

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

CENTRAL AFRICA REGION

9 July 2003

Appeal No. 01.44/2003; Appeal Target: CHF 1,766,438

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January to March 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: 52%; See attached Contributions List for details; or see the Federation's website at: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap014403.pdf

Outstanding needs: CHF 848,255; Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Please see www.ifrc.org under "where we work."

Programme Summary: While the countries of the region are making substantial efforts in respect to the prevention and control of epidemics, there are still regular bouts of epidemics such as cholera, meningitis and even Ebola. With a climate, however, of conflict, social unrest and a rise in epidemics, the vulnerability of the populations is increasing. Thus in keeping with the Appeal for 2003, the Federation's Regional Office in Central Africa proposes to undertake a series of programmes combining strengthening of capacities in the fields of health and disaster management and a sustained effort to improve the National Societies capacities in regard to planning, management and reporting.

Operational developments

The Central African region comprises eight countries: Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao-Tomé and Principe and the Republic of Cameroon.

While Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao-Tomé and Principe and the Republic of Cameroon have seen a certain degree of stability at the social and political levels, this is not the case for Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR), Chad. In the DRC, despite evolution on the political front and ongoing dialogue between the Congos, various acts of aggression are regularly reported, and the country is still shadowed by a climate of armed conflict. CAR, already very affected and diminished by a disastrous economic situation, was further destabilized by the recent coup. It

is hoped that the new authorities in Bangui will gradually be able to restore peace and stability in the country.

While the countries of the region are making substantial efforts in respect of the prevention and control of epidemics, there are still regular bouts of epidemics such as cholera, meningitis and even Ebola.

With a climate of conflict, social unrest and a rise in epidemics, the vulnerability of the populations is increasing. The needs are enormous, and require increased support on the part of humanitarian organizations. Despite the fact that some of these countries sit on enormous mineral wealth these riches do not help reduce poverty. The mineral wealth has actually exacerbated problems for the poor as its presence increases the threat of fresh cycles of conflict, corruption, and environmental degradation of the region.

The National Societies of Central Africa have a number of problems of their own to resolve if they are to fulfil their humanitarian mandate satisfactorily: namely,

- Absence of strong partnerships in combining humanitarian activities.
- Absence of funding and donor support.
- Update the image of the Red Cross.
- Continue to develop management skills within the national societies.

Thus in keeping with Appeal 2003, the Federation's Regional Office in Central Africa proposes to undertake a series of programmes combining strengthening of capacities in the fields of health and disaster management and a sustained effort to improve capacities in respect of planning, management and reporting, the management of staff and volunteers from a new perspective.

1. Health and Care

Goal: Reduction of disease-related vulnerability of the local communities in Cameroon, Chad and CAR, including HIV/AIDS and the associated infections. Stop the stigmatization of people living with HIV and their families.

Objective: Fight the stigmatization at the workplace of people living with HIV.

Expected Results

- **The National Societies of the region participate in the struggle against HIV/AIDS on a vast scale.**
- **The National Societies support activities designed to counter discrimination in general that are due to HIV in particular.**
- **People living with HIV work together with the national societies in the fight against AIDS.**
- **All the National Societies continue to fight discrimination and stigmatization due to HIV/AIDS with the support of all eight of the national societies.**

Achievements

Cameroon

Some months ago the Federation's Regional Office offered the use of its offices to the Association of Active Women in Solidarity (AFASO), a national charity group for people living with HIV, as a place for work, meetings and information.

The Cameroon Red Cross Society theatrical troop, which presents productions intended to fight stigmatisation related to HIV/AIDS, has joined forces with people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), and the association of "Filles Libres" (commercial sex workers). This experience allowed these communities, who are often marginalized, to come together. Members of these communities will soon begin facilitating educational discussions as part of an important project prepared by the Federation and Cameroon Red Cross in support of 250 prostitutes in Yaoundé. A number of local partners (Ministry of Health, IMF, World Bank, MSF, Institut Pasteur, the military hospital, etc.) have shown a genuine interest in this project and this may evolve into long term partnerships between the National Society, the federation and these agencies.

Republic of Congo

HIV/AIDS

Visits were organized to local districts for educational discussions from 11 to 15 March 2003. A total of 86 Congolese Red Cross volunteers from Talangaï were mobilized. Two community supervisors, and the Society's national coordinator headed the volunteers. The volunteers distributed 15,500 leaflets and 10,000 condoms.

Objective 2: Participate in the social mobilization of the communities in order to limit the propagation of the Ebola epidemic.

Expected results met during the first quarter

- **The advance of the epidemic has been curtailed, and the number of victims is diminishing.**

Achievements

Ebola

Volunteers from local Congolese Red Cross branches were in the forefront of the social mobilization of communities affected by the epidemic, with a view of limiting the spread of the disease. Substantial activities in regard to Ebola, from Congolese Red Cross national headquarters are being planned with the support of the Federation. Two teams of Congolese Red Cross volunteers, specializing in the management of sites mobilized by the national society went to the Cuvette-Ouest, Mbomo, Kellé and Itoumbi to take charge of the distribution of seven tons of food contributed by the WFP. Thirty Congolese Red Cross volunteers carried out the distribution with support from the Federation.

The group of volunteers, who were on alert as soon as the first signs of the outbreak became evident, intensified social mobilization to prevent further contamination. The Federation and other PNS supported the work of the volunteers. Their efforts were recognised and appreciated by the Society's partners such as the Ministry of Health, MSF, and WHO with whom they worked together closely.

Objective 3: Undertake a sufficient number of activities to produce a tangible impact for beneficiaries in respect of the watsan.

Expected results met during the first quarter

- A behavioural change in the matter of hygiene is noted in the schools

Achievements

Chad

The Chad Red Cross has been running water and sanitation projects in schools in the capital N'djaména for several years with the support of the French Red Cross. The scope of the project was extended to other schools in order to have greater impact on the children's health. New schools are getting latrines and

pumps, and the children's attitudes about hygiene will change, with the introduction of latrines and clean drinking water. The parents' association contributes to the maintenance of the pumps and timely replacement of parts. It is encouraging that beneficiaries are taking charge of the project.

With the support of the Swiss Red Cross, the Chad Red Cross has begun a community health project in the village of Kournari located 20 km from the capital N'djaména. Chad Red Cross volunteers have organised women's groups in more than 102 neighbourhoods that are close to this village. The educational meetings encourage the women to adopt good hygiene practices, get their children vaccinated and visit the health centre. Thanks to Community Based First Aid, the national society supports income-generating activities in favour of these women, whereby their economic situation is considerably improved. The initial investment by the national society will be recovered to be used to support other groups.

2. Organizational development

Goal: Strengthening of the governance and management capacities of the decision makers at various levels of the national societies of the sub-region, including mobilization of local and/or national resources. Improved volunteer recruitment and management.

Objective: The National Societies are perceived as credible by their partners. They have improved their management and deliver regular, transparent reports to allow for access to the resources available locally. A solid system of coaching using well-managed volunteer networks ensures efficient use of resources at low cost.

Expected results met during the first quarter

- **By improving the institutional base, through the revision and rewriting of statutes, organization of the General Assembly of national societies, and enhancing the skills of staff and volunteers responsible for carrying out the programmes, the National Societies are better placed to mobilize funding by national and international donors.**
- **The National Societies have better access to local resources and partnerships.**

Achievements

Cameroon

To allow the Cameroon Red Cross to improve its legal base, and increase coordination between the Society's governance and management, a tripartite commission comprising representatives of the regional office, the ICRC and the National Society was created to revise the old statutory texts and bring them in line with the Federation's guidelines for national society statutes.

Over the first quarter of 2003, the Cameroon Red Cross set up a committee responsible for the mobilization of resources. This committee has begun the process of putting standards and procedures into place with respect to budget planning, management. and financial resources.

Project team at the Red Cross Societies of Cameroon and Chad

The support strategy of the Federation's regional office in 2003, is based on a multilateral movement integrating all the programmes of the national societies, with the aim of permitting the realisation of its vision.

In order to successfully obtain the goals of this project, meetings are organized with the National Societies in association with members of governance and management. This experience enables the national

societies to translate the notion of complementarity between governance and management into concrete action. Time was saved in decision-making, and governance and management of the National Society.

African Red Cross and Red Crescent Health Initiative (ARCHI) volunteers

Objective: Use the traditional and cultural values to find lessons for better management of volunteers.

Expected results met during the first quarter

- **Greater motivation of volunteers instead of monetary payment.**

Achievements

Since February, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo no longer offers its volunteers a per diem payment for their community activities. The experience began with the roll back malaria project. Following a number of weeks of activity, volunteers were given a treated mosquito net and a kit containing food (rice, tomato, fish), and soap as compensation. This system will be extended to all the other programmes of the national society, and will serve as an example for the region. The limited funds mobilized for this project are not yet sufficient to allow the planning of activities to support a coaching mechanism in the local branches of the national societies.

3. Disaster management

Goal: Reduction of the vulnerability of the populations of Central Africa in the wake of disasters

Objective: The technical skills of the regional disaster response team, *Equipes Réponse aux Désastres de l’Afrique Centrale (ERDAC)*, are strengthened in the areas of water and sanitation and epidemic management, with ERDAC training and food security (VCA – food security) all practical arrangements are in place to facilitate a rapid deployment of the ERDAC during disasters (development of ERDAC deployment procedures).

Expected results met during the first quarter

- **The sub-regional disaster response team strengthens its operational skills and makes preparations for possible deployment.**

Achievements

Deployment of the ERDAC team: The team functions as a basis for regional cooperation permitting the national societies to take responsibility for their activities.

During the cholera epidemic that has been raging in Mbuji-Mayi, DRC, an ERDAC team was deployed composed of a doctor from Brazzaville and one from the DRC. Both of the doctors were trained last October, and since then have also been deployed in West Africa for an evaluation of several countries there. The team took charge of the planning, execution and supervision of volunteer activities of the Red Cross of the DRC. The two national societies accepted this useful exchange of resources, and the delegation acted as a facilitator. This rapid deployment allowed both societies a saving of time and money in carrying out an effective response.

To support the National Society with its efforts against the Ebola epidemic in the Congo, a doctor from the Red Cross of the DRC (which has experience of the epidemic was deployed to the affected area in the

north-west region of the Republic of Congo bordering Gabon. The country delegation, with the support of the Regional Office, is helping with the administrative and insurance formalities.

In Chad, the Chad Red Cross has made an initial evaluation of the influx of Central African refugees and Chadian returnees since members of the National Society have been trained in ERDAC and in FACT improving the Society's overall technical knowledge. This rapid and very professional action supported by the delegate of the French Red Cross in Ndjaména positioned the National Society favourably in negotiations with the UN agencies that are preparing to set up an assistance operation. The National Society received local funding from the UNHCR and the support of DREF to assist the refugee and returnee populations.

The Central African Red Cross Society, whose volunteers have once again stood out through their humanitarian activities, was of great value to the country on the occasion of the political unrest that occurred over the reporting period. With support from the ICRC, and funding from the Federation's DREF the Society was able to ensure the proper exhumation and burial of a large number of bodies, and avoid further health hazards to the populations.

The Red Cross of Cameroon, with the support of the Federation, has strengthened its partnership with the Civil Protection Directorate, which is considering supporting the Society with the development of its volunteer network in high-risk zones.

From 24 to 28 March, a training course brought together some thirty members of ERDAC to develop techniques of needs evaluation, VCA and risk mapping. This provided an occasion for an exchange of experiences among the national societies, and to work out a realistic action plan to set up national disaster response teams and to start reflecting on deployment procedures for the ERDAC team.

4. Promotion of Humanitarian Values

Goal: Absence of discrimination and stigmatization in the community.

Objective: The public has a sound understanding of and respect for the work of the eight Red Cross Societies of the sub-region and of the Federation's positions and policies related to humanitarian issues, including discrimination with a particular emphasis on stigmatization of PLWHA and sexual violence to women.

Expected results met during the first quarter

- **The impact of development projects has been enhanced through the integration of new world thought forms**

Achievements

The artists of AFRICALAND, on behalf of the association AFRICAURA ART EXPO, created fifty-two paintings with a theme of culture and development. The sketches cover a number of themes: the life path and the elements that underlie the happiness of Africans, personal views of aesthetics, the originality and logic of the African way of life, a re-examination of African wisdom that provides the necessary basis to create the future (including AIDS). For the next part of the project, the artists intend to create another set of paintings conveying messages about culture and development.

The Federation is supporting the Cameroon Red Cross with setting up an integrated project on the fight against the spread of AIDS, and stigmatization. This project has a number of components, ranging from screening, to the treatment and follow-up of STDs and AIDS; and, is intended to offer an alternative to the

vulnerable group of commercial sex workers “Filles Libres.” The promise of treatment and appropriate follow-up and the prospect of an income-generating project can act as catalysts for prevention and also provide an opportunity for partnerships at the local level. The annual number of beneficiaries of this project is estimated to be as high as 350,000 (clients of 250 prostitutes, plus their families and children).

5. Regional coordination

Goal: Give greater power to the National Societies for effective implementation of the Federation’s strategy for change.

Objective: The National Societies of the sub-region, working as a Federation, are responsible for the overall quality of their work and fully ensure their effectiveness and sustainability. Working on a strengthened mechanism of sub-regional coordination with clearly defined terms of reference and sufficient resources to allow the members to participate in important events in the region and at partnership meeting in Geneva, and to help their sisters national societies resolve problems of management and governance.

Expected results met during the first quarter

- **The regional coordination committee has been strengthened.**

Achievements

From 20 to 21 January 2003, the members of the regional coordination committee met to make important decisions on the future of the committee itself, to draft terms of reference for the committee and its president, and identify ways of supporting the coordination mechanism of the National Societies of Central Africa. The coordination committee decided to examine the terms of reference proposed by the committee and its president at its next meeting. In the meantime, the new president of the committee resolved to undertake measures to develop the concept of the body and to measure its impact.

The SAC process is well under way in three National Societies.

The achievements noted in the course of the quarter regarding the elaboration of strategic plans for the Cameroon Red Cross, the Central African Red Cross and the Chad Red Cross are as follows:

- The establishment of country project teams (Cameroon Red Cross, Chad Red Cross) made up of supervisory staff of the National Societies, representatives of the target departmental committees and supervisory staff of the Regional Office.
- A review of existing development plans to consolidate the achievements (Red Cross Societies of Cameroon and Chad).
- The choice of strategies (Red Cross Societies of Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic).
- Identification of programmes for development and elaboration of a vision (Red Cross Societies of Cameroon and Chad).
- Setting up of technical commissions (Chad Red Cross)
- Choice of local structures and identification of capacities to be developed for implementation of the programmes (Cameroon Red Cross).

For further information regarding the Appeal or the activities described in this report, please contact:

- *Regional Office: Head of Regional Office, Roger Bracke, email: ifrcm06frc.com, phone: (00237) 993 49 20*
- *Regional Department contact name: Terry Carney, email: terry.carney@ifrc.org*

Phone: (41)(22) 730.42.98, 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 www.ifrc.org.

Central Africa sub-regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.44/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

09.07.2003

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

CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					1'766'438		TOTAL COVERAGE 52.0%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				40'803			
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		40'000	USD	54'380	29.04.03		
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				55'000	24.02.03	CO-ORDINATION, INT. REPR. P&V	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				50'000	24.02.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				64'000	24.02.03	DISASTER MANAGEMENT	
IRISH - GOVT				90'000	28.04.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH	
SWEDISH - RC		325'003	SEK	52'000	10.04.03	HIV/AIDS YOUTH PROG.	
SWEDISH - GOVT		3'200'000	SEK	512'000	09.05.03	DISASTER MGT, HELATH, ORGANISATIONAL DEV. COOPERATION, CAMEROON	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				918'183	CHF		52.0%

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
DANISH - RC		21'470	EUR	32'688	26.06.03	IN KIND 13'625 KG SECOND HAND CLOTHES DIRECT TO CAR RC
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				32'688	CHF	