

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-REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

10 December 2003

Appeal no. 01.41/2003;

Appeal target: CHF 349,372 (USD 239,722 or EUR 237,536)

Programme Update No. 2

Period covered: April to 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: 57.1%; [Click here to go to the attached contributions list](#) or refer to the Federation's website.

Outstanding needs: CHF 150,000 (USD 115,500 or EUR 96,900)

Related Emergency Appeals:

- Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali and Niger: Humanitarian Response and Contingency Planning for Population Movement (No. 34/2002);
- Mauritania: Drought and Food Security (No. 05/2003); and,
- Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal: Heavy Rains and Floods (No. 20/2003);

Related Annual Appeals:

- Burkina Faso (01.35/2003);
- Cape Verde (01.36/2003);
- The Gambia (01.37/2003);
- Mali (01.38/2003);
- Niger (01.39/2003); and,
- Senegal (01.40/2003).

Programme Summary: The Sahel sub-regional office worked throughout the period to provide relevant and high quality support to the seven national societies of the region and to partner national societies (PNS) located within and outside of the region. This entailed providing support for organizational development, responding to emergency needs caused by food insecurity, population movement and floods, and liaising with partners to share information, develop consensus, create synergies and make better use of all resources available to the region.

The Sahel sub-region is comprised of Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. [Click on the name of the national society below to access the individual Federation web page:](#)

[<Burkinabe Red Cross Society>](#)

[<Red Cross of Cape Verde>](#)

[<Gambia Red Cross Society>](#)

[<Mali Red Cross>](#)

[<Mauritanian Red Crescent>](#)

[<Red Cross Society of Niger>](#)

[<Senegalese Red Cross Society>](#)

Operational developments

Since March, the Sahel sub-regional office further consolidated its management structure. This included the development of systems, procedures and further elaboration of strategies to assist national societies. As well, the sub-regional office assisted and coordinated the West Africa Regional Delegation's move from Abidjan to Dakar.

The population movement operation (appeal 34/2002), involving the Burkinabe Red Cross and Mali Red Cross Societies, continued to assist needy persons fleeing the instability in Cote d'Ivoire; the operation was completed in July.

With support from the Regional Delegation, a flood relief appeal (no. 20/2003) was launched in early October to assist flood victims; the National Red Cross Societies of Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Mauritania and Cameroon are implementing this on-going operation.

Leaders of the national societies in the sub-region met in Bamako, Mali, at the fourth "Regional Working Group" meeting in late August. The group chairman represented the region at the first West and Central Africa Regional Working Group meeting held in Dakar in October.

Organizational development

Goal: To decrease vulnerability in West Africa through improved service delivery by their national societies.

Objective: To assist the Sahel Region National societies in moving closer towards the Characteristics of a Well-Functioning national society, by promoting and development and capacity building throughout all programmes and activities, as well as promoting effective co-ordination of bilateral and multilateral support and co-operation programmes. The capacity of targeted national societies in the Sahel Region is strengthened through the professional guidance and technical assistance of a Regional Development Officer.

Progress/Achievements

All five target national societies in the region conducted self-evaluations which were included in the Secretariat's report to the General Assembly, and are serving as base line information against which national societies are setting change process and development goals.

- Several national societies requested assistance to revise and update their strategic development plans. Burkina Faso has developed a draft plan for discussion at its early 2004 "Cooperation Round Table" meeting and has requested the Federation assistance in conducting this meeting with its numerous partners whose expectations of the national society are quite varied. Due to internal management problems, The Gambia Red Cross had to delay completion of this objective, although it was assisted to set shorter term programme plans for 2004. (See Gambia programme updates for details).

Given its current relatively weak institutional situation, Mauritania Red Crescent was assisted to prepare an interim development plan which targets headquarters and selected pilot branches with institutional and programme support. This is being conducted in line with the current floods and food security operation with further developments appealed for in 2004. Plans have been made to assist Niger Red Cross in early 2004 to review its now defunct development plan as a means for preparing its future development plan.

The National Red Cross Societies of Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Mauritania are each in various stages of the "professionalization" process; that is, separating governance from management in their statutes, engaging appropriate staff at headquarters and in some cases branch levels and linking these to programmes which can contribute to the essential management overhead costs. Cape Verde and Senegal enjoy on-going strategic development plans for which no particular assistance was requested or proposed. Further details are available in the individual programme updates and operational updates for these countries.

[*<Click here to return to title page>*](#)

- Through the support of a sister national society which had encountered similar organizational challenges, Mali Red Cross was assisted to activate many of its branches in preparation for the end of December General Assembly. This was started through intensive branch to branch visits coupled with sensitization and dissemination sessions, meetings with local authorities to seek support and partnerships and radio and other campaigns to garner volunteer interest in the national society. Full report available from the Regional Office.

Impact

The regional office has established clear visions with each of the national societies regarding their respective development processes, and has agreed upon the type of support required. A regional development officer has been recruited to coordinate the Federation's assistance to the national societies beginning early 2004. Generally, the national societies seem pleased with the new level of development (and other) support they are being offered through the regional office which is important for these formerly "neglected" national societies. Support will be intensified in 2004 upon the arrival of a development officer.

Constraints

Delays in recruiting a suitable development officer contributed to delay in the provision of technical assistance in some cases. Little progress was made within the objectives linked to management of human resources, particularly youth and volunteers during the year, although they remain priorities for the national societies. This situation has now been rectified and with proper financial resources, well-grounded technical support can begin within the region and in coordination with the Volunteer 2005 Office in Nairobi.

Coordination

Contacts continue with various bilateral national societies partners operating in the region, namely; Danish, Spanish, French, Italian and Belgian, and with the ICRC Regional Office based in Dakar who are covering all same national societies except Mauritania. Good willingness to coordinate efforts, share information, and avoid duplication of resources has been demonstrated. There is great potential to exploit the national societies' functional areas of interest and expertise as a means to more effective and sustainable development within the region, through the various sub-regional working groups. Modalities for this coordination need to be developed further under the umbrella of the Regional Delegation.

Field Management

Goal: The Regional Delegation, regional offices and country delegations in West and Central Africa are strengthening the national societies to deliver services and advocate on behalf of the vulnerable people, ensuring effective representation and advocacy and building coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships.

Objective: Dakar office is providing an optimal level of service to national societies in the Sahel Region by managing the common Federation resources, representing the Federation, coordinating and communicating with the national societies, supporting the national societies in responding to disasters as they occur and in managing multilateral programmes for which the Secretariat has responsibility.

Progress/Achievements

1. The regional office has; clearly established itself as the first port of call for support in disaster response, organizational development and program development and initiated dialogue and review towards optimal support of the national societies and has also helped build new business opportunities in favor of the seven national societies in the region.
- Support to the national societies of Burkina Faso and Mali response to the Cote d'Ivoire population movement crisis was provided through coordination with the FACT¹ team in liaison with UN and other partners both within and outside the Red Cross Movement, and on-going monitoring of the situation with the national societies.

¹ FACT – Field Assessment and Coordination Teams rapidly assess and coordinate humanitarian response to large-scale emergencies. The system is designed to form and deploy teams of highly trained Red Cross and Red Crescent response practitioners to a disaster site within 12 to 24 hours. Refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/fact/>

- Support to the Mauritania Drought and Food Security emergency operation, which was completed in July, included financial transfers, narrative/financial reporting and delegate supervision. The French Red Cross and Italian Red Cross partners are already working on the ground in other programmes.
- Support to the launch of floods operations in five countries (Senegal, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) included; coordination with Regional Delegation on needs assessments, DREF² allocations, additional external funding/donor liaison, budget preparation, organization of RDRT³ technical support from within the region to Mali Red Cross and narrative reporting.
- Assisted the Gambia Red Cross squall emergency relief operation with CHF 30,000 DREF allocation, financial transfers, and operations updates.
- Participated in end August sub-Regional Working Group meeting, Bamako, which is the working body of the sub-region to plan approaches to disaster management, health, finance and resource development. The three are priorities identified by the national societies in the region.
- Organized participation of ICRC regional office for joint preparation of the national societies' for the Movement's November statutory meetings. Participated in the October overall regional Working Group meeting of technical focal points and sub regional chairpersons at which modalities for the group's functioning were debated.
- Field missions undertaken by Head of Office to five national societies; Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Cape Verde, Mauritania, to clarify needs and modalities of support and meet with partners (internal and external to Red Cross) within each country. All national societies have now been visited.
- Contributed to successful fundraising for 18 of the 22 annual country programmes in six countries and the regional office enabling all seven national societies to conduct health/HIV/AIDS, food security, financial management systems development and branch activation.
- Reviewed and finalized all 2004 Federation appeals submissions from the region including technical review, preparation of narratives and budgeting.

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

- As there has been a marked increase in transfers to national societies this year, the regional office has begun an integrated approach to financial management linking the financial management systems development programme with Federation financial transfers monitored through the office's accounting unit. This entails a team approach to reviewing and analyzing field returns and providing feedback to each national society on each field return. Future activities include the development of guidelines to assist national societies to strengthen their financial reporting and eventually move them from a working advance to cash transfer system.
- Administrative and logistical support was provided to staff responsible for the move of the Regional Delegation from Abidjan to Dakar.

Impact

National societies have continued to express their satisfaction with the regional office proximity, as opposed to support which was previously channeled through the regional delegation covering 24 countries. The national societies seem to have adopted the regional office as their first "port of call" which indicates that the office is providing valuable services and support.

Constraints

The provision of timely, donor-oriented reporting continues to be very much linked to national societies and their ability and commitment to submit reports on programmes for which they have received funds and on the timely transfer of funds to national societies. Both of these are still a challenge in the sub-region given delays in communications, banking, and the re-establishment of the Regional Finance Unit at the Regional Delegation.

² DREF – Disaster Response Emergency Fund is a non-earmarked credit facility used to kick start activities for disaster response and preparedness; it is the Federation's main mechanism for accessing immediate emergency funding.

³ RDRT – Regional Disaster Response Teams are a cost-effective regional disaster response support system that is entirely staffed by members of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The aim of RDRTs is to actively promote building of regional capacities in disaster management.

Efforts to assist national societies to improve their reporting capacities will be undertaken next year. Delay in the recruitment of regional health and development officers have resulted in sub-optimal technical support to national societies. These posts will be filled in early 2004.

Coordination

- Reviewed all 2004 appeal plans with ICRC, and held regular discussions regarding support to national societies (discussions are on-going). Particular efforts to coordinate support with ICRC and other partner national societies have been made in the case of the Gambia Red Cross which has undergone a difficult transitional period this year. This has included conference calls, one-on-one meetings, regular exchange of mission reports, etc.
- Facilitated the participation of one representative from each of the seven national societies in Project Planning Process (PPP) trainings held in Yaoundé, Accra, and Lomé. Most national societies submitted their 2004 project plans in PPP and/or log frame formats whose quality is significantly higher than in previous years.
- Facilitated the successful selection and participation of representatives from four francophone national societies (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Mali and Senegal) at the Movement's Executive Leadership Development programme. The first two modules took place in Geneva in October/November, with collaboration from the ICRC regional office. The third and final module is planned for early 2004, possibly in the region.
- Coordinated the participation of four national societies' representatives in the Federation's social mobilization conference in Windhoek, Namibia in October.
- Supported Senegalese Red Cross in the mobilization of 60 volunteers, seconded to the December International Home Based and Community HIV/AIDS Care Conference in Dakar, and for the national society's logistical support to the 25 Red Cross participants from throughout the world.
- Liaised with Regional Delegation on planning and implementation, including selection of participants, for the francophone Regional Disaster Response Team field training in Bamako in August
- Contacts continue with the bilaterals operating in the region (French Red Cross in Niger, Danish Red Cross in Burkina Faso, French Red Cross and Italian Red Cross in Mauritania, and Spanish Red Cross in Mali). See country programme updates for details.
- Coordinated the visit of the Irish Red Cross chairman, staff of its International Department, and television journalists interested in exploring needs within West Africa and raising awareness amongst the Irish public.

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>

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

Sahel sub-regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.41/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

17/12/2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

				TOTAL COVERAGE		
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				349,372		57.1%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				520		
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				115,000	24.02.03	DEVELOPMENT OFFICE DAKAR
ICELANDIC - RC				50,000	06.10.03	
IRISH - GOVT				33,853	28.04.03	DAKAR OFFICE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				199,373	CHF	57.1%

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	