

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

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

29 June 2003

Appeal No. 01.42/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 213,602

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January - April, 2003

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 64.9%; for details see attached list of contributions.

Emergency and Related Appeals: Ebola Outbreak Emergency Appeal 07/2003

Outstanding needs: CHF 74,953

Summary: The signing of a peace treaty and improved security situation within the region is providing the Congolese Red Cross (CRC) a chance to focus on organizational development activities following changes in the Society's management.

Since the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic (Emergency Appeal 07/2003 launched on 25.02.03) in the Cuvette-Ouest of the Republic of Congo, close to the border with Gabon, the Federation has actively supported the CRC and its branches to respond, along side the Ministry of Health and WHO, to eradicating the epidemic

The CRC received financial and material assistance, encouragement and human resources towards meeting the Society's objectives in core programme areas from the Federation and other operational partners, including the ICRC, Spanish Red Cross, Ministry of Health, and WHO. Much work still remains to be done in respect of the priority programmes of the CRC.

Operational Developments

The first quarter of the year 2003 was notable because of the move towards peace over the entire territory of the Republic of Congo, culminating in a peace treaty on 17 March 2003. The signing of this treaty has made it possible to reopen the road and railway links between Pointe-noire and Brazzaville, which are now secure, allowing traffic to the capital Brazzaville to be supplied with petroleum products and essential goods. The Congolese now have a hope of more stability after long years of civil war.

Clashes in the department of the Pool prior to the signing of the peace treaty gave rise to the displacement of a large number of people in the localities of Kinkala, Mindouli and Missafou, and the humanitarian organizations undertook emergency relief and assistance operations.

In the health field, hemorrhagic fever caused by the Ebola virus has flared up in the Cuvette-Ouest, causing the death of over 100 people. In addition, contacts in the districts of Kellé and Mbomo, which were severely affected by the epidemic, mobilized the energy of the National Society and its partners such as the Federation, WHO and Ministry of Health. To support the efforts of the Congolese Red Cross (CRC), an experienced regional resource person from the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo was dispatched to Kellé and Mbomo. Assistance to victims of the cyclic floods in the department of Cuvette Centrale, particularly the districts of Owando and Oyo, was also a major priority for the Society.

This quarter saw an important change in the management of the National Society. The board of directors of the CRC has appointed a new Director General, in keeping with the 2002-2006 Action Plan. This development indicates a new way forward for the CRC, as a facilitator for change and establishing a clearer division between management and governance.

The intention of this long awaited change is to achieve the main objectives of the CRC. These are: strengthening of its operational capacities in terms of human, material and financial resources; acquisition of financial autonomy through the establishment of income-generating projects; and, an efficient system of management, strengthening of the partnership with all actors both internal and external, acquisition of a development plan for the CRC and good governance and acquisition of the characteristics of a well-functioning National Society.

To achieve these various objectives, the CRC has received financial and material assistance and encouragement and human resources from the Federation and other operational partners, including the ICRC, Spanish Red Cross, Ministry of Health, and WHO, but much still remains to be done in respect of the priority programmes of the CRC.

Disaster Management

Objective of the Programme: In response to the cyclic floods, the Ministry of Health is supported by the revitalization of the existing sanitation units and the strengthening of their management mechanisms and of the CRC regional committee's intervention unit.

Results obtained

- Assistance to the victims and populations affected through social mobilization, medical care and distribution of food from the WFP.
- An evaluation team undertook a field mission in the districts of Oyo and Owando in relation to the floods, noting the need for medicine and food and non-food items in the affected communities.
- With the support of the Federation, four needs evaluation missions on the Ebola epidemic were carried out in Kellé, Mbomo and Etoumbi.
- A needs evaluation mission in respect of people displaced or otherwise affected in the Pool area was undertaken in Mindouli, with the support of the Federation and the ICRC.
- The CRC General Directorate held technical meetings with the local committees of Missafou, Mindouli and Kinkala regarding emergency operations.

Health and Care

Since the start of this year the Health Delegate position for Congos has remained open. In order to make up for this vacancy the Federation delegation has shared the staff resources from both Congos. In the last two years the region has concentrated on bringing more hands on operational capacity to the programme managers and staff of the national societies of Central Africa. Two regional response team workshops were run by the ERDAC teams (Equipe de Réponses aux Désastres de l'Afrique Centrale), and another one focusing on epidemics is due in May 2003. The health teams are getting more and more exposure to regional health issues and have become a dependable resource in case of emergency, as has been the case in Congo with Ebola.

Objective of the Programme: The Congolese Red Cross has been involved in the coordination activities of the Ministry of Health and Regional Health Directorate, while its volunteers have participated in all the health activities organized at community level.

Results obtained

People living with HIV/AIDS and control of STIs in Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, Dolisie and Owando.

- Fifteen IEC meetings on STD/HIV/AIDS and sexual violence were organized with CRC volunteers in Brazzaville, Dolisie and Pointe-Noire to induce significant behavioural changes in respect to HIV/AIDS, especially among young people at high risk; three meetings on STI/HIV/AIDS and sexual violence were held with operational partners, including UNFPA, the General Population Directorate and the Family Health Directorate. Awareness-raising campaigns were directed towards 17,000 people in Brazzaville and 5,000 in Pointe-Noire in the course of these IEC meetings. Four thousand one hundred prospectuses, five banners and 200 T-shirts were produced with the help of the Federation, and 21,600 condoms distributed with UNFPA support.
- Training in health care and home visits to AIDS patients of 25 official volunteers and three free auditors from the Community Committee of Pointe-Noire.
- The outpatient treatment centre and other health units in Brazzaville, Dolisie and Pointe-Noire were supported in their home care work for AIDS patients and also provided social support for people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Access to quality information on STI/HIV/AIDS for a large part of the target population by way of simple preventive measures produced a greater change in behaviour.
- The programme for Brazzaville and Pointe-noire was defined, and 49 and 25 representatives respectively were appointment.
- Eleven activity pools were created: seven in Brazzaville and four in Pointe-Noire.

Other activities

- Finalization and signature of the subcontract agreement between the CRC and the General Population Directorate/Family Health Directorate in February 2003.
- Participation and involvement of CRC volunteers in the smooth running of the National Poliomyelitis Vaccination Days. Four hundred and eighty volunteers, 21 supervisors, one national coordinator, five vehicles, eight portable HF radio sets.
- Participation of the CRC in the measles campaign in the 11 chief towns of the departments, with Federation support: 850 volunteers, 21 supervisors, one national coordinator, two vehicles, eight portable HF radio sets.
- Food aid for over 80,000 vulnerable people of the districts of Mindouli, Missafou and localities bordering on Kingouala and Kingoyi, with a view to reducing the incidence of severe malnutrition.

Control of hemorrhagic fever caused by the Ebola virus

Since the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic (Emergency Appeal 07/2003 launched on 25.02.03) in the Cuvette-Ouest of the Republic of Congo, close to the border with Gabon, the Federation has actively supported the CRC and its branches to respond, along side the Ministry of Health and WHO, to eradicating the epidemic.

A medical doctor from the Democratic Republic of Congo was dispatched as the Federation coordinator of the operation and supported the efforts of the CRC. A technical support mission by the Federation (with media coverage) was carried out by the Federation Media consultant.

Organization of an awareness-raising meeting for the heads of localities and districts on the importance of complying with prevention measures against Ebola. The operation, which is now ending, was to run for three months, and was extended due to new cases reported during the month of April.

Promotion of Humanitarian Values

Objective of the programme: International Humanitarian Law is familiar to 80% of the Congolese population and humanitarian values are respected by 50% of the young people, especially those who are engaged in military and police work (soldiers, police, gendarmes, militia and ex-militia), or studying (students, grammar school pupils, apprentices, etc).

Results obtained

- Radio broadcasts by the CRC every Monday from 22h15 to 22h45.
- Participation in technical meetings with the CRC's operational partners (UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, National Malaria Control Programme, etc.); participation in weekly inter-agency meetings on emergency requirements in Congo.
- Preparation of educational aids for organization of the national seminar on International Humanitarian Law in Brazzaville; 20 CRC volunteers participated with the support of the ICRC.
- Production of a bi-monthly information leaflet by the CRC.

Organizational Development

Objective of the programme: In technical and financial terms, the Congolese Red Cross is autonomous and capable of confronting the main challenges it faces, with the support of its volunteer network and its infrastructure.

Results obtained

- Support to the local branches to make CRC management structures more dynamic: 33 senior staff members (presidents, directors, departmental and community treasurers, and middle management and board of directors were trained in fund-raising techniques.
- Acquisition of office materials for the 11 departmental and community committees of the CRC: 11 electric and manual typewriters were handed over to the local committees.
- Acquisition of an experimental income-generating unit: 6 manioc pod grinders (mills) handed over to the departments of Cuvette Ouest, Sangha and Likouala in the extreme north-east of the Republic of Congo.
- Organization and holding of the governance session: 52 governance members, of whom six were Government delegates, participated in this session from 13 to 15 January 2003.
- Confirmation of the appointment of the new Director General of the CRC by board of directors.
- To strengthen the volunteer network of the CRC: a campaign to recruit new volunteers was carried out, with the result that 234 volunteers of different strata of society (students, school pupils, tradesmen, officials, military personnel, etc.) joined the CRC. Distribution of 300 application forms to young sympathizers and training of 74 young people in first aid in the department of Brazzaville.
- Strengthening of the operational capacities of the CRC's human resources: as part of the process a recruitment announcement was made for seven national CRC directorship posts.
- Establishment of an integration policy for young people in CRC activities: survey forms were sent to the departmental and community committees. In addition, a project for a document on the guidance, organization and structuring of young people at intermediate and ground-roots levels was produced and is now awaiting approval by management.

Other Activities

- In the framework of strengthening the financial capacities of the CRC, five commercial trips were undertaken by the Society's lifeboat on the north side of the Congo River. This income-generating project was made possible through bilateral cooperation between the CRC and the Spanish Red Cross.
- Launching of activities at Mpoumako (a village situated in the district of Ngabé, department of the Pool on national highway No. 2) approximately 100 kilometres from Brazzaville: installation and construction of a health centre, an apprenticeship workshop for small trades for women, agriculture). These activities were supported not only by the Spanish Red Cross but also by the local community, which put a plot of land at the disposal of the CRC for construction of the complex, designed to house all the structures of the project.
- To revive the activities of the cafeteria at national CRC headquarters, CRC volunteers made a financial contribution. This project has now taken concrete form with the identification of the restaurant's priority needs (setting up and equipment of the premises).
- Regarding implementation of the "support for single mothers" project at Sibiti, Djambala and Brazzaville, a coordinator has been appointed and 28 girls identified (in Sibiti and Djambala), four national trainers and six departmental trainers trained, agricultural techniques, herbal medicines and agricultural equipment procured, six knitting machines and 600 balls of wool procured and three plots of land chosen.
- Work meetings with the finances department were held over the course of the reporting period. At these meetings, strategies for timely justification of operational advances were discussed.
- A mission of a Media consultant to cover the Ebola operation in the Cuvette Ouest also used the opportunity to meet with the head of the Information and Dissemination department of the CRC.

- In Brazzaville, the members of the delegation held a coordination meeting with the CRC's governance and management to discuss the form of cooperation and to take stock of the activities in progress in order to better plan the future. Other meetings were used to set a calendar of activities for 2003.
- The new form of cohabitation is being pursued with the CRC. Each delegate works in the same office as his or her counterpart. This allows closer contacts between the Federation and the CRC.
- Meetings between members of the movement (CRC, ICRC, Federation and SRC) made it possible to plan how to support the new team and find ways to combine efforts to support the CRC with implementing its programmes.
- The seminar-workshop held in Kinshasa on 18-19 March 2003 to implement the Change Strategy advocated by the Federation Secretariat, with the participation of delegates and local delegation staff from both Congos, was facilitated by two staff members from the Secretariat in Geneva. The participants discussed humanitarian values, with one of the facilitators which is the head of training in humanitarian values department in Geneva.
- The seminar was followed by training and information sessions for the delegates and coordinators about the two National Societies' programmes. Emphasis was placed on setting up the new management strategy for the programmes by the project (programme) coordinators.
- In the course of the current quarter, the members of the delegation held several meetings with their partners to present the 2003-2004 appeal to them.
- The delegation also intensified its relations with PNS to attract them to the region in general and the Congo in particular. Contacts with the British Red Cross were strengthened; a senior member of the British Red Cross visited the two Congos from 1-14 March to take note of the Society's programmes in response to the problems faced by the two countries. The British Government, through the British Red Cross, and the Danish, Finnish, Monaco Red Cross Societies have given support to the CRC and responded positively to the emergency appeal to fight the Ebola in the Republic of Congo. The Swedish Red Cross one of the region's main supporters has contributed not only to the Ebola operation, but also given to the OD programme along-side the Irish Government.

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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.

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DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				213'602		64.9%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				69'564		
IRISH - GOVT				32'625	28.04.03	
SWEDISH - RC		50'000	SEK	8'025	24.03.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		150'000	SEK	24'000	09.05.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				134'214	CHF	62.8%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			4'435		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				4'435	CHF	2.1%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	