

Appeal 2003-2004



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

THE GAMBIA

Appeal no. 01.37/2003

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

	2003 (In CHF)	2004 ² (In CHF)
1. Health and Care	152,318	160,000
2. Disaster Management	69,518	70,000
3. Organizational Development	37,565	0
Total	259,398¹	230,000

Introduction

The Gambian population is predominately rural and is supported by agriculture and tourism. Because the country has very little land mass and runs the length of the Gambia river, the country also suffers from soil erosion and environmental degradation. The Gambia Red Cross is a resourceful National Society with a strong and motivated volunteer base.

Therefore, the Federation Secretariat plans to assist the National Society with a food security project while also supporting activities undertaken by the National Society to promote a change in behaviour towards HIV/AIDS and STDs in the tourist destination country. It also plans to assist the Gambia Red Cross to increase and diversify its resource development base through improving its financial management systems and supporting it in its development of an operational resource development plan.

National Context

The population is predominately rural and approximately 80% of the workforce is involved in agriculture. The Gambia's economy is based on peanut exports and tourism, and the country imports one-third of its food, all its fuel and most of its manufactured goods.

Health indicators have improved substantially over the past 30 years. The infant mortality rate is 92 per 1,000 births in 2000, compared with 183 per 1,000 births in 1970. (UNDP) Nevertheless, a third of the population lacks access to potable water and more than half the population lacks access to adequate sanitation. Potential disasters are floods, fires, epidemics and environmental degradation. Malaria remains the main killer in the country, with over 350,000 cases reported every year. Tuberculosis and parasitic diseases are the next biggest causes of death. The spread of HIV/AIDS has been contained. Nonetheless, there is concern that the lack of a comprehensive AIDS awareness campaign, youth unemployment and immigration could lead to an increase in the epidemic.

¹ **USD 177,986 or EUR 176,364.**

² **These are preliminary budget figures for 2004, and are subject to revision.**

An estimated 515,000 refugees are currently living in The Gambia. This represents roughly 40% of the population. Most refugees are from Casamance in southern Senegal, Guinea- Bissau and Liberia, owing to endemic regional instability. A UN mission to Banjul in November 2000 noted that the high proportion of immigrants living in the country has added to internal pressures over the years.

Human Development Indicators at a Glance

	The Gambia	Sub-Saharan Africa	World
Life expectancy at birth (years)	46.2	48.7	66.9
Adult literacy rate (% age 15 and above), 2000	36.6	61.5	~
Adult literacy rate (female as % of male), 2000	~	77	~
Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (%), 1999	45	42	65
GDP per capita (PPP\$), 2000	1'649	1'690	7'446
People living with HIV/AIDS, adults (% age 15-49), 2001	1.6	9	1.2
Refugees (thousands), in/out, 2000	12/0	~	~

Source: UNDP HDR 2002

National Society Priorities

About 80% of the Gambia Red Cross' 20,000 volunteers are young people. They play an active role in organising fund-raising events, first aid, disaster and relief operations across the National Society's seven branches. The National Society has completed a countrywide VCA and is using the results to implement its four-year strategic work plan. The Gambia Red Cross (GaRC) collaborates with the Ministry of Health on health care delivery, is an active member of the local association of non-governmental organisations and has worked with UNHCR in reception and assistance to refugees.

At a Glance

	YEAR	COMMENT
Statutes	1996	In process of being revised, per Federation guidelines
National Disaster Plan	no	Nation-wide VCA conducted in 1999. National Society is a working member on the government's NDPP.
National Development Plan	2000-2003	Also referred to as National Strategic Plan
CAS	no	
Self Assessment	no	
Elections	2001	General Assembly
Yearly audit	yes	

Main Strengths

- Multipurpose centre that generates income for the NS

Main Challenges

- Weak management
- Reporting and accountability
- Strong dependence on external funding - lack of a varied funding base

In the GaRC's strategic work plan, its main priorities were on project management and support services, human and financial resource development, disaster preparedness and relief at branch level, and HIV/AIDS awareness raising through ARCHI 2010 methodology.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities

International Federation: The nation-wide VCA conducted by the GaRC was done with technical and financial support of the Federation.

ICRC: The ICRC has been working with the GaRC to create a network of trained tracing volunteers, to reinforce their emergency response capacities in regions at risk, to sustain the motivation of emergency response teams through community hygiene and public service activities, and to develop its communication department.

Bilateral: External assistance has been received from the Icelandic Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, British Red Cross and German Red Cross.

Primary support from the Movement in 2002

Partner	Health	Relief	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Org. Dev.	Other
ICRC		xx				xx
Spanish RC	xx					

Priority Programmes for Secretariat Assistance

The aim of the Secretariat is to assist at risk communities prepare for crises/disasters. Special emphasis has been placed on collaborating on food security issues with the Sahelian national societies, and in particular the National Society of The Gambia. This will be done in collaboration with the Dakar Office and the leaders of the sectoral groups.

Recognising the need for the GaRC to reinforce advocacy efforts targeting high level leadership for improved commitment/political will in the fight against HIV/AIDS, the Secretariat will support activities undertaken by the GaRC to promote HIV/AIDS and STDs-related behaviour change and increase access to condoms in Central River and Upper River Divisions.

The GaRC would also like to diversify its resource base. This would require updating and expanding its financial management systems for better management . The Federation Secretariat will provide technical support in 2003 to assist the National Society update and expand its financial management systems.

1. Health and Care W [<Click here to return to the title page>](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

Background:

- Early marriage and low age at first birth both contribute to high fertility rates.
- Socio-economic factors associated with above demographic indicators pose problems to the health sector by generating health needs for the young population.
- VCA identified following hazards to the communities: malaria, malnutrition, diarrhoeal diseases, dysentery, HIV/AIDS, and cholera.
- HIV/AIDS prevalence rate approximately 2%.
- Number of PLWHA estimated at 20,000 - 25,000.
- High rates of STDs (sentinel survey indicate approx. 40% of women ever having an STD).
- Major problem is that there is still a general denial of HIV/AIDS.

- Heterosexual transmission remains the major mode of transmission of HIV/AIDS.
- Strong relationship between the GaRC and the national blood bank in the Central area - The GaRC has been acknowledged as an organisation that plays a pivotal role in the recruitment of blood donors (33% of regular blood donors are GaRC volunteers) and collection of blood over the past years.
- The GaRC has a close collaboration with the National AIDS Control Programme and the Medical Research Council.

Achievements:

- Prior HIV/AIDS prevention activities among youth (Gambia Boys Scout Association), aimed at increasing awareness of HIV/AIDS and promotion of condom use.
- Good network of volunteers, with ability to organise national programme.
- Availability of trained volunteers.
- Experience in using youth peer education strategy (adolescent youth HIV/AIDS education).
- Red Cross volunteers found in key positions in blood bank, Medical Research Council, and private clinics.
- Active in blood donor recruitment, achieving good collaboration with the National blood bank.
- Formation of anti-AIDS clubs and blood donor clubs.
- Diarrhoeal disease control
- First Aid and ambulance services, with income generation

Lessons learned:

- Need to promote access to condoms during sensitisation activities.
- HIV/AIDS activities should be complemented by good media campaigns.
- Need to reinforce advocacy efforts targeting high level leadership for improved commitment/political will in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Overall Goal

To complement current efforts made by other key players in the Gambia to reduce new HIV/AIDS and STDs through prevention activities promoting behaviour change.

Programme Objective

Activities undertaken by the GaRC to promote HIV/AIDS and STDs-related behaviour change and increase access to condoms in Central River and Upper River Divisions are reinforced.

Expected Result

Knowledge is increased and behaviour improved regarding HIV/AIDS and STDs among youth, as a result of targeting Popular Opinion Leaders, while involving PLWHA in the process.

- Reinforced capacity of the National Society to undertake HIV/AIDS and STDs prevention activities in the respective Divisions.
- Increased knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS and STDs prevention among the target population.
- Increased access to youth friendly health facilities and counselling services.
- Increased access to condoms, facilitating adoption of safer sex practices and behaviour modification in the target areas.

2. Disaster Management W *<Click here to return to the title page>*

Background and achievements/lessons to date

A disaster preparedness and response plan manual was being produced based on the results of a nation-wide VCA conducted in 1999. The Society is also a working member on the government's

national disaster preparedness plan. The Secretariat will therefore assist the National Society of The Gambia to develop small-scale food security projects in high risk communities.

Overall Goal

The Federation's "Characteristics of a Well-Prepared National Society" has become a reference working document for Disaster Preparedness and Response personnel of different National Societies.

Programme Objective

Vulnerable communities develop disaster prevention and preparedness mechanisms mainly through small-scale projects relating to food security.

Expected Result

The capacity of the targeted communities is built when they are made to realise that they are the major actors in preventing food insecurity after a disaster.

- Using their strong network of volunteers, regional committees have assisted vulnerable communities in setting up small scale projects.
- Community associations are created by the population to manage their projects with autonomy.
- Members of civil society become resource persons to other communities.
- A part of the food produced is offered to the more vulnerable group.
- Regional committees establish business partnership with economic operators in the region.
- Greater visibility for the National Society within the government and in the community.
- Other financial partners are interested in financing food security projects.
- The population is more informed on the ideals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- New members and volunteers have joined the National Society.
- The staff and volunteers of the regional committee have received training on carrying out emergency activities with the technical assistance of the Regional Response Team.

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

Background and achievements/lessons to date

Until 1999, internal income sources for the GaRC were fund-raising events. Since then, the majority of fund-raising events have been conducted by branches. At HQ level, a cafeteria produces some income as do more peripheral activities such as chair rentals, airport/hotel collections and the occasional sale of second-hand clothing. A two-storey, multifunctional building serves as an income generating source as well. External sources of funding come from some Participating National Societies, the Federation and the ICRC. The GaRC would like, however, to further diversify its resource base. This would require updating and expanding its financial management systems for better management

Overall Goal

The Gambia Red Cross is an increasingly well-functioning national society.

Programme Objective

Financial management and resource development capacities of the Gambia Red Cross are strengthened.

Expected Result

Sound financial management systems and procedures are developed and resource development capacities are coordinated and planned.

- Accounting and budgeting software is installed.

- Budgets are consolidated and chart of accounts revised and completed.
- Finance management staff involved in preparation and budget control, as well as finance reporting.
- Rules and procedures are introduced with finance procedural manual fully respected by national society staff .
- Professional skills of finance staff are improved through training.
- By end 2003 one national resource development committee is organised in each National Society (composition and Terms of Reference approved).
- By end 2003 one resource development plan is developed (operational plan with measurable objectives and defined responsibilities) within overall goals development plan of each national society.

<Budget below - Click here to return to the title page>

BUDGET 2003

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.37/2003

Name: Gambia

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	2,000	0	0	0	2,000
Clothing & textiles	0	4,119	0	0	0	0	4,119
Food	0	2,381	5,000	0	0	0	7,381
Seeds & plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	0	1,191	0	0	0	0	1,191
Teaching materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utensils & tools	0	0	4,000	0	0	0	4,000
Other relief supplies	0	0	2,500	0	0	0	2,500
SUPPLIES	0	7,691	13,500	0	0	0	21,191
Land & Buildings	0	0	2,000	0	0	0	2,000
Vehicles	0	27,380	0	0	0	0	27,380
Computers & telecom	0	4,590	0	0	0	0	4,590
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	300	10,099	0	0	0	0	10,399
CAPITAL EXPENSES	300	42,069	2,000	0	0	0	44,369
Warehouse & Distribution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport & Vehicules	6,453	12,003	2,500	0	0	0	20,955
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	6,453	12,003	2,500	0	0	0	20,955
Programme Support	2,442	9,901	4,519	0	0	0	16,860
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	2,442	9,901	4,519	0	0	0	16,860
Personnel-delegates	13,732	12,712	21,070	0	0	0	47,513
Personnel-national staff	8,481	16,789	7,478	0	0	0	32,747
Consultants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PERSONNEL	22,213	29,501	28,548	0	0	0	80,261
W/shops & Training	375	0	600	0	0	0	975
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	375	0	600	0	0	0	975
Travel & related expenses	2,890	17,066	5,200	0	0	0	25,156
Information	25	13,378	740	0	0	0	14,142
Other General costs	2,867	20,709	11,911	0	0	0	35,486
GENERAL EXPENSES	5,782	51,153	17,851	0	0	0	74,785
TOTAL BUDGET:	37,565	152,318	69,518	0	0	0	259,398