

# 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

## MANO RIVER SUB-REGION

14 August 2003

**Appeal no. 01.29/2003; Appeal target: CHF 318,690 (USD 218,670 or EUR 216,676)**

**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](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### In Brief

**Appeal coverage:** 67.1%; please refer to the Contributions List for this appeal on the Federation's website.

**Outstanding needs:** CHF 104,758 (USD 76,746 or EUR 67,629)

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:** 2003 Annual Appeals for: Côte d'Ivoire no. 01.25/2003; Guinea no. 01.26/2003; Liberia no. 01.27/2003; and Sierra Leone no. 01.28/2003

**Programme Summary:** The Mano River region was the last of the regional offices to open in the West Africa regionalization process. The late start-up of the office (June), low funding/late budget approval, and armed conflict in the region slowed down some of the activities. However, there was progress in providing assistance to national societies and country delegations under this region.

### Operational developments

The Mano River regional office was opened in June 2003 with the arrival of a head of office. This regional office is responsible for five countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea (Conakry) and Guinea-Bissau. Most countries in the Mano River region have experienced a great deal of turbulence in the last 2-3 years and during the first quarter of 2003.

- Sierra Leone continued with its rehabilitation process after ten years of civil war.
- Renewed fighting in western Liberia resulting in thousands of internally displaced persons (IDP).
- Côte d'Ivoire experienced nearly ten months of armed conflict leading to a loss of lives and property, as well as thousands of displaced people. Two dissident forces, reportedly from Liberia, operated in western Côte d'Ivoire from the beginning of the armed conflict.
- Guinea Conakry had its own share of internally displaced people both from Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. Côte d'Ivoire is very slowly experiencing its national reconciliation process.

## **Organisational development**

**Goal: To decrease vulnerability of people living in West Africa through improved service delivery by their National Societies.**

**Objective: To assist the Abidjan Region National Societies in moving closer towards the Characteristics of a Well-Functioning National Society, by promoting development and capacity building throughout all programmes and activities of the West African National Societies, as well as promoting effective co-ordination of bilateral and multilateral support and co-operation programmes).**

### **Expected Results**

1. The capacity of targeted national societies in the Abidjan Region is strengthened through the professional guidance and technical assistance of a Regional Development Officer who will ensure that:
  - Targeted national societies are assisted in conducting appropriate evaluations (SWOT, VCA, self-evaluation).
  - Targeted national societies have received facilitation in developing their five-year strategic development plan.
  - National societies have been assisted in increasing branch capacity through community-based programming involving and developing their networks of volunteers, members and community participation.
  - National societies have improved management and recruitment of volunteers.
  - National societies have improved management of human resources.
  - National societies have been assisted in implementing 'Youth Strategy'.

### **Progress/achievements**

Regional resource persons have begun an organizational development (OD) assessment with all national societies in the region. A full-time Federation development officer is also assessing the development needs of individual national societies in the region, with a view to providing development assistance specific to their needs.

### **Guinea Bissau**

Following the need for the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau (RCGB) to become a well-functioning national society, a Federation Capacity Building Fund (CBF) application has been submitted to the Federation Secretariat in Geneva; acceptance and funding of this application would enable a resource person, possibly from Cape Verde, to help the RCGB organize their general assembly due to take place in October 2003. The overall one-year programme addresses the full restructuring of the RCGB, the organizing of the general assembly, and training on finance, administration, management, governance, reporting and disaster management. Contacts are being established with the ICRC cooperation department (Geneva and Dakar) as well as Spanish Red Cross (Madrid and Bissau).

The RCGB president has recently been appointed Minister of Social Welfare. Support to this national society is seen as a top priority for the Abidjan office; an evaluation officer will be sent there soon to assess the development needs of RCGB.

### **Côte d'Ivoire**

Biweekly meetings are held between the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire (RCCI) and the Federation regional office. Their aim is to determine urgent areas of training needs. Several departments of the regional office have begun coaching and knowledge-sharing sessions with their RCCI counterparts. The progress of this capacity-building process is evaluated regularly. Regular meetings were also held this period between RCCI and Federation to assist with the departmental restructuring of the national society.

Specific computer software has already been installed for the RCCI finance, logistics and administration departments. The Federation is also coaching RCCI managers in designing new projects/programs and approaching different international donors.

**Sierra Leone**

There was regular contact between the Federation regional office and the Federation delegation in Sierra Leone; support was provided on welcome service. In support of knowledge-sharing, the SLRCS accountant worked for a few months in the Federation finance department in Abidjan. The head of office held two working sessions with the president of SLRCS during his visit to Guinea Conakry.

**Liberia**

The Federation head of delegation for Liberia was evacuated to Abidjan at the start of renewed fighting in early June. The situation in Liberia is monitored on a regular basis.

**Guinea (Conakry)**

With new governance and management in place in the Red Cross Society of Guinea (GRC), the Federation head of office travelled to Conakry on a two-day mission; they discussed the reorganization of the national society, and held preliminary discussions related to the 2004 annual appeal. Two working sessions were also held with ICRC/Guinea.

**Field Management**

**Goal: The Regional Delegation, regional offices and country delegations in West and Central Africa are:**

- **Strengthening National Societies to deliver services and advocate on behalf of vulnerable people.**
- **Ensuring effective representation and advocacy.**
- **Building Coordination, co-operation and strategic partnerships.**

**Objective: Abidjan office is providing an optimal level of service to national societies in the region by managing common Federation resources, representing the Federation, co-coordinating and communicating with National Societies, supporting National Societies in responding to disasters as they occur and in managing multilateral programmes for which the Secretariat has responsibility.**

**Expected Results**

The Federation regional office in Abidjan manages the Federation presence in the region, and houses the disaster response, OD and programme development departments. These departments initiate dialogue and review in support of national societies, and with an aim to build new business opportunities in favor of the seven national societies in the region.

- The administration, accounting and financial management in the Abidjan Office is performed efficiently
- The Abidjan regional office is producing timely, donor-oriented reporting including emergency appeals, programme and operations updates, and annual and final reports for the region.

The Mano River office continued to attend tripartite meetings with UN agencies in Abidjan and other NGOs to discuss coordination of the humanitarian situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

The Federation regional head of office has promoted the activities of the national societies and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) by visiting UN organizations (i.e. ONUSIDA, OCHA), as well as foreign embassies (i.e. Holland, Switzerland, France, Germany, Spain, Japan and Iran). Close collaboration with the ICRC has been maintained from the outset.

**Administration**

The administration department was involved in maintaining a data base for the regional office, drafting of third party contracts, handling all local staff issues, maintaining and filing of delegates' files, handling staff and vehicle insurance, and organizing travel arrangements for staff, in-country delegates and visiting delegates.

**Finance**

A finance monitoring officer was sent to the Federation Guinea Delegation to help them in financial management. The finance department has been a focus for implementation of the Federation's new operational budget approval procedure, with the result that most projects for the region have approved budgets for the year, thus facilitating better project financial management.

The Mano River region finance staff participated in training on Federation financial procedures and processes, including the latest financial software; this training was organized by RFU-Abidjan with technical support from Geneva. The training provided a good opportunity to enhance efficiency through sharing of experiences and ideas, and allowed the development of the regional finance team. Additionally, a plan was formulated for implementation of the latest financial software within the region.

### **Reporting**

During this period, the regional reporting officer briefed the new head of office on Federation reporting standards and procedures. Operations updates for emergency appeal number 34/02 were also edited; this appeal addresses the population movement in countries affected by the Côte d'Ivoire crisis.

Additionally, the regional reporting office prepared a cooperation agreement in preparation for a proposed reporting training for the RCCI; the agreement addresses standard Federation reporting standards as well as editing and proper packaging of reports as a tool to improving the image of the national society. This cooperation agreement will be used across the region to provide support in reporting to all the regional offices and national societies. Furthermore, the regional reporting office assisted the regional office in preparing a CBF proposal for RCGB.

Within the framework of the regionalization process, the regional reporting office initiated proposals with regional offices on how to adequately provide reporting support to all national societies in order to cover all appeals in the region.

### **Impact**

- The challenge - to provide programme updates for all appeals in the region - is gradually being surmounted as most initial programme updates for the region have been posted on the web.
- Capacity building of national societies is being stepped up and reporting standards have improved.

### **Telecommunications**

The Federation regional information technology (IT) office refurbished the RCCI youth department computers in June, and provided Internet access for all RCCI offices. The internet "ccmail" address for the Mano River region was assigned and is functional.

### **Information**

The Federation regional information office joined the FACT team on its mission to Ghana; issues ranging from the population movement created by the Côte d'Ivoire crisis to Red Cross Mothers' Clubs were covered in three articles posted on the Federation website.

The Federation regional information office went on mission to several refugee camps and transit centers in Guinea to cover the population movement crisis arising from different conflicts in the sub-region. Apart from the articles written for the Red Cross/Red Crescent magazine, an article was also posted on the Federation's website.

A press release was issued for the revised appeal (34/02) for the population movement due to the Côte d'Ivoire crisis. Furthermore, a stand during an Open Day organized by the RCCI to mark Red Cross day (8 May) was an opportunity to promote the Movement. The Federation regional information office encouraged national societies in the region to document their activities for 8 May. Different activities of the national societies were compiled and sent to Geneva for use in different Federation publications.

### **Other activities**

#### **Health**

With technical support from the regional office, RCCI re-activated its HIV/AIDS activities in Gagnoa and Yamoussoukro from 12 to 20 June after the end of armed hostilities in the country. An evaluation was done in Yamoussoukro, and 35 of 50 peer educators continued awareness activities in the villages. The peer educators did door-to-door campaigns, and volunteers continued with sensitization campaigns: 16,350 people were reached in Yamoussoukro, and 4,775 were reached in Gagnoa during the campaign.

The GRC national health programme has just been submitted to the Regional office; technical support is being provided to enhance its quality and to add the community health bias.

### **Disaster management**

Disaster management officers from the Liberian and Sierra Leone Red Cross societies participated in the regional disaster response team (RDRT) workshop held for English speakers. Another will be organized for French-speaking national societies for October 2003.

### **Project planning**

The regional office will host a project planning process (PPP) workshop to be held in August 2003. It will be organized by the regional delegation, and will be held for both English- and French-speaking national societies.

### **Impacts**

- National societies in the region are receiving professional assistance in project planning and development from the regional office.
- The activities of the Movement are being marketed with the international community more vigorously than before.
- Some national societies have already begun restructuring their various departments.
- Skills in reporting and finance are being enhanced.
- Mobilization of resource persons in the region, with the aim of assisting other national societies, has started motivating the national societies towards networking.

### **Constraints**

- Some activities were slowed down due to late budget approvals.
- Some national societies do not seem to know their reporting needs or even consider reporting capacity-building as a priority.
- The armed conflict in Côte d'Ivoire slowed down activities, sometimes even coming to a stand still due to insecurity in Abidjan.
- The delay in relocating the regional delegation from Abidjan to Dakar affected the initiation and thrust of the regional office's activities.

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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>*

# Mano river sub-regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.29/2003

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

27/08/03

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

					<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>318,691</b>		<b>67.1%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		26,667	USD	36,267	29.04.03	
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD (04)				90,000	24.02.03	DEVELOPMENT OFFICE ABDIJAN
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		59,748	EUR	87,665	07.02.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				213,932	CHF	67.1%

### 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	