

# Appeal 2003-2004



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## BENIN

### Appeal no. 01.30/2003

*Click on programme title or figures to go to the text or budget*

	2003 (In CHF)	2004 <sup>2</sup> (In CHF)
<b>1. Organizational Development</b>	<b>36,329</b>	<b>27,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,329<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>27,000</b>

#### Introduction

The small country of Benin suffers from poor infrastructure and deteriorating health indicators. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is expected to spread through the country if education campaigns are not scaled up.

With its ability to mobilise volunteers, the Benin Red Cross has proven that it is particularly strong in running vaccination and awareness campaigns. This has led to good cooperation with the Ministry of Health. Unfortunately, the National Society suffers from some institutional problems which have led to poor project planning. The National Society needs to objectively assess strengths and weaknesses and plan for the future development of the society. Through the integrated, coordinated process of the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS), it is hoped that the National Society can tackle some of the lingering weaknesses that have been identified in the past but not yet entirely overcome.

#### National Context

Agriculture provides a living for 70% of the population. Food crops are grown on a subsistence basis. Production is dependent on rainfall. Operational difficulties include poor road and market infrastructure, inadequate storage and processing facilities and land-tenure problems. Liberal economic policies introduced in the mid-1980s failed to produce positive results. In 1998, the country experienced social unrest as a result of discontent with the government and its economic policies. Local elections are due in December 2002, followed by a legislative election in March 2003.

Years of under-investment have resulted in poor and inadequate education and health public services. Most funds allocated to this sector are provided by Western donors. Social indicators have nevertheless improved significantly over the last decade compared with the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, social spending is expected to increase with the implementation of World Bank-IMF initiatives (EIU).

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<sup>1</sup> USD 24,927 or EUR 24,700.

<sup>2</sup> These are preliminary budget figures for 2004, and are subject to revision.

Although Benin's health indicators are better than most West African nations, public expenditure on health is only about 1.6% of the GDP (1998). The Infant mortality rate is 154 per 1,000 live births (2000 data). 63% of the population is using improved water sources and yet only 23% of the population is using adequate sanitation facilities. (UNDP) Health indicators are expected to deteriorate with the spread of HIV/AIDS. According to UNAIDS, an estimated 16,741 children have lost their father or mother to AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic. Being a small transit country for commercial shippers and truckers, Benin is highly exposed to increased HIV infections.

#### Human Development Indicators at a Glance

	Benin	Sub-Saharan Africa	World
Life expectancy at birth (years)	53.8	48.7	66.9
Adult literacy rate (% age 15 and above), 2000	37.4	61.5	~
Adult literacy rate (female as % of male), 2000	45	77	~
Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrollment ratio (%), 1999	45	42	65
GDP per capita (PPP\$), 2000	990	1,690	7,446
People living with HIV/AIDS, adults (% age 15-49), 2001	3.61	9	1.2
Refugees (thousands), in/out, 2000	4/0	~	~

Source: UNDP HDR 2002

#### National Society Priorities

The Benin Red Cross (BRC) has been working on a strategic development plan which has put it through a restructuring process to promote responsibility, initiative and transparency. The National Society now has well-defined roles for the governing bodies and an adequate administrative structure. Volunteers are the core behind implementation of the BRC's programming: first-aid training for disaster preparedness, medico-social centres, emergency relief response for Togolese refugees and flood victims, dissemination of IHL and blood donor recruitment.

#### At a Glance

	YEAR	COMMENT
Statutes	2002	
National Disaster Plan	yes	
National Development Plan	1998-2001	Based on Federation's Strategic Work Plan
CAS		Planned for 2003
Self Assessment	1994-1995	
Elections	2002	
Yearly audit	no	

#### Main Strengths

- Ability to mobilise volunteers
- Good cooperation with the Ministry of Health (particularly during the measles vaccination campaign)

#### Main Challenges

- Strengthen financial management

- Improve public image
- Beneficiaries are not sufficiently involved in the elaboration and implementation of projects
- Too few of its projects strengthen its institutional capacity

The National Society recognises the need to embrace a new development plan as well as develop a Country Assistance Strategy. The National Society agreed with the Federation Secretariat to further institutional development so that it may focus on its priorities of community health (measles vaccination and HIV/AIDS prevention campaigns), information and dissemination, and gender and development.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities**

International Federation: In recent years, the Federation has assisted the BRC in emergency relief operations, namely: food and non-food distributions to flood victims and to Togolese refugees. The Federation also supported the BRC measles vaccination campaign in 2001/02. The BRC has also undertaken contingency planning for elections with the assistance of the Federation DP programme.

ICRC: In recent years, the ICRC has been supporting the BRC to:

- strengthen its ability to respond to emergency situations in the event of conflict;
  - provide effective and efficient tracing services;
  - carry out dissemination activities to promote the Fundamental Principles; and
  - raise awareness of IHL among members of the armed forces, the police and political parties.
- In this area, the BRC publishes a newsletter, and puts on theatrical productions and radio broadcasts throughout the country.

Bilateral: The Belgian Red Cross, through its delegate, has been supporting the BRC with its assistance to street children. The French Red Cross supported a school infirmary in Cotonou. The Spanish Red Cross is supporting peer educators on HIV/AIDS/STDs.

#### **Primary support from the Movement in 2002**

<b>Partner</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Relief</b>	<b>Disaster Management</b>	<b>Humanitarian Values</b>	<b>Organizational Development</b>	<b>Other</b>
ICRC			<b>xx</b>			<b>xx</b>
Federation*	<b>xx</b>		<b>xx</b>			
French RC	<b>xx</b>					
Belgian RC		<b>xx</b>				
Spanish RC	<b>xx</b>				<b>xx</b>	

\*Federation support comes from American, RC Swedish RC

### **Priority Programmes for Secretariat Assistance**

Provided the National Society leadership is committed to driving a change process, the Federation Secretariat plans to support the National Society through two main areas: organisational diagnosis (with an emphasis on improved service and advocacy delivery, branch development, volunteer management, leadership and systems and structures development) and development of strategic planning.

## **1. Organisational Development W [<Click here to return to the title page>](#)**

#### **Background and achievements/lessons to date**

There have been two development plans (1995-1997 and 1998-2001) in the last eight years which were both inspired by the ideas developed in the International Federation Strategic Work Plan.

The National Society also conducted an extensive self assessment from November 1994 to July 1995, including two major internal workshops. The issues that emerged from the assessment were an awareness that the society suffered from poor planning, and a lack of clarity and precision concerning its work with the medical and social centres. To address the problem of planning, the assessment recommended restructuring the society and instituting a development plan.

These achievements of the past indicate the National Society needs to objectively assess strengths and weakness and plan for the future development of the society. The BRC is now ready again to renew their development plan within the larger context of the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS). Through this integrated, coordinated process it is hoped that the National Society can tackle some of the problems it still faces.

### **Overall Goal**

To decrease vulnerability of people living in Benin through improved service delivery by the Benin Red Cross.

### **Programme Objective**

To promote National Society development and capacity building throughout all programmes, and activities of the BRC, and the effective coordination of bilateral and multilateral support and cooperation programmes - (Federation Secretariat Priorities 2002-03).

### **Expected Results**

1. Governance and management skills of BRC have been moved closer toward realising the Characteristics of a Well-Functioning National Society through contracting of an external management consultant who will:

- An in-depth management audit have been conducted
- A report on the findings has been produced
- A six-month Action Plan has been elaborated based on the findings.
- Six months of technical back up support have been provided to the National Society as they moved through their change process.

2. The Benin Red Cross has completed the Cooperation Agreement Strategy process.

- A national society capacity assessment exercise has been completed.
- A three- to five-year Strategic Development Plan (based on national society capacity assessment) have been developed in coordination with other stakeholders.
- The BRC has convened a partners meeting and formally presented and confirmed the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS).

*(see Regional programmes - Federation Coordination CAS details & Lagos Region - OD for evaluation and planning details.)*

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# BUDGET 2003

## PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.30/2003

Name: Benin

PROGRAMME:

	Organisational Development	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Federation Coordination	International Representation	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clothing & textiles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seeds & plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teaching materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utensils & tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other relief supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>SUPPLIES</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	100	0	0	0	0	0	100
<b>CAPITAL EXPENSES</b>	100	0	0	0	0	0	100
Warehouse & Distribution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport & Vehicules	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TRANSPORT &amp; STORAGE</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Programme Support	2,361	0	0	0	0	0	2,361
<b>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</b>	2,361	0	0	0	0	0	2,361
Personnel-delegates	9,000	0	0	0	0	0	9,000
Personnel-national staff	1,026	0	0	0	0	0	1,026
Consultants	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	20,000
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	30,026	0	0	0	0	0	30,026
W/shops & Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>WORKSHOPS &amp; TRAINING</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Travel & related expenses	250	0	0	0	0	0	250
Information	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other General costs	3,591	0	0	0	0	0	3,591
<b>GENERAL EXPENSES</b>	3,841	0	0	0	0	0	3,841
<b>TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	36,329	0	0	0	0	0	36,329