

# 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

## MALI

10 September 2003

**Appeal No. 01.38/2003**

**Appeal Target: CHF 203,750 (USD 139,803 or EUR 138,529)**

**Programme Update No. 01**

**Period covered: January – August 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:** 17.4% see attached contribution list for details or see the Federation's website at [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap013803.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap013803.pdf)

**Outstanding needs:** CHF 168,250 (USD 118,988 or EUR 109,430)

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:** Appeal no: 34/03, revised 29 April 2003 BURKINA FASO, GHANA, GUINEA, LIBERIA, MALI, & NIGER: HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR POPULATION MOVEMENTS.

See also SAHELIAN COUNTRIES - Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal: Heavy rains and floods (Information Bulletin no. 1).

**Programme Summary:** The Mali Red Cross Society has been extremely active in 2003 responding to needs of Malian returnees from Cote D'Ivoire and flood victims, and carrying out its organizational restructuring process, which is proceeding well, after a very tough period. Much needed funds were received for the organizational development programme, but none for the HIV/AIDS programme. Implementation will be adapted accordingly.

### Operational developments

#### Floods:

Heavy rains began in July, which flooded the Malian capital of Bamako leaving hundreds of people homeless and in need of basic necessities. The city has a poor drainage and sewerage system and is prone to flooding. Large areas of Bamako were submerged by floodwaters in 1999 and again in 2001. In August, torrential rains in the Tomonian district 480 km north of Bamako, destroyed over 700 grain storehouses, flooded 1,800 homes and killed hundreds of farm animals. According to government sources, 117mm of rain fell there in a single day and local residents said it was the strongest downpour in living memory. Flooding continues in several regions. Rains in Mali are expected to continue until October. The Mali Red Cross Society has responded throughout July and August to six localities within Bamako (1,500 persons affected), Kayes (600 affected), Koulikoro (200 affected), Segou (400 affected), Mopti (3,386 affected), Tombouctou and Bintagoungou (7,800 persons affected), and Gao

(800 persons affected). Where possible, the Mali Red Cross Society has distributed mosquito nets, bleach for treating water, and foodstuffs to affected populations. Given the inaccessibility of many areas, assessments are ongoing.

**Population Movement/ Regional/Internal Conflict:** The situation in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire continues to be worrisome, as resentment amongst the local population against migrant workers from the sub-region remains high.<sup>1</sup> Unofficial estimates say some 60,000 Malians have fled their host country seeking peace in Mali. Half a million people, mainly migrant workers from Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinean migrant workers, have left the Côte d'Ivoire fleeing armed conflict and ethnic tension. In addition, an estimated 800,000 people had been internally displaced. It is estimated that there could be tens of thousands of other migrant workers in western Côte d'Ivoire who may need assistance to return home, but due to various obstacles (identification of persons, transport difficulties due to rainy season, etc.), they may not be able to make the journey. Given the reduction in number of returnees in June and July, a decision was taken to end the Federation supported operation to assist returnees. Mali Red Cross Society, with support from the Federation, ICRC, and Spanish Red Cross Society, provided excellent support to returnees in transit sites. The action of the Red Cross Society was greatly lauded by government authorities. See West Africa Population Movement operations updates for details.

Fighting between rival Sunnite and Shiite Muslim villagers in Western Mali over the construction of a new mosque left 13 people dead and about 20 wounded. The incident, which may also have been related to a land dispute, took place on 25 August in the mainly Sunni village of Yerere, close to the Mauritanian border. In the last three years, there have been several cases of land disputes with religious and ethnic overtones leading to outbreaks of serious violence. In 2000, tribal fighting over a land dispute led to the death of 29 people in Tenenkou, 600km north of Bamako. And at least five people were killed last year at Ansongo near the northern border with Algeria as the result of another land dispute. Both incidents broke out after the parties involved refused to abide by court orders. Some claim that Mali's judicial system has sometimes been guilty of fuelling land disputes by reviving cases that had already been settled by customary law. Mali fought a rebellion by the Tuaregs - a light-skinned nomadic people with strong links to the Arab world who mainly live in the desert north of the country- from 1989 to 1996. The Tuaregs accused the government in Bamako of neglect. These are some of the challenges facing this vast country. However, the former French colony of 12 million people has been at peace since then and is now widely regarded as a model of democracy in Africa.<sup>2</sup>

**Politics:** Alpha Omar Konare, the former president of Mali was elected by the African Union (AU) heads of state and as their new chairman during July's AU summit in Maputo.

**Health:** Malian and United States medical experts have begun testing a new anti-malaria vaccine in Mali, one of Africa's endemic countries. The trial seeks to confirm the safety and effectiveness in adults of the vaccine called FMP-1, which has already been successfully tested in Kenya and the United States. According to WHO, malaria kills one million people per year, and 90 percent of them in Africa. Globally it causes at least 300 million cases of acute illness each year and is the leading cause of deaths in young children. Pregnant women are the main adult risk group in most endemic areas of the world.

## 1. Health and care

**Goal: To contribute to the reduction of risk of HIV/AIDS, STDs and other communicable diseases, among the most vulnerable populations in Mali.**

**Objective: The capacity of the National Society is increased to fight HIV/AIDS, STDs and other communicable diseases in two regions (Koulikoro and Kayes), targeting vulnerable adults and youth in the informal sector (traders, transporters, and industrial workers).**

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<sup>1</sup> [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

### **Progress/Achievements**

No funds have been received for this programme.

### **Impact**

Although funds have not been received for this programme, Mali Red Cross Society has been building on its strong community mobilization reputation it developed during the national measles vaccination campaigns in 2001. As a result the society has developed a local partnership with Population Services International (PSI) for a three-months mosquito net sensitization, distribution, and monitoring programme in Kayes, Mopti, Segou, Koulikorou and Sikasso followed by a three-year programme beginning in 2004.

In June, Mali Red Cross Society participated in the five day “Fresh Air Malaria” Forum in Bamako, which united NGOs, Ministry of Health, and other experts from anti-malarial programmes throughout West Africa for information and experience sharing. The National Society highlighted its successful house-to-house social mobilization work.

### **Constraints:**

The National Society is still trying to get on its feet after a difficult restructuring. This will require building its reputation slowly and carefully, developing partnerships, and through these, attempting to professionalize the Society’s health (and other) departments to include full-time paid staff capable of managing health projects and pursuing the Society’s health vision. While it has not been able to attract funds for its AIDS programme, the Society has been active in the fight against malaria.

## **2. Organisational Development**

**Goal: To decrease vulnerability of people living in Mali through improved service delivery by the Mali Red Cross.**

**Objective: To promote National Society development and capacity building throughout all projects and activities of the Mali Red Cross Society, as well as to promote the effective coordination of bilateral and multilateral support and cooperation programmes.**

### **Progress/Achievement**

Since 2001, Mali Red Cross Society is emerging from a profound institutional crisis, which greatly weakened the organization. The National Society has adopted a plan to improve its management and administration, help the society become more credible, and improve the society’s visibility. The main thrust of the Federation’s assistance is to support the separation of governance and management and develop skills within both sectors, at headquarters and branch levels. The restructuring phase is now beginning to bear fruits. Progress in this area has been slow, but steady as the society has continued to respond to emergency needs of returnees from Cote d’Ivoire, flood victims, etc. As well, the National Society conducted on-going programmes such as the Spanish Red Cross Society supported female genital mutilation (recently completed) and food security programmes, roll-back malaria activities, and its income generating projects (boutiques, pharmacies and guesthouse).

There is a growing confidence in and acceptance of the role of the Executive Secretary for managing the daily programmes of the society. Support provided by the Federation Regional Office in 2002 has led to significant progress has been made in strengthening financial management systems through the hiring of a qualified accountant and an assistant (with Federation and Spanish Red Cross Society support). The past three years’ accounts were organised reviewed and audited while work was launched to develop new internal administrative and financial procedures. Work in this area needs to continue to ensure the harmonization of the rules and procedures with the revised society structure and statutes, as there is currently a gap between them.

The society has embarked on a campaign to reorganize its branches as part of its decentralisation goal. To prepare the way, it is currently conducting information and sensitisation sessions at regional level to help attract fresh blood into the Society and obtain the support of local authorities, as well as organizing radio and television spots to garner further interest. To assist in this task, the Regional Office has organized a technical assistance mission by a member of Senegalese Red Cross Society who successfully conducted similar exercises in her National Society.

Mali Red Cross Society will conduct a special session on strategic orientations and statutes in the third quarter and a General Assembly in the fourth.

The Mali Red Cross Society Executive Secretary participated in the Federation-organized Project Planning Process (PPP) training in Lomé in August, the knowledge of which he will use to train other members of his National Society at headquarter and branch levels.

**Impact:** The ability of the Mali Red Cross Society to attract local partners and conduct successful programmes with them is a very positive sign that the Society is making progress in its road to recovery. The results of the work to reorganize branches will only be clear after the campaign and General Assembly later this year.

**Constraints:** The society suffers from a situation of lack of human resources to undertake the work needed to professionalize the National Society, thus the pace is slow; however, the will is high and results thus far are encouraging.

***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. 01.38/2003

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

04/09/03

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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## CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				203,750		17.4%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
IRISH - GOVT				35,500	28.04.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				35,500	CHF	17.4%

## 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	