

ANNUAL REPORT



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-REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

30 March 2004

In Brief

Appeal No.: 01.29/2003 ([Click here to access the 2003 Appeal](#))

Appeal target: CHF 318,690 (USD 218,670 or EUR 216,676)

Appeal coverage: 74.2% ([Click here to access the Final Financial Report](#))

Appeal 2004: Mano River sub-regional programmes no. 01.27/2004 ([Click here to access the 2004 Appeal](#))

This Annual Report reflects activities implemented over a one-year period; they form part of, and are based on, longer-term, multi-year planning.

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Overall analysis of the programme

The Mano River sub-regional office started operating officially in August 2003 on the arrival of the new head of office. The sub-regional office, covering Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea (Conakry) and Guinea-Bissau, has been able to assist national societies despite problems of armed conflict and insecurity in Côte d'Ivoire which affected the entire region. Other countries are recovering from armed conflict.

Cross-border conflicts have led to the death and severe injuries and displacement of millions of people. Both Sierra Leone and Liberia have now regained peace and stability after their more than ten year civil wars. Bissau, on its part, experienced long years of internal wars but prior to its presidential elections in 2003; a *coup d'état* struck in September leaving the country under civilian administration and an interim Prime Minister since 28 October .

A 'different kind of war' emerging from the vast population movement as a result of regional conflict is the steady increase in sexually transmitted infections (STI) and HIV/AIDS prevalence; the pandemic has adversely affected the populace of the Mano River region. The five National Red Cross Societies¹ in the region are effortlessly scaling up capacity building of volunteers to enable them respond to the challenges posed by these diseases.

Consequently, the Mano River office focused on health and organizational development in 2003 in their support to the national societies in the region particularly in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Conakry, and Guinea Bissau. While some of the planned activities could not be executed, others were implemented particularly in health and organizational development.

Organizational 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 Result: 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, and Self Evaluation²).
- 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

In 2003, the sub-regional office focused its organizational development activities on Guinea (Conakry) and Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire by giving them support at different levels given that the OD programme already existed in the country delegations.

Côte d'Ivoire

The Federation office gave technical support to the national society's administration department to enable them put in place administration and logistic procedures. The national society also received technical and financial support during the elaboration of their Strategic Development plan. In addition, the Federation and the ICRC jointly organized training for the Secretary Generals of the national societies on the Movement and [Strategy 2010](#).

The OD department participated in inter-ministerial meetings aimed at helping the government of Côte d'Ivoire in drawing up two projects on Laws on the emblem and the repression of war crimes. This meeting also prepared the government to the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies. The OD department put in place a filing system for the Mano River sub-region and equally assisted the Netherlands Red Cross representative in Côte d'Ivoire to elaborate capacity building programmes for the Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire. The capacity of OD officer was strengthened through several workshops such as Project Planning Process (PPP) (in

¹ The five National Red Cross Societies served by the Mano River sub-regional office are [Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire](#), [Red Cross of Guinea-Bissau](#), [Red Cross Society of Guinea](#), [Liberian Red Cross Society](#), and [Sierra Leone Red Cross Society](#).

² SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (assessment methodology); VCA – Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment is an International Federation risk assessment tool and process that can be used by national societies as a basis for their disaster preparedness and risk reduction planning.

English and French), [ARCHI 2010](#), EDH (“*Explorons le Droit Humanitaire*” – *Exploring Humanitarian Law*) and training-of-trainers in dissemination.

Guinea Bissau

The sub-regional office assisted the Red Cross of Guinea - Bissau in preparing a proposal to the Secretariat requesting for funding from the capacity building fund (CBF) for restoration of the national society. Later, the sub-regional office in collaboration with the ICRC in Dakar and Bissau also sent a consultant to assist the national society with revision of its statutes, strategic planning and the General Assembly.

With technical and financial collaboration of the ICRC in Dakar and Bissau, the sub-regional office sent a consultant to the national society to assist it in those three areas.

Impact

- Best coordination of activities between the members of the movement for the two countries.
- The Red Cross of Côte d’Ivoire and the Red Cross of Guinea-Bissau now have their three-year strategic development plan
- The national society is now being revived and ready to collaborate with the Federation.
- The national society is now a well-functioning society.
- The national society expressed a need to be developed and trained.
- The national society has already begun restructuring their various departments.
- Knowledge sharing in reporting, telecom and finance are being beefed up.
- Mobilization of resource persons in the region with the aim of assisting other national societies has started motivating the Red Cross of Guinea - Bissau to networking.
- Communication with the national society has now improved as it now has internet connection.

Constraints

- Lack of financial resources due to funds reallocation. This hampered the implementation of the CAS as well as stalled organization of a regional workshop on ARCHI 2010 strategy, finance administration, reporting and project evaluation. The CAS could not be implemented due to lack of material and financial resources as well as the internal conflict.
- The Red Cross of Guinea Bissau didn’t get funds from donors or the Secretariat. This was a major setback for the implementation of the national society’s programmes.
- A regional workshop on ARCHI 2010 strategy, finance administration and reporting and project elaboration could not be organised due to lack of funds.
- Late budget approvals slowed down activities due to armed conflict in Côte d’Ivoire. This slowed down the national society’s activities.
- Slowness in justifying working advances.

Health and care

In 2003, the regional health coordinator assisted the national societies in several activities. The sub-regional office provided financial and technical assistance in organizing a Red Cross /Red Crescent AIDS Network for Youth in West Africa (RANY-WA) in Grand Bassam, Abidjan from 24-26 November, 2003. HIV/AIDS programme officers from 13 out of the 16 national societies in West Africa attended this regional consultation. The objective of the workshop was to inject new life into the network. A team to oversee the coordination of the Network activities was set up.

A joint document by the Federation in collaboration with UNAIDS inter-country team for West and Central Africa was signed in the presence of representatives from the ministry of health, ministry in charge of the fight against HIV/AIDS in Côte d’Ivoire, the UNDP and the ICRC.

The UNAIDS inter-country team for West and Central Africa invited the regional health to a forum on commercial sex, mobility and its relation to the spread of HIV/AIDS during which the terms of reference for the development of

a common plan of action on sex trade in West Africa was developed in relation to its response to HIV/AIDS. The forum was held from 6 to 7 December 2003.

Cote d'Ivoire

Due to poor sanitation and health conditions in Western Côte d'Ivoire as a result of the armed conflict, activities of Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire focussed on the rehabilitation and reactivation of 10 health posts in Bloléquin and Toulepleu in July. The national society also sponsored twenty community health workers to refresher courses and equipped the health posts with hygiene and medical materials.

HIV/AIDS

In August 2003, with financial assistance from the sub-regional office, the national society's HIV/AIDS programme contributed to curbing the spread of HIV/AIDS in Côte d'Ivoire. Twenty (20) project supervisors from Korhogo, Yamoussoukro, Aboisso and Gagnoa participated in training sessions centred on scaling up sensitization activities, also undertaken by sex workers' peer educators, and psychological care for persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). The training was organized by the Federation sub-regional office in collaboration with the Lumière Action, an association of PLWHA.

Fight against preventable diseases

The Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire supported the ministry of health in social mobilization during the immunization campaign against measles in three health districts, namely; Zuenoula, Bouaflé and Sinfra.

Constraints

- Lengthy administrative procedures in disbursing funds to the national society;
- Poor access to financial supporting documents.
- Frequent changes in the implementation schedule by the ministry of health
- Difficulties in providing timely reports and supporting documents by the national societies
- Insufficient integration of the HIV/AIDS programme into organs involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS, both at local and international levels.

Guinea

HIV/AIDS

With technical assistance from the regional health coordinator, the Red Cross of Guinea held a training session to strengthen the capacity of its staff on 15 to 23 August 2003 to enable them be effective in lowering the impact of HIV/AIDS in Guinea. It drew up its strategic action plan for the prevention and care of HIV/AIDS.

Measles social mobilization

The sub-regional office supported 200 volunteers of the Red Cross of Guinea to participate in social mobilization during the national immunization campaign against measles from 9 to 15 November 2003 in Boke **region** comprising 10 districts. An American Red Cross delegation witnessed the colossal work done by volunteers in Boke.

Impact

Many people came out for the vaccination and the coverage is estimated between 85-100%. There are different ways of saying the same thing.

Constraints

- frequent postponements of immunization campaigns by the ministry of health due to logistic problems;
- poor communication between the national society and the Federation on the procedure for the management of allocated funds;
- delay in the effective take-off of the project due to non-availability of funds;
- Prolonged delays in the production of materials for social mobilization.

Sierra Leone Red Cross

The sub-regional office provided technical assistance to the Sierra Leone Red Cross during its social mobilization sessions for national immunization campaigns held from 30 November to 6 December 2003.

Guinea Bissau Red Cross

There were no health activities in 2003 but the HIV/AIDS project has been developed and included in the 2004 appeal.

Liberia Red Cross

The Abidjan office gave technical support to the health programme of the Liberian Red Cross.

Field Management

Goal: The regional delegation, sub-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 result: The sub-regional office in Abidjan is managing a Federation presence in the region which is the first port of call for support in disaster response, organizational development and program development, is initiating dialogue and review towards optimal support of national societies and is helping build new business opportunities in favor of the seven national societies in the region.

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

Reporting

The Regional Reporting Office of the Regional Delegation provided technical assistance to the Mano river office in:

- Developing or reviewing proposals for Guinea Bissau with the collaboration of regional staff;
- Contributing to several appeal planning meetings;
- Training on report and appeal writing;
- Participation in developing and editing appeal 2004;
- Providing reporting training and assistance to other national societies in Mano River region;
- Editing reports for all the countries in the region.

Telecom

Telecom provided support through the following activities:

- Daily maintenance of computers at Mano river office.
- restoration of internet connection and reconfiguration of LAN for Guinea Conakry delegation;
- Training of Guinea Conakry radio operator;
- Liberia telecom needs assessment mission after the sabotage of the national society offices.

Finance

The finance department provided support in the following ways:

- Preparing operational budget for the sub-regional office;
- Support to regional delegation for two persons who attended PPP training in Lomé (Togo).
- Support, with regards to finance, to all programmes and activities in the sub-regional office;
- Financial and technical support to the Liberia delegation.
- Familiarization with CODA V9E.

- Support to the delegation of Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire for the sub-regional meeting group in Dakar and the RDRT meeting in Bamako.
- processing transfers to Sierra Leone for Measles campaign;
- Support to Geneva to facilitate a consultant's mission to Tunisia for the preparation of the next Pan-African meeting.
- Support to the Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire for their VCA and Strategic Development Plan
- Elaborate the appeal budget for the sub-regional office and the Liberian Delegation.
- HIV/Aids project run by Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross in Gagnoa, Aboisso, Yamoussokro and Korhogo; where does this one come from. I cant understand.
- Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire youth camp in Jacquerville, and evaluation missions for training committee and measles vaccination;
- Liberia delegation assessment mission by Federation representative and Head of Sub-Regional Office for the sub-region;
- Second phase of community health activities in Western Côte d'Ivoire;
- Regional logistics, reporting and telecom for various missions in the region;
- Health coordinator's mission to Sierra Leone on Measles campaign;
- The Secretariat for the participation of health coordinator to Tunisia for the Pan African health meeting;
- Federation staff in transit or on various missions.

Coordination

For better integration into the humanitarian world, the Mano River sub-regional office participated in all inter-agency sectorised forums of the United Nations. The sub-regional office is currently a member of the International Agency for Humanitarian Coordinating Committee (IAHCC) and the general humanitarian coordination meeting organized by OCHA and the UNDP. The office participated in the Movement's tripartite meetings as well as in weekly bipartite meetings with the Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire. It also maintained regular communication with other national societies in the region. The sub-regional office benefited from a PPP workshop organized by the regional delegation both for both English and French speaking national societies in the region in August 2003. Consequently, it helped the national societies in the region, particularly Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea Bissau to coordinate their appeal writing process for 2004.

Impact

- The activities of the Red Cross were marketed more vigorously in 2003 among the international community than before.
- The national societies in the region received professional assistance in project planning and development from the sub-regional office.
- Capacity building of the national societies was scaled up through training and standards have improved.

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