

# 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

## SAHEL SUB-REGION

4 June, 2003

Appeal No. 01.41/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 349,372

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January 1 – March 31, 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:** 42.8%; See attached Contributions List for details.

**Outstanding needs:** CHF 200,000

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:** Mauritania Drought and Food Security (05/03); Humanitarian Response and Contingency Planning for Population Movements (34/02); Annual Appeals for Burkina Faso (01.35/2003), Cape Verde (01.36/2003), Gambia (01.37/2003), Mali (01.38/2003), Niger (01.39/2003), Senegal (01.40/2003).

**Programme Summary:** With staffing nearly complete, the Federation's regional office is working closely with the seven National Societies in the region to ensure regular contact, respond quickly to needs, and effectively liaise with the ICRC and bilateral partners in the region. The regional office's financial situation took several months to stabilize, limiting travel and some basic expenditure. An additional CHF 90,000 is required to meet the office's operating budget so that it may fully realise its organizational development and field management objectives.

### Operational developments

Extensive food insecurity in Mauritania caused by several seasons of poor rains led to the launching of the Federation's Mauritania Drought and Food Security Appeal (05/2003) on 13 February 2003.

In response to the crisis in the Côte D'Ivoire, a FACT team charged with assessing the humanitarian needs in the six countries, which were affected by the crisis, was based in the Federation's office in Dakar. Meningitis epidemics have swept through Niger and Burkina Faso.

A new Head of Office (HoO) for the Federation's office in Dakar took up post in mid-January putting the office on a proper course. A decision to physically move the Federation's Regional Delegation in Abidjan to Dakar was taken. Leaders of all the National Societies in the sub-region met in Dakar at the "Regional Working Group" meeting in March.

## **Organizational development**

**Goal: To decrease vulnerability in West Africa through improved service delivery by their National Societies.**

**Objective:** To assist National Societies in the Sahel Region 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. (IFRC Secretariat Priorities 2002-03).

### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

- Five national societies in the region are expected to conduct self-evaluations this year. The National Societies in Gambia and Mali have already completed theirs. The results are being used to prioritise areas for improvement and support requests from partners.
- With the assistance of a Federation technical advisor, the Gambia Red Cross is preparing to update its strategic development plan. More detail will be provided in the programme update for the country (Appeal 01/37.2003).
- Funding from the Capacity Building Fund will be awarded to the Burkinabe Red Cross Society for its income-generating projects. The Society was provided assistance with preparing its proposal.

### **Impact**

The new HoO used the reporting period to better understand the region's needs, establish contacts, and manage new operational developments. However, progress in achieving the originally expected result that the capacity of targeted National Societies in the Sahel Region is strengthened through the professional guidance and technical assistance of a Regional Development Officer has been slow as uncertainty over funding prevented the hiring of someone for the position. The impact of the Regional Office's support on National Society capacity building will become clearer once a Development Officer is in place.

### **Constraints**

Due to uncertainty with funding, the Federation was unable to hire a Regional Development Officer.

### **Coordination**

The Regional office is in contact with various Red Cross/Red Crescent partners working bilaterally in the region. Notably the Danish, Spanish and French Red Cross Societies, and with the ICRC Regional Office based in Dakar. In general, cooperation has been good with coordinating efforts, sharing information, and avoiding duplication of resources within programmes such as finance development. Coordination will continue to improve within the framework of the regional organizational development "expected results" outlined in the Appeal over the next six months.

## **Field Management**

**Goal: The Regional Delegation, 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, cooperation and strategic partnerships.**

**Objective:** The Dakar office is providing an optimal level of service to national societies in the Sahel Region by managing common Federation resources, representing the Federation, 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.

## **Progress/Achievements**

The Federation's HoO in Dakar is managing the Federation presence in the Sahel Region. The office has the lead role in providing support to the National Societies with Disaster Response, OD and Programme Development. The Federation has been initiating dialogue and review in an effort to provide optimal support to the national societies, and has been helping to develop new business opportunities on behalf of the seven national societies in the region.

- Support provided to National Societies of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger through participation in the Crisis Coordination meeting in January. The meeting led to the “Grand-Bassam Commitment” to coordinate the response to the population movement crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, and by hosting the FACT team for one month while making assessments and revising the Cote d'Ivoire population movement crisis appeal (Appeal 34/02).
- Support provided to enable the launching of the Drought and Food Security emergency appeal (05/2003) for Mauritania including: recruitment of a delegate, financial transfers, integration of delegate into the operation, and liaising with French and Italian Red Cross partners already working on the ground in other programmes.
- Support provided to the Red Cross Society of Niger to obtain 200,000 doses of the vaccine for meningitis, and funding for materials and volunteer mobilization to enable the National Society to participate in the Ministry of Health's vaccination campaign. Funds provided to the Burkinabe Red Cross for participation in a similar meningitis vaccination campaign.
- The Head of Regional Office undertook a field mission to the Gambia Red Cross to work with the Society on identifying a strategy for solving a problem that arose within the organisation (See Gambia update Appeal (01/37.2003).
- Reviewed budgets, project plans, and memoranda of co-operation. Coordinated the transfer of funds to the Gambia and Niger Red Cross Societies' HIV/AIDS programmes for expenditure and reporting by March 31, 2003. Funds were also transferred to the Senegalese Red Cross Society (SRCS) in support of its involvement in the national measles vaccination campaign, which resulted in 98% coverage across the country. Remaining funds will be used to evaluate SRCS involvement and prepare recommendations for greater involvement of SRCS volunteers in future social mobilisation campaigns.
- Participated in the 10-12 March, sub-Regional Working Group meeting, which is the working body of the sub-region to plan sub and regional approaches for the three priorities identified by National Societies in the region; disaster management, health, and finance and resource development. Briefed the five National Societies selected for self-assessments in 2003 on the process and agreed upon support mechanisms for the process.
- Continue to pursue status agreement for the Federation in Senegal, as this will enable the Federation to benefit, among other things, from duty-free status, which will reduce costs. The agreement will allow the opening of foreign currency bank accounts, which will improve the efficiency of providing funding to some of the national societies.
- Hosted West and Central Africa Regional Delegates meeting from 31 March to 2 April. The meeting covered topics such as: support to National Societies for the November General Assembly, Council of Delegates, and International Conference; new financial and narrative reporting systems; and, ways to improve the regional approach to programming.
- Supported the mobilization of funding for all six annual appeals, resulting in 58% coverage overall (including soft pledges), with 41% coverage for Health programmes, 81% coverage for Disaster Management, 83% coverage for Organizational development, and 62% coverage for operation of the regional office.

**Administration**, accounting and **financial** management, and reporting in the Sahel Office has been performed efficiently.

- Master Files are being developed to ensure the Sahel office has institutional memory within the sub-region, and is a resource available to all interested partners.
- Administrative and logistical support has been provided to the Coordinator responsible for the move of the Regional Delegation from Abidjan to Dakar.
- This year has seen a marked increase in transfers to National Societies, which, linked to the new budget approval process, has required major investments in time and effort. It will also require strong coordination with National Societies, the finance development programme, and the Regional Finance Unit to ensure that financial reports are adequate.

- This year, the regional office is responsible for reporting on seven annual appeals as well as contributing to new emergency appeals such as the Cote D'Ivoire crisis and Mauritania Food Security operations. Its ability to report on National Society annual appeals is linked to the quality and timeliness of the reports submitted by the Societies themselves.

### **Impact**

National Societies have already begun to informally express their satisfaction with the regional office and the closer proximity it has to them, as opposed to providing support through the regional delegation, which covers 24 countries. Hopefully, satisfaction with the Federation's service among the National Societies will continue to grow as the regional office becomes fully staffed with development and health officers/delegates.

### **Constraints**

The provision of timely, donor-oriented reporting depends on the National Societies, and their ability and commitment to submit reports on programmes for which they have received funds. It also depends on the timely transfer of funds to National Societies. Both of these are a challenge in the sub-region given delays in communications and banking procedures.

### **Coordination:**

- With the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, the ECHO regional office for West Africa moved to Dakar which has facilitated contacts between ECHO and the Federation's Regional Office. One-on-one discussions were held regarding applications for the Cote D'Ivoire (CI) crisis and Mauritania appeals to clarify the Federation's intentions and needs. As a result of the meeting, funding for three of the National Societies involved in the CI crisis response is currently under consideration.
- The Regional office established contacts with the ICRC regional office in Dakar where the regional office system and the Federation change process were explained. The ICRC regional office primarily concentrates on International Humanitarian Law, tracing, and some relief activities. There was nonetheless a willingness to collaborate where possible and contacts were made within the scope of each National Society's programmes.
- The process of establishing contacts with National Societies operating bilaterally in the region (French Red Cross (FRCS) in Niger, Danish Red Cross in Burkina Faso, and the FRCS and Italian Red Cross in Mauritania) continues. In all cases, there is a willingness to collaborate.
- The FRCS and the Senegalese Red Cross are discussing possible cooperation on a project linked to FRCS HIV/AIDS Walk-In Treatment Centre (CTA) already operating in Senegal.
- Discussions are on going with the British, Swedish, and Icelandic Red Cross Societies regarding the Gambia Red Cross.
- As the number of PNS partners and volume of funding in this region is fairly limited, it will be important to develop alternative sources of funding (through UN, EU or other sources).

### ***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>*

# Sahel sub-regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.41/2003

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

05.06.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

				<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>349'372</b>	<b>42.8%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				520	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				115'000	24.02.03 DEVELOPMENT OFFICE DAKAR
IRISH - GOVT				33'853	28.04.03 DAKAR OFFICE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				149'373	CHF 42.8%

### 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	