

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

30 January 2004

Appeal No. 01.38/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 203,750 (USD139,803 or EUR 138,529)

Programme Update No. 2

Period covered: September – November 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

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 17.4%; See attached [Contributions List](#) for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 168,250 (USD 133,691 or EUR 107,680)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

[Sahel: Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal – Heavy rains and floods: Emergency Appeal no. 20/2003](#).

[Mali: Annual Appeal no. 01.35/2004](#)

Programme Summary: [Mali Red Cross](#) actively responded to the needs of Malian returnees from Côte d'Ivoire. The national society, with support from the Federation and the Spanish Red Cross assisted victims of floods caused by heavy rains in the Sahel region in July- October. Restructuring of the organizational structure proceeded well, albeit slowly. Preparations are going on for the general assembly which will be held in December.

Operational developments

Heavy rains began in July and caused floods which left thousands of people homeless and in need of basic necessities. Most of the affected families received provisional shelter provided by local authorities in school buildings and community centres. Mali Red Cross had limited stocks in store and received additional food and non-food items from the Iranian Red crescent Society. During the first phase, the national society distributed: dry peas, sugar, oil, blankets, bleach and insecticide treated nets (ITN) to some of the worst affected families in the city of Bamako and in the regions of Mopti, Segou and Timbuktu. In addition, the national society received support from the Federation and reached out to more than 1,500 families. Within the framework of the Federation's regional disaster response team, technical support for the operation was provided by a team member from the Red Cross of Benin.

Despite heavy rains that caused floods in most Sahel countries, a bumper harvest is expected in the region. This however does not solve the issue of food insecurity which is linked to purchasing power and distribution channels.

Mali; Appeal no. 01.38/2003; Programme Update no. 2

Mali had a bumper harvest this season resulting in a sharp fall in grain prices by up to 20% compared to the same period in the previous year.

By the end of the year, a cholera epidemic that ravaged Mali had been brought under control in most parts of the country, but continued unabated in the Mopti region. In August - December 2003, WHO reported 1,149 cholera cases in the Koulikoro, Segou and Mopti regions of central Mali which resulted in 78 deaths. The situation is linked to the ongoing hygiene problem caused by population movement in readiness for the seasonal rice harvest. Niger River, the third largest in Africa, runs through Mali. As it passes through Mopti region, it meanders out to form a large inland delta. The river banks are fertile planting ground for rice, but the swampy conditions are breeding grounds for water-borne diseases. Although 62% of the population has access to safe drinking water, 20% of Malians have no modern water facilities at all. A campaign to fight cholera began in November 2003.

The national society in partnership with Population Services International (PSI) carried out a malaria prevention campaign through sensitization and distribution of ITN. An alarming level of malaria cases, and a lack of a vaccine and enough generic drugs to fight the disease, the national society launched a “protected family” campaign in partnership with PSI and with support from USAID¹. The campaign benefited 69,162 people of which 55,262 were children aged below two years and 13,900 pregnant women. The campaign mainly involved door-to-door sensitization and distribution of ITN.

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.² As President Laurent Gbagbo held talks with his Malian counterpart, Amadou Toumani Toure in Bamako, reports of further clashes between farmers of Gbagbo's Bete tribe and immigrant farmers in the south of the country emerged. Concerns such as loss of tax revenue since the start of the Ivorian crisis in September 2002 were discussed. Mali has lost about CFA 80 - 100 billion (USD 147-184) million from the strategic Abidjan port, one of the best equipped in West Africa.

Despite institutional challenges, the national society successfully hosted two important events in August: the bi-annual Sahel regional working group meeting, attended by leaders from the seven national societies in the Sahel region, and the Federation’s francophone regional disaster management team field training for over 24 disaster officers and volunteers. The two events increased the visibility of the national society in the eyes of the government and the public at large and provided an opportunity for the national society to highlight its role in Red Cross Movement.

The Federation’s Sahel Sub-Regional Office facilitated the participation of the Executive Secretary of Mali Red Cross in the Red Cross executive leadership training programme. The first two modules took place in Geneva in October. The Executive Secretary new in the national society, highly appreciated the training which provided the requisite knowledge about the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Health and Care

Goal: To contribute to the reduction of risk of HIV/AIDS, STD³ and other communicable diseases among the most vulnerable populations in Mali.

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

Progress/Achievements

¹ USAID – U. S. Agency for International Development

² Source: UNOCHA Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)

³ STD – Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Mali; Appeal no. 01.38/2003; Programme Update no. 2

No funds were received for the HIV/AIDS programme. Nevertheless, Mali Red Cross in partnership with PSI carried out phase one of the campaign against malaria which involved sensitization and distribution of ITN in: Koulikoro, Diema, Nioro of Sahel, Yorosso, Kadiolo, Sikasso.

This campaign covered 531 villages in six regions and benefited 69,162 people. About 80% of the beneficiaries are pregnant women and children aged below two years. Lack of malaria drugs and the risks that women face during pregnancy prompted the proactive stance to combat malaria and reduce child mortality in Mali. Local authorities gave remarkable support during the launch of the campaign in the six regions. National society and PSI volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure the campaign was a success. The sensitization and ITN distribution phases are complete; the national society has embarked on the monitoring phase to assess the impact of the campaign.

Impact

Although funds were not received for the HIV/AIDS programme, Mali Red Cross built on its strong community mobilization reputation developed during the national measles vaccination campaigns in 2001. The national society in partnership with PSI was involved in sensitization, distribution of ITN and monitoring. The national society harnessed its vast volunteer network for the house-to-house social mobilization.

Constraints :

The national society is still undergoing its re-invigoration and restructuring process, which has made progress. Full time health staff will then be hired to enable the national society take on longer-term health programmes.

Organizational 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, as well as to promote the effective coordination of bilateral and multilateral support and cooperation programmes (International Federation Secretariat Priorities 2002-2003).

Progress/Achievement

Since 2001, Mali Red Cross has been recovering from a profound institutional crisis which greatly weakened the national society. The national society has adopted a plan which will enable it to improve management and administration, become more credible and increase visibility. The core of Federation assistance is to support the separation of governance and management and develop skills in these two areas at headquarters and branch levels.

In August, the national society embarked on a campaign to decentralize its branches and make the national society more dynamic. Information and sensitization sessions were conducted at regional level to help attract new membership into the national society, win support from local authorities and to produce material for radio and television to garner public interest. The Sub-Regional Office made arrangements for a member of the Regional Delegation to provide technical assistance to Mali Red Cross for this campaign. The mission was mainly to supervise the information campaign at grassroots level. These activities preceded elections of branch committees at grassroots level. The three week mission covered regions up to 4,000 km apart. The initial plan in the technical assistance mission was to cover eight local branches in Koulikoro, Mopti, Tombouctou, Kidal, Gao, Bamako, Ségoou and Sikasso regions. National society staff visited each of the eight branches; the Regional Delegation staff joined them in five of the eight branches.

Mali Red Cross has two representatives on the emergency floods commission. In addition, the mayor of Tombouctou provided an office, and local authorities have promised more support.

Radio programs in national languages contributed to an average turnout of 250 people during the information sessions.

Mali; Appeal no. 01.38/2003; Programme Update no. 2

Impact:

In general, the campaign resulted in:

- Greater awareness of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at regional branch level
- A large pool of volunteers who are yet to be trained
- Establishment of new and more dynamic committees in the local branches
- Reinforcement of cooperation with local authorities
- Institutional restructuring
- Capacity building activities within the national society

Additional results will be reported on in 2004 after the national society's general assembly in December 2003.

Constraints

The Society suffers from a situation of few 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:

- *Sibiry Diarra, Executive Secretary, Mali Red Cross Society, Bamako; Email crm@afribone.net.ml or imcre@afribone.net.ml; Phone 223 224 569; Fax 223 24 04 14*
- *Andrea Wojnar Diagne, Federation Head of Sahel Sub-Regional Office, Dakar; Email ifrcsn03@ifrc.org; Phone 221 842 23 41; Fax 221 842 23 40*
- *Mark Willis, Federation Regional Officer, Geneva; Email mark.willis@ifrc.org; Phone 41 22 730 42 60; Fax 41 22 733 03 95*

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>

<Contributions List below - Click here to return to title page>

APPEAL No. 01.38/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/01/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
-------	----------	----------	------	-----------	------	---------

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	