

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 SUB-REGION

30 July 2003

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

Programme Update No. 02; Period covered: April – June, 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 or 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: See the Federation's website under "where we work."

Programme Summary: In recognition of activities carried out by volunteers of the Red Cross Societies in Chad and Central Africa Republic (CAR) in the fight against HIV/AIDS, CAR and Chad were identified to receive funding from the Global Fund for the Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The Chad Red Cross has been awarded a UN funding contract in order to assist CAR refugees and returned Chadians who arrived in Chad as a result of the conflict in CAR.

The eight National Societies in the Central Africa sub-region are active participants in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Funding, however, for the National Societies' AIDS programmes has been completely exhausted and more funding is required to continue with HIV/AIDS education activities.

Operational Developments

The Central African Region is made up of eight countries, namely the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Central Africa Republic (CAR), the Republic of Chad, the Republic of Gabon, the Equatorial Guinea Republic, Sao-Tome and Principe, and the Republic of Cameroon.

Although countries in the sub-region are making concerted efforts to prevent and fight against epidemics, diseases such as Cholera, Meningitis, and even Ebola fever pose health threats throughout the region.

This atmosphere characterised by war, social tension, and epidemics, increases the vulnerability of populations and adversely affecting the environment and public health. There are countless needs requiring further support from humanitarian organisations.

Moreover, the epidemiological situation remains a concern, despite awareness campaigns carried out by volunteers from the respective national societies.

The Federation's Regional Office for Central Africa (BRAC) initiated a series of programmes, as described in the 2003 Appeal, including capacity building in the domains of Health, and Disaster Management, while laying special emphasis on building the capacities of both the personnel and volunteers in planning, management, and reporting, from a new approach.

1. Health and Care

1.1. Goal of the Programme: Reduce the vulnerability of local communities to diseases (including AIDS and the various opportunistic diseases related to it) in Cameroon, Chad, and CAR.

1.2. Objectives of the Programme

First Objective: Eradicate stigma against people living with HIV (PLWH) and their families.

Achievements

- Awareness campaigns through peer education have resumed in schools and large gatherings over the past three months.
- The Federation's Health Programme manager took part in several meetings organised by the combined UN and World Bank Group on the fight against AIDS, updating his knowledge on implementing new strategies for fighting against the pandemic.
- From 1 to 4 June 2003, the BRAC Head of the Health Department took part in the strategic planning meeting organised in Bamako (Mali) by the Organisation of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS.
- In Cameroon, the development of a pilot project initiated by the National Society is being completed. That project is aimed at bringing psycho-social support to 1,000 Filles Libérés (prostitutes), and providing free medical care to 250 Filles Libérés in Yaounde. The project, which has been approved by both the Ministry of Public Health and the National Committee for the fight against AIDS, will be replicated in three new towns in Cameroon by the year 2005. After the pilot phase, which will last for two to three years, the project will be extended to other countries in the sub-region.
- Three AIDS Action Plans have been developed for three national societies, in collaboration with their respective representatives.

Second Objective: Help National Societies of Cameroon, Chad, CAR, and Equatorial Guinea, to identify their community health priority problems and develop appropriate strategies to solve them.

- Work is being done with the national societies of Cameroon, CAR, and Chad in order to bring together members from both the Executive Committee and Local Committees. These meetings were

aimed at helping participants to identify their priority health problems and eventually define what their needs are. Strategies aimed at completing the existing Action Plans are underway.

Third Objective: Support the national societies with the fight against diarrhoea and epidemics.

Chad

- The Chad Red Cross mobilised 15 volunteers in the Gore camp, and ten in the Maro camp in order to raise awareness among Central African refugees on the necessity of following certain hygiene practices while in the camps, so as to avoid a potential cholera epidemic. Volunteers have been working in the camps six hours per day since March.

Moreover, 49 volunteers have been mobilised for distributing food items in the two refugee camps. Their duties include increasing awareness in refugees of the risk of getting contaminated by epidemics such as Meningitis, Cholera, etc.

- Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities have been organised in the Gore and Maro refugee camps where some 40,000 people are gathered. 50 volunteers have been working in those camps since March, some 4 to 6 hours per day. Awareness campaigns have continued in Moundou and in villages situated along the pipeline. Schools are increasingly showing interest in the Discussion Centres of N'djamena and Moundou by choosing them to host educational discussions about their students.

Cameroon

- Within the framework of the hygiene and sanitation campaign, 30 volunteers treated 1,500 wells in Yaounde, benefiting some 3,000 families.
- 50 volunteers educated over 200,000 people in 12 quarters of Yaounde about hygiene, the treatment of wastewater and places where mosquitoes easily breed. 60 volunteers at the University of Yaounde's campus based chapter of the Red Cross carried out the same activity.
- The development of a pilot project aimed at providing psycho-social support to 1,000 Filles Libérés and free medical care to 250 was completed within the framework of the fight against HIV/AIDS. This was achieved through various contacts established between the Red Cross and the National Committee for the fight against AIDS, the "Club des Amies de la Prudence" (CLAP), and the "Association des Femmes Actives et Solidaires" (AFASO).
- Two training sessions on Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities related to STIs/HIV/AIDS, and on the management of micro-projects have been organised for 48 peer educators from CLAP. The training took place over 12 days, with each training session being given six days. National Society volunteers, Filles Libérés, and PLWH, are presently in rehearsal to perform in plays that will be used to initiate educational discussions. The plays will be performed in working areas of the Filles Libérés in parts of Yaounde. Following the establishment of Red Cross Clubs in schools, there have been a number of requests for Discussion Centres in Yaounde and Douala.

Central Africa Republic (CAR)

- Very few activities were carried out due to political instability in the country.

Equatorial Guinea

- 300 trained peer educators are conducting awareness campaigns through discussions and debates in high schools, colleges, and villages situated along the pipeline.

Impact

- In recognition of activities carried out by volunteers of the Red Cross Societies in Chad and CAR in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and especially because of the influence these National Societies have on the activities of the Technical Group in charge of co-ordinating eligibility for global funding, CAR and Chad were identified to receive funding from the Global Fund for the Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The two National Societies will receive financial support from their respective States as soon as the global funds are made available.
- Continued awareness campaigns carried out by volunteers of the Chad Red Cross in the Central African Refugee camps of Gore and Maro are helping to maintain the health of the population, those two camps are yet to experience the Cholera epidemic or any other epidemic.
- The morbidity rate due to diarrhoea was reduced in quarters of Yaounde as a result of activities carried out by volunteers of the Red Cross.
- Peer educators from CLAP, after having been trained in IEC activities, are initiating a large number of educational discussions in various parts of Yaounde.

Constraints

- Limited funding prevents national societies in the region from meeting their needs.
- Funding for the National Societies AIDS programmes are completely exhausted.

2. Organisational Development

2.1. Goal of the programme: Promote the well-functioning of National Societies.

2.2. Objective of the Programme: Reinforce capacities of decision makers in good governance and management at all levels of NS in the sub-region.

Achievements

During the reporting period, the Cameroon Red Cross (CRC) reviewed its statutes thanks to the support of the Federation's Regional Office for Central Africa and the International Committee of Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC), thus ensuring a proper balance between management and good governance. The amended documents will be forwarded by CRC to the joint Commission in Geneva for comments.

- As far as the CRC strategic plan development process is concerned, a study of both the situation and trends in Cameroon started in May with the review of secondary data and the collection of data from partners at Ministry, NGOs and donors levels in the domains of Health, HIV/AIDS, Humanitarian Principles and Values, and Disaster Management. The next step will be to conduct a Vulnerability and

Capacity Assessment (VCA) in the domain of Health. This will be followed up by a SWOT analysis and a strategic planning workshop.

- The CAR Red Cross initiated the same study in May. It is expected that a VCA in the field of Health will be conducted on the population during the second half of 2003. It is also expected that by then, the SWOT analysis will have been completed, and the Strategic Planning Workshop will have been held.

Constraints

Limited funds seriously hindered the implementation of the programme as scheduled. Consequently, the idea of recruiting a resource-person at regional level to facilitate the strategic planning process was rejected.

Lessons Learned

- If leaders and Volunteers of a given national society are highly motivated and technically well equipped, the VCA process will be conducted smoothly in terms of quality and time.
- Personnel and volunteers should be well supervised in their activities related to the collection and analysis of data to be used within the framework of the strategic planning process.
- The involvement of partners in the strategic planning process is a means of promoting the image of the national society, thereby allowing for more partnerships with other stakeholders.

3. Disaster Management

The Federation continued to work towards reinforcing the Regional Disaster Response Team (ERDAC) that was established in October 2002.

3.1. Goal of the Programme: Reduce the vulnerability of populations in Central Africa after disasters.

3.2. Objective of the programme: Strengthen the technical capabilities of ERDAC in epidemic management and WatSan.

Achievements

- Deployment of Regional Disaster Response Team for Central Africa (ERDAC teams): It is a real instrument for regional co-operation, which makes national societies aware of their responsibilities.
- For some months now, during the cholera epidemic affecting Mbuji-Mayi (Democratic Republic of Congo), an ERDAC member who doubles as a medical doctor from the Congo Brazzaville Red Cross, was transferred to DRC to pursue the planning, the implementation, and the supervision of activities carried out by volunteers of the DRC Red Cross. These activities were funded by the Canadian government and led to the improvement of water and sanitation conditions through the construction of latrines and the treatment of water sources.
- Within the framework of the Emergency Appeal, which was launched, to assist the Congo Red Cross in the fight against the Ebola epidemic, an ERDAC member (a medical doctor from the DRC Red Cross) worked with that National Society. He facilitated the completion of the operation and helped local committees to develop their volunteer networks and encourage both volunteers and communities through the creation of income generating activities.

- Thanks to its executives who were trained by the Federation (ERDAC and FACT), the Chad Red Cross has been awarded a UN funding contract in order to assist CAR refugees and returned Chadians who arrived in Chad as a result of the conflict in CAR.
- A training seminar brought together twenty ERDAC members (Health professionals) in Kribi (Cameroon). This was aimed at developing a regional epidemic management strategy and make regional executives well acquainted with SPHERE norms and standards.

Lessons Learned

- The appropriation of the new Federation's vision on disasters (with epidemics being defined as "disasters") by all the participants at the Kribi seminar. According to that vision, a disaster should be seen as a chain of incidents; and in order to tackle it, considerable attention should be paid to threats, risks, and the community's capacity to respond. Such a vision constitutes an asset prior to the development of realistic epidemic response plans in the various national societies.
- The epidemic historical review developed in Kribi stands as a basis for review prior to the development of a risk map for central Africa.
- The completion of a regional guide to intervention which clearly defines the role of a volunteer at each particular step of an epidemic will go a long way in facilitating the planning of activities by national societies.
- The Federation's documents on epidemic management have been updated.
- The capacity building of ERDAC by providing it with regional resources competent in epidemic preparedness and response, and by developing a regional strategy on epidemiological surveillance, prior to an early alert which stands as a prerequisite for the planning of a rapid and efficient response to disasters.
- Executives in the region now have good mastery of the SPHERE manual.

4. Promotion of Humanitarian Values

Since the first term, the Federation has been supporting the efforts of the Cameroon Red Cross (CRC) aimed at implementing an integrated project on the fight against AIDS and stigma.

4.1. Goal of the Programme: Eradicate discrimination and stigma in the community.

4.2. Objective of the programme: Bring the public to really understand the positions of the Federation as far as humanitarian issues are concerned, with special emphasis on the discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH) and "Ladies Free" (Prostitutes).

Achievements

- The Federation organised a workshop on Humanitarian Journalism on Saturday 12 April 2003. The general aim of that workshop was to expose to volunteer journalists (they do not expect any payment from the Federation) some tips which can lead to the objective treatment of the information related to a disaster or an epidemic, while making use of arguments likely to persuade potential donors to react instantly.

- In pursuance of the implementation of the integrated project on the fight against HIV/AIDS and stigma initiated by CRC, BRAC organised a workshop in favour of “Ladies free” selected from 2 Associations, namely AFASO and CLAP. That workshop was aimed at teaching “Ladies Free” the basic knowledge required to conceive a project and follow it up on a daily basis.

Constraints

As far as the support to CRC is concerned, BRAC is still making efforts to see that the various partners to the project keep their promises.

Lessons Learned

- PLWH and “Filles Libérés” have recovered their dignity and now trust the Red Cross.
- The media are becoming increasingly interested in humanitarian issues, and have started to invite the Federation to come and talk about its activities.

5. Regional Co-ordination

5.1. Goal of the Programme: Increase the power of national societies in order to effectively implement the Federation’s strategy for change.

5.2. Objective of the programme: Provide national societies in the sub-region with a more powerful mechanism of co-ordination, with clearly defined terms of reference and enough resources to enable its members to take part in relevant manifestations at regional level, and participate at the partnership meeting in Geneva, as well as assist other national societies in solving management and good governance problems.

Achievements

- The Federation was able to support National Societies in the region thanks to the missions conducted in the national societies of CAR, Chad and DRC by both its Head and its Organisational Development Delegate.
- A regional meeting on partnership, planned to take place in June, has been postponed to when it will be easy to mobilise a good number of Participating National Societies (PNS). The Federation is in permanent contact with the Co-ordination Committee President (President of the Cameroon Red Cross) to ensure the continuity of the reflection on the regional Co-ordination Committee’s terms of reference (ToR). A document on those ToR will be presented to the national society during the next Co-ordination meeting.
- The Federation’s sub-regional office represented the Federation at the preparatory meeting of the Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD III). It should be noted that the TICAD III process is the planning framework for the support Japan is contemplating for NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa’s Development). The Federation addressed the conference’s participants (High ranking country, UN and Diplomatic institution authorities) voicing the following concerns:
 - Fight against HIV/AIDS and eradication of stigma against PLWH by making the community more responsible, facilitating access to treatment, encouraging voluntary screening, and by developing large scale awareness campaigns on prevention;
 - Malaria control;

- Food security programmes based on the development of rural areas.

These suggestions were highly appreciated and highlighted during the final recommendations from the meeting.

6. Constraints

Despite efforts made by the Federation Secretariat to mobilise funds for the implementation of the Appeal, it still remains to be covered. This is due to various constraints such as the crisis, which is currently affecting the funding of humanitarian programmes at an international level, the limited interest of donors in the Central African Sub-Region, and the limited number of donors. This unfortunate situation is forcing the Federation and the National Societies to abandon some very important planned activities.

For the second semester, the Federation's regional office will do everything possible to:

- Complete the procedures for the deployment of ERDAC teams in collaboration with the national societies.
- Update the database on regional resources.
- See with the Federation's Secretariat in Geneva if it is possible to organise a training on water and sanitation, which takes into consideration the operational part a region, can play in that domain, and the availability of the equipment needed for the deployment of a team.

For further information regarding the Appeal or the activities described in this report, 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 www.ifrc.org.

Central Africa sub-regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.44/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

29.07.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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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	