development plan 2002-06, the Cooperation Agreement Strategy for 2002/6, and the introduction of a model Memo of Understanding suggesting cooperation mechanisms that have been successfully used by Red Cross Societies in Uganda and Kenya. Representatives from the Board of the RRCS and volunteers, external partners from the UN-family, the Government and other partners were invited and participated in selected sessions.

The first East Africa regional senior management meeting between the Secretary Generals from Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda was held in Nairobi in May 2003 facilitated by the HSO to address common issues and concerns, harmonise efforts where possible, and to draw upon each others experiences and lessons.

Impact

A better coordination mechanism between stakeholders has been established, cross border cooperation initiated between the national societies in East Africa, and an improving external relation with partners.

There has also been improved management of the Society and increased adherence to standards for a well functioning national society.

Constraints

Given that most partnership agreements in Rwanda have a specific historical background, the ambition of RRCS to ensure co-coordinated programme support within the framework of its strategic development plan has met many

challenges. Discussions are ongoing with the support of the Regional Delegation towards having a coordinated approach to the support provided by partners in strengthening the capacity of RRCS. This includes having an organizational development component in all supported programmes/projects, and arriving at an understanding that the presence of partners in the country should be inverse to the capacity of the national society, and should progressively decrease with the growth of capacity of the national society.

Due to time constraints, the international representation carried out by the Head of sub Regional Office in Rwanda has been less than planned.

International Representation

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

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

Progress

The Regional Disaster Preparedness/Response department and the in/country DP delegate have actively supported RRCS with the development of the Rwanda Government national disaster preparedness plan, in which the National Society has the lead agency role.

The Regional Health and Care department has actively supported the Society with international initiatives in the area of HIV/AIDS stigma campaign, ARCHI 2010 and other health related issues in line with Federation strategic directions.

The HSO and other regional technical delegates also provide regular coaching to the senior management of RRCS, and also through the expertise of bilateral delegates, the ICRC, partner societies and local consultants on mutually agreed terms of reference including international networking.

Impact

Active participation of RRCS in the regional and international network of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement such as RC-NET and its various working groups, the Committee for the Strategy for the Movement etc.

Constraints

Rwanda is a country recovering from the aftermath of conflict. The Government is still young, and support and cooperation to the National Society is still in the development phase.

For further information please contact:

- *Rwanda Red Cross Society, Alphonse Kalinganire, Secretary General, email: rrc@rwanda1.com , phone +250.585446/7/8, fax +250.585449*
- *Sub Regional Office: Anitta Underlin, Head of Regional office for East Africa, email ifrccke42@ifrc.org, phone +256.77.760.565,*

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>

APPEAL No. 01.08/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

10.07.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'944'726	TOTAL COVERAGE 30.2%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				27'937		
BRITISH - RC		20'000	GBP	42'960	03.03.03	RRCS RUNNING COSTS, DELEGATION
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				68'000	24.02.03	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - RC		20'000	GBP	42'280	29.05.03	HIV/AIDS
CYPRUS - RC				344	24.01.2003	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		3'500	USD	4'751	30.01.2003	PARTNERSHIP MEETING
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		2'000'000	NOK	377'500	27.02.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & HIV/ AIDS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				563'772	CHF	29.0%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			23'655		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				23'655	CHF	1.2%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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