

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

UGANDA

25 June 2003

Appeal no. 01.12/2003 Appeal target: CHF 1,002,930

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January to 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: 52.1%

Outstanding needs: CHF 480,000

Related/Emergency Appeal: Uganda: Refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo (Emergency Appeal 06/2003)

Programme Summary: Programming under Uganda's Appeal covers two key areas: (1) support to managing refugee camps in South Western Uganda, and (2) organisational development of the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS). The Federation supports URCS refugee camp activities in the areas of water and sanitation and camp management. A rain harvesting project to secure sustainable and environmentally friendly water provision began as a pilot project in 2002, and continues on a reduced scale due to the expected repatriation of Rwandan refugees by UNHCR in 2004. The operational budget has been adjusted accordingly.

The organisational development programme has received adequate funding, and the Federation assistance to the URCS in the area of coordination and support is well appreciated by the Society.

Operational developments

In February, the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), in addition to its planned programming, responded to a looming refugee crisis in north-eastern Uganda where thousands of people escaping an upsurge in inter-ethnic fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) crossed over the border. The Federation, on behalf of the URCS launched an emergency appeal (06/2003) for CHF 357,000 to help the Society provide essential assistance to 15,000 Congolese refugees for three months.

In February, the URCS suspended activities in the districts of Pader, Kitgum and Gulu after six of its employees in Paiula, Pader district, in northern Uganda, were injured by an ambush. In April, the Society resumed its assistance to internally displaced people in the north.

Disaster Management including Health and Care

Goal: To provide humanitarian relief assistance to refugees in Orukinga and Nakivale camps and specific capacity building to Uganda Red Cross so that the SPHERE standards are met. The general health of vulnerable communities is improved through sustainable provision of safe water and sanitation.

Objective: Sustainable water and sanitation services are provided by supporting the intervention and partnership of Uganda Red Cross Society with beneficiary communities and other stakeholders and efficient camp management carried out.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The registered refugee population in Nakivale and Orukinga totalled 19,178 people in May 2003, of whom 16,520 were Rwandans. UNHCR has informed the Ugandan Government, that if the conditions in Rwanda prevail at a stable or improved level, the refugees will cease to have UNHCR refugee status by July 2004. The refugees will be encouraged to return, and a tripartite agreement has been suggested to the Ugandan government. However, the political tension between Rwanda and Uganda, partly due to the war being fought in Bunia and Ituri province (DR Congo), has hampered the negotiations between the two countries.

Based on the present situation, the investment in a permanent rain harvesting system in the camps has been adjusted with the help from the Federation Regional Delegation in Nairobi. The operational budget has been adjusted to CHF 329,060. The adjustments to the budget are because installing structures for the rain-harvesting programme required less construction than originally planned, and a vehicle was leased instead of purchased. The budget is based upon a target population of 20,000 people until the end of 2003. Since the start of 2003, a group of approximately 5,000 asylum seekers have been camping around the refugee camps imposing a strain on existing installations and services. The asylum seekers are Rwandans repatriated from Tanzania by UNHCR with a resettlement package. UNHCR and the Government do not recognise them as refugees, but have requested the URCS to provide them with assistance on humanitarian grounds. WFP has agreed to increase the food rations to include this caseload, and it is hoped that once resettlement starts the asylum seekers will be able to return to Rwanda.

The water and sanitation services for both camps have been upgraded and adjusted to meet future needs, with an expected decrease in population from 2004. The water and sanitation team from the Federation's Regional Delegation Nairobi carries out quarterly missions to support the programme. Programme achievements to date include:

- A water tank was installed in the primary schools in Kabazana and Kashwojwa. These tanks will be connected with a guttering system that will be procured in this quarter. The available storage capacity has been increased by 140 cubic meters to a total of 420 cubic meters.
- The guttering system for the health centre was rehabilitated, and is now functioning well and connected to an existing 14 cubic meter storage tank.
- Four tap stands for the rain water storage tanks have concrete aprons constructed with drain off facilities. (Two each in Juru and Kabazana).
- One community training on hygiene was carried out using PHAST methodology. The training targeted refugee leaders and water and sanitation caretakers. A total of 140 people were trained.
- A total of 60 dome shaped slabs and 68 sanplats have been cast in Nakivale and Orukinga respectively.
- 400 roofing sheets for rain water harvesting have been procured.

During the period the clean water supply was stable, and there were no major incidents caused by water related infections. The sanitation in the camps is adequate, and latrine coverage has been maintained at over 80%.

Training and coaching of URCS staff in water and sanitation, PHAST and management of the refugee operation have continued during the period. Community based health messages were disseminated, and hygiene promotion in the community and in schools was also carried out.

Cooperation between the Government, UNHCR, the Uganda Red Cross Society and other partners remains good.

Impact

The health and wellbeing of the refugees has improved by the provision of water and sanitation services according to SPHERE standards.

Constraints and problems

- The asylum seekers camping around the settlements overstretch the current services.
- The refugee population has yet to fully understand the ideas behind and the lessons to be learned from the water-harvesting program, so awareness campaigns through the refugee leadership structures will be continued.
- The quality of the water in lake Nakivale continues to deteriorate posing a considerable challenge for water treatment.
- The rainy season was delayed, which has negatively affected the quantity of water planned to be harvested.

Organisational Development

Goal: Implementation of the characteristics of a well-functioning national society. The national society improved in the three areas of: foundation, capacity and performance.

Objective: To consolidate the organisational and financial development processes of the Uganda Red Cross Society at national and branch level through continuing support to its new strategic plan and decentralisation process during 2003-04.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Over the last year a group of active volunteers assisted the Uganda RCS to raise funds by organising events such as dinners and golf tournaments. New initiatives such as creating second hand clothes shops are being reviewed for possible implementation. The tent shelter project is on-going and is in the consolidation phase.

The level of political and financial support to the national society has grown over the last year. Public relations functions are well attended, and the national society has been able to build a solid image vis a vis the national public, the government and donors.

The updating of the procedures manual for finance, logistics and human resources is ongoing. Experiences obtained through this process are shared with other national societies in the region.

A new governance board for the Uganda Red Cross Society was elected in December 2003. The members of the board received training in basic governance issues facilitated by the Federation and the ICRC.

The Uganda Red Cross Society is also the chair for the RC-NET subcommittee for Domestic Resource Mobilisation. The terms of reference and activity plan for this sub-committee have been elaborated and activities have been implemented as planned.

Bilateral programs are implemented in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding. However, a few partners are not in the position to honour all requirements, which has created an on-going discussion between the remaining partners. On the other hand several bilateral partners have committed themselves for multi year funding for the core programmes.

Impact

- The amount of funds raised within Uganda has increased.
- Improved management and governance is making the Uganda a better functioning national society.
- Long-term partnerships have been developed with donors in support of the core programmes of the national society.

Constraints and problems

To date, local fund raising activities have raised less funds than was originally anticipated.

Federation Coordination

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

Objective: The Uganda Red Cross Society's integrated capacity building planning and implementation skills are ensured by the Federation through participatory facilitation.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Regional Office for East Africa started in January 2003 and the Head of the office covers Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda in a representative function.

Monthly coordination meetings between the Uganda RCS, the ICRC, bilateral partners present in Uganda and the Federation representative have started upon the initiative of the Federation. The objective of the meeting is to achieve a coordinated and complementary assistance to the Uganda Red Cross Society.

The Federation was recently invited to participate in the international donor consultancy group headed by the World Bank. After consultation the ICRC was also co-opted as the Head of Regional Office for East Africa is not able to regularly participate in the meetings. Invited partners are diplomatic missions and UN organisations.

The Federation is a recognised partner in the monthly OCHA meetings and in the CAPI process.

An update of the cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) is planned for later this year utilising a participatory approach. The results will be presented during the partnership meeting in October.

The Head of the Regional office for East Africa provides coaching to the senior management of the national society and she advises on the use of technical expertise in support of the programmes. Most recently a mission was organised to advise the Uganda RCS on its logistics systems and procedures.

Impact

The Uganda Red Cross Society benefits well from the assistance given by its partners and is capable of taking on more and more coordination activities.

A better coordination mechanism between the stakeholders is in place.

Constraints

The Federation representative is covering three countries and the amount of time she has available for the Uganda RCS is not always sufficient.

International Representation

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.

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

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Federation Head of Regional Office for East Africa maintains close contacts with diplomatic missions, UN organizations and other institutions.

The first East Africa regional senior management meeting between the Secretary Generals from the National Societies of Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda was held in Nairobi in May 2003. The meeting was facilitated by the Head of the Regional Office for East Africa to address common issues and concerns, harmonise efforts when possible and draw upon each other's experiences thereby learning from each other's experiences. Quarterly meetings are planned for the rest of the year.

The Secretary General from Uganda Red Cross Society continues to serve as the Chairman of the RC-NET for East Africa. The Head of the Regional Office for East Africa has acted as a general advisor to the RC-NET, and has secured a DFID funded budget for the quarterly meetings for the rest of 2003. The Head will hand-over the responsibility of this function to the regional program coordinator in July 2003.

Last year, the Uganda Red Cross Society launched a national appeal to assist the hundred of thousands internally displaced persons (IDP) in the North of Uganda following increasing conflict. In the first phase of the Appeal, the URCS raised over USD 300,000 within Uganda. The Appeal's second phase proposes a budget of USD 1.2 million. The extension of the program, assisting 120,000 IDPs will be supported by an ECHO grant of EUR 1.2 million, covering a 12 month period. The assistance from ECHO was initiated by the Head of the Regional Office for East Africa as part of her information sharing and cooperation with players at regional level. The Danish Red Cross made the contract on behalf of the Uganda Red Cross Society, and is one of the URCS's main in-country partners.

Impact

- International recognition of the URCS's achievements, is showing tangible results such as the EUR 1.2 million ECHO granted which will allow the URCS to provide assistance to the most vulnerable.
- The senior management meetings between the Secretary Generals of the National Societies in Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya are generating a constructive dynamic in the region.

Constraints

Having to support three countries does not leave much time to the Federation Head of Regional Office to work on international representation, thereby leaving some potential opportunities not fully developed.

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>

APPEAL No. 01.12/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

25.06.2003

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|

CASH

| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> | | | | 1'002'930 | TOTAL COVERAGE 52.1% | |
|--------------------------------|--|---------|-----|-----------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| CASH CARRIED FORWARD | | | | 17'829 | | |
| AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM | | 120'000 | USD | 163'140 | 29.04.03 | ASSISTANCE TO RWANDAN REFUGEES |
| BRITISH - RC | | 49'806 | GBP | 106'983 | 21.03.03 | WATER & SANITATION IN NAKIVALE CAMPS |
| BRITISH - RC | | 25'060 | GBP | 53'816 | 07.04.03 | WATER & SANITATION IN NAKIVALE CAMPS |
| DANISH - RC | | | | 127'395 | 07.03.03 | |
| NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC | | 110'000 | NOK | 21'285 | 28.05.03 | ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT |
| SWEDISH - GOVT | | 200'000 | SEK | 32'000 | 08.04.03 | |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH | | | | 522'448 | CHF | 52.1% |

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 | | | | 0 | CHF | |