

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

WEST AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

10 December 2003

Appeal No. 01.45/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 494,484 (USD 339,291 EUR 336,198)

Programme Update No. 2

Period covered: April – 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: 143.0% [Click here to go to attached Contributions List](#) or refer to the Federation website

Outstanding needs: None

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Programme Summary: Armed conflict in Côte d'Ivoire slowed down activities in 2003. Restructuring in the regional delegation and slow donor response resulted in setbacks that have left some objectives of the Appeal unmet. Despite these challenges, significant progress has been made in 2003 with good results.

Operational developments

Several countries in West Africa region are either recovering from a crisis or currently going through one. Leaders have been working together to help resolve the crisis particularly in Côte d'Ivoire where the situation almost destabilized the entire region. Côte d'Ivoire, once reputed as the most stable country in the region, became enmeshed in armed conflict in September 2002. The rebellion turned into war that divided the country into two with three armed groups controlling the west and the north and the government controlled the south. Thousands of civilians and soldiers have been killed and many displaced. Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Liberia and Guinea Conakry have had their own share of displaced persons and refugees.

A reconciliation process has been on-going. There is hope that West Africa leaders, France and the UN will mediate between the parties and negotiate for permanent peace. This has started with the release of detained government soldiers by the ex-rebels.

Togo and Nigeria have had successful elections amidst opposition but peace continues to reign in these countries. However, Nigeria witnessed violent ethnic clashes in the Niger Delta early this year which led to deaths and displacement. In addition, excessive flooding and cholera outbreak in September took a heavy toll on the citizens in the Northern and South-Eastern parts of the country. The Sahel region has experienced heavy flooding leading to loss of lives and property during this reporting period.

According to IRIN, army officers and men were arrested in Guinea Conakry ahead of presidential elections scheduled for 21 December.

Sierra Leone went through a successful rehabilitation process and life has returned to normal. Fighting has stopped in Liberia; an interim government is in place and is planning to hold elections within two years. There is hope that the region will stabilize and continue with development programmes, the fight against poverty and HIV/AIDS.

Strengthening National Societies

Health and care

Goal: The improvement of the health situations of the most vulnerable population through education and prevention of endemic diseases.

HIV/AIDS

Goal: The reduction of the propagation and transmission of HIV/AIDS and STD in West Africa.

Objective: Regionally coordinate and represent a rapidly expanding range of HIV/AIDS projects at national society level.

Expected results

- The capacity of national societies in the region is strengthened through the regional programme to combat HIV/AIDS. This is achieved through HIV/AIDS/STD prevention activities targeting high risk groups such as youth, sex workers, migrant workers, industrial workers, small scale traders and the provision of care and support to PLWHA¹
- Increased collaboration between national societies in the region and associations of PLWHA in the respective countries in all HIV/AIDS care and prevention activities.
- Networking and sharing of experiences in HIV/AIDS prevention and care in West Africa is reinforced through a well functioning regional network, RANY-WA.
- Collaboration agreements signed between the Federation and various partners in the region and sustainability of activities through resource mobilization and sharing of knowledge.
- National societies are assisted with the development and implementation of a HIV/AIDS workplace policy.

Progress to date

In January 2003, a health meeting was held in Lagos, Nigeria. No activity has been carried out under HIV/AIDS due to the restructuring that has taken place in the Regional Delegation. The regional health delegate left in the middle of the year. Please refer to reports on respective regions and national societies regarding HIV/AIDS activities.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Goal: Improve Red Cross disaster response within the region.

Objective: Improve response of national societies to communities affected by disaster through an intra-regional assistance (Regional Response Team).

Expected results

1. The Regional Response Team is made up of three persons and is the technical complement to the Central Africa Response Team.
 - Selected members of the team have the required competence to carry out emergency activities in radio and telecommunication, relief, administration and health.

¹ PLWHA – Persons Living with HIV/AIDS

- Well-functioning back-up equipment such as laptop with printer, satellite telephones, GPS, and medical supplies will encourage rapid exchange of information needed to execute emergency activities.
- Other partners and organizations involved in emergency operations benefit from the competence of the team.
- Weak national societies are supported by stronger national societies in the region.
- Professionalism and efficiency displayed during emergencies has enhanced the image of the national society among partners, donors and the government
- Government authorities are sensitized on International Disaster Response Law.
- Entry of RRT (regional response teams) and their equipment and relief is facilitated by the government.
- The national society organizes rapid interventions in disaster areas.
- Members of the RRT help build the capacity of partner national societies through their competence.
- Members of RRT are resource persons in training staff and volunteers of national societies in view of building their institutional capacity at national and regional levels.

Progress to date

With the restructuring of the Regional Delegation, most DM (disaster management) activities in the region were transferred to Dakar. A regional DM coordinator was hired late this year. The armed conflict in Côte d'Ivoire and inadequate funding has been impediments in achieving this objective. The above objective was included in the 2003 Appeal of the [Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire](#). The disaster management coordinator (DMC) took over the management of the project in January 2003. The Regional Delegation participated in the RDRT training from 31 May to 10 June 2003. Staff from the National Red Cross Societies of Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Gambia and Sierra Leone were trained in first aid, DM, logistics and information. This training was geared towards creating a pool of competent and available local resource persons capable of rapid response in the event of a catastrophe in the region. About 35 people benefited from this training organized by the DMC-Geneva in collaboration with [Ghana Red Cross Society](#) and the Regional Delegation.

Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) / Equipe de Réponse aux Désastres en Afrique centrale (ERDAC)

A total of 50 participants attended ERDAC training which took place in Kribi (Cameroon). A RDRT session was held in Accra (Ghana) for the five Anglophone national societies, while another session was held in Bamako (Mali) for the 14 Francophone national societies. The modules covered: relief, WatSan, health, disaster preparedness and response, early warning systems, logistics, first aid, information and communication.

Constraints

Late budget approval and disbursement of funds.

Recommendations

- The Regional Delegation should have a data base to facilitate the coordination and exchange of human resources during disasters, training and assessment.
- Support to national societies in responding to disasters

Following heavy floods which occurred in most Sahel countries in July 2003, the Federation interim Head of Regional Delegation visited embassies in Dakar, and made presentations on the Federation's support to national societies in the region during disasters. The embassies promised to assist the Federation financially to ensure continued assistance to the national societies.

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

Federation coordination

Goal: Use the combined knowledge, experience and resources of the International Federation more efficiently and effectively by serving as a coordinator, linker, facilitator and guide to support National society development and programmes.

Objective: The West African national societies will increasingly develop their own local expertise, and share information and resources with each other, in addition to coordinating their plans and work with all important Stakeholders.

Expected Results

1a. Regional working groups contribute towards better services provided by the member national societies to vulnerable persons in West Africa.

- The decentralization takes place through the formation of three regional working groups, consisting of national society elected representatives, to be classified according to the newly established Federation Regional offices.
- Local expertise is developed through establishing sectoral groups specializing in health, disaster management and organizational development. This expertise later serves as a regional resource for West Africa.
- Both regional working groups and sectoral groups share their knowledge and experiences. The sectoral groups serve as resource centres for the West African Region in their specific area of knowledge.

Progress to date

The regional working groups were established to encourage cooperation, co-ordination and direction among the national societies in the three Sub-regions: Dakar (seven countries of Sahel region); Abidjan (five countries of Manor River Sub Region) and Lagos (five countries of Lagos Sub Region). All the three working groups met on 15-16 October in Dakar to:

- To review progress and constraints
- To review and revise the terms of reference to ensure common understanding;
- To discuss effective regional cooperation between national societies, the Federation, ICRC, partner national societies and other partners;
- The integration of Central Africa into the working group (The chairperson of the Central Africa committee was not able to attend the meeting).

At the end of the meeting, all working groups agreed that:

- Terms of reference should be revised because they do not reflect the reality in the field;
- horizontal relationships should be reinforced among national societies in the region, with knowledge sharing on best practices of income generating projects and success stories on management;
- with support from the Federation Secretariat, capacity building of national societies should be reinforced to enable them take leadership of their OD, Health and Resources programmes and discuss issues of partnership and cooperation with partner national societies (PNS) and other donors
- annual meetings of all working groups should be held to assess progress, weaknesses, constraints and give new guidelines for the following year;
- promote exchange of human resources available in all national societies of the region (OD, Health, RDRT/ERDAC, PPP²), with the technical support of delegates, to ensure capacity building on institutional, human, finance resources development
- to put in place a mechanism of communication between sectoral group members, to better exchange experiences and progress done,
- to put in place and share monthly information and communication between the national societies in the region, to promote and develop solidarity between the national societies of the region in times of disasters,
- Planning of next year meetings will be done after preparation of an annual calendar for the secretariat.

² PPP – Project planning process

Constraints:

There was lack of financial resources to organize working group meetings as planned.

Recommendations

- To facilitate better coordination of activities of the working groups, the regional offices should handle and coordinate the working groups of their region. They should be the budget holders of these working groups as from next year 2004.
- The sectoral groups supported by OD, DM and Health delegates and the regional working groups meeting to be held once an year remain under the coordination of the regional delegation,
- The Federation Secretariat should split the budget according to these figures next year.

1b. Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS)

- CAS enables the Movement's international cooperation efforts to maximize their collective impact.
- CAS enables partners to jointly plan and manage an effective flow of resources and ensure that their use is targeted and coordinated with non-Red Cross and Red Crescent partners.
- CAS offers national societies and other donors a clear framework with which to maximize the impact of their assistance without fear of overlap or conflicting interests, as well as present a solid rationale for intervention to donors and constituencies.
- CAS continues being implemented by eight national societies in 2003, the remaining national societies in 2004.

During the last management meeting held on 17-18 October working groups meeting, it was noted that:

- Few national societies in the region have strategic development plans.
- Few national societies have more than two multilateral partners,
- Most national societies and PNS prefer bilateralism.

This situation can be seen as the main reason for the low involvement of national societies in the CAS process, a situation that needs to be reviewed.

Impact

- National societies have become more focused as they put emphasis on areas they are strongest.
- The regional working groups have encouraged the development of local expertise as well as sharing of knowledge in the West and Central Africa region.
- The decentralization has been successful and has brought regional offices closer to the national societies.

Constraints:

Late budget approvals.

International representation

Goal: Service provided to beneficiaries is improved through more effective and efficient humanitarian planning and coordination in West and Central Africa.

Objective: The quantity and quality of International Federation participation in interagency coordination and planning is increased and an advocacy strategy based on a specific issue is agreed with the Humanitarian Advocacy Department applicable 2003-2004.

Expected Result

1. Federation participation in inter-agency coordination and planning is increased and a strategy shared with national societies and other partners.

- Identification of advocacy issues and agreement with humanitarian advocacy department are checked against national society needs (CAS); communication structures are put in place, a plan of action developed and implemented and results monitored.

- Full participation in all UN country assessment programmes in West and Central Africa in 2003, duplication of planning is minimized and CAS is gradually introduced as the Federation's tool in joint planning.
- Shares knowledge with the IASC and its working groups coordinating with ICRC.
- Gradually involve national societies in coordination and planning, including country assessment programmes, aiming towards increased involvement by end of 2003.

The Regional Delegation participated in meetings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the representative of the UN Secretary General in Côte d'Ivoire during which international organizations such as UN agencies, European Union, and various donors were introduced. The representative was asked to evaluate the political situation and activities in Côte d'Ivoire since the armed conflict started.

The Regional Delegation participated in working sessions with other state ministries and humanitarian agencies to create a national committee for the Coordination of Humanitarian assistance to Ivorian refugees and other displaced people. This project, which will be adopted in the Council of Ministers, aims at creating a framework for exchange and coordination of all humanitarian action in Côte d'Ivoire. It equally enables the actors to specify their roles and responsibilities. The Federation requested that the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire be a member of this committee while the Federation and ICRC remain observers.

In partnership with the FAO, the Federation assisted the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire to design a project and negotiate assistance on food distribution to rural areas affected by the crisis.

The head of Mano River regional office visited the French, Spanish, Dutch, Swiss, Iranian, German, and Japanese embassies in Abidjan to present the activities of the National Red Cross Societies. In addition, working sessions were held with UNAIDS and ICRC.

Constraints

Lack of funding and restructuring of the regional delegation slowed down activities.

Field Management

Goal: The Secretariat provides much needed efficient and effective service in the regions of West and Central Africa.

Objective: 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 .**

Expected Result

1. Regional offices and country delegations provide an optimal level of service to national societies in West and Central Africa. This is achieved through proper management of Federation resources, coordination and communication with the national societies.

- The Regional delegation has maintained constant contact with all the regional offices in West and Central Africa.
- Lagos regional office assisted **Nigerian Red Cross Society** in providing assistance to victims of ethnic conflict and fire disasters in Nigeria. The FACT³ prepared an Appeal for the population movement covering Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Ghana.

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

³ 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/>

The Regional Delegation has coordinated the PPP and RDRT training workshops to strengthen capacities of the 24 national societies of the region for better planning and disaster management. A total of 49 people from national societies and regional offices participated in three PPP workshops organized in Kribi (Cameroon), Accra (Ghana) and Lomé (Togo), respectively.

Constraints :

Late budget approval and disbursement of funds.

Recommendations

- All participants gained a lot from PPP training and recommended that it should be organized again in early 2004 to enable national societies, regional offices and Delegations apply it during the 2005 Appeal process.
- Training of trainers should take place to facilitate knowledge sharing in the region with regional trainers or facilitators available to reduce the financial costs for outside facilitators.
- The Regional Delegation should have a data base of all participants to facilitate information sharing and other issues.

Administration

Objective: Provide efficient administrative management in the region as well as efficient service to visitors and staff.

Administration department maintained the data base for the regional delegation, drafted contracts, handled all issues related to local staff, delegates and travel and insurance for the staff and visiting delegates. In addition, administration assisted preparation for the relocation of the regional delegation to Dakar. It also played a key role in preparing letters and work certificates for staff whose contracts were terminated and liaised with the concerned government agency to ensure compliance with government labor laws. The relocation was done smoothly.

Finance

Objective: Provide efficient financial management to the regional delegation and offices

In accordance with draft terms of reference, the Regional Finance Unit (RFU) consolidated its established position as a centre for communications in financial matters for the region. During this period, all accounts for delegations were processed and all Coda delegations reviewed. To enhance the quality of accounting and provide a solid base for efficient financial management, feedback on compliance with Federation finance and accounting procedures was given. RFU has been instrumental in the implementation of the Federation's new operational budget approval procedure, which has led to the approval of regional budgets for the year and better project financial management. RFU has taken on certain financial administration tasks, including verification of documents and the approval of cash transfers to delegations, which has improved efficiency.

Technical support missions to improve compliance and efficiency on Federation financial procedures and processes have been made to Lagos and Dakar Sub Regional offices and the Guinea (Conakry) delegation. RFU hosted the first West and Central Africa regional finance meeting from 7-11 April, 2003 with technical support from Geneva.

Training was in international financial procedures and processes, including the latest financial software. The meeting provided a good opportunity to enhance efficiency through shared experiences and ideas and the development of the regional finance team. A plan was also formulated for the implementation of the latest financial software within the region.

Information

Objective: Use information activities to enhance the credibility and image of the regional delegation and offices.

Regional Information joined the FACT team on a mission to Ghana during which issues ranging from population movement created by the Ivorian crisis to the Red Cross Mothers' Clubs were covered in three articles posted on the Federation website.

Designated as lead writer for the second edition of the Red Cross magazine published in June, regional information had a mission to several refugee camps and transit centres in Guinea to cover the population movement crisis arising from different conflicts in the sub-region. Apart from the articles written for the magazine, an article was also posted on the Federation's website.

Regional information issued a press release on the revised Appeal for population movement arising from the Ivorian crisis. Foreign media like Africa Numéro 1 and South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) called the delegation for interviews. To promote the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Regional information manned a stand during an open day organized by the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire to mark Red Cross day (8 May). This department compiled information of different activities of the national societies and sent them to Geneva for use in different Federation publications.

In addition, Regional Information facilitated the Federation's RDRT held in Accra, Ghana and wrote articles for the web and Federation news bulletin. To enhance the visibility of the Movement, regional information participated in the launching of the 42nd local committee of the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire in Jacqueville, 82 km west of Abidjan.

Impact

The visibility of the Movement has been enhanced through the activities of regional information.

Reporting

Objective: Support the Regional and country delegations in doing effective and timely reporting as well as in building the reporting capacities of national societies in the region.

During this reporting period, Regional Reporting edited all pledge-based and standard reports which were due from the West and Central Africa. In addition, Regional Reporting edited Operations Updates for the DMC population movement operation in several countries resulting from the Côte d'Ivoire Crisis, the cholera crisis in Central Africa Region and the floods in both West and Central Africa.

Regional Reporting prepared a cooperation agreement for training programme for the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire on standard Federation reporting, editing and public relations for the national society. This cooperation agreement will be used across the region to provide support in reporting to all the regional offices and national societies needing their capacity to be strengthened.

The second quarter has been characterized with the editing of series of Information Bulletins and Emergency Appeals from the Central Africa, Lagos and the Sahel regions. The regional reporting team was the focal point in editing and vetting all 28 Appeals for 2004 for West and Central Africa region. Within the framework of decentralizing reporting, regional reporting initiated proposals with regional offices on how to adequately provide reporting support to national societies during a management meeting in Dakar where reporting was discussed, among other issues.

Regional reporting facilitated a narrative reporting workshop in Kribi, (Cameroon) in November 2003 for the national societies in Central Africa region.

Impact

- The volume of reports across the region has been handled adequately despite limited number of staff.
- National societies are beginning to understand the need for responsible reporting leading to strong partnerships. Capacities in reporting have improved.
- The creation of the RRU (regional reporting unit) has provided an avenue for sharing ideas and support for reporting in the region.
- Some regional offices are beginning to appreciate the need to recruit reporting officers to enhance the quality of reporting and compliance in their regions.

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

Constraints

- Late approval of funds slowed down activities in 2003, which led to late submission of programme and operational updates from some national societies.
- With the addition of Central Africa to the Regional Delegation of West Africa, reporting workload has increased.
- Some regional offices needed extra coaching for the Appeal process which necessitated extra input for the understaffed reporting department.
- Reporting (including capacity building) is not a priority for some regional offices. This has led to lack of reporting staff, late submission of reports and excessive workload on regional reporting.
- There is lack of understanding on the role of regional reporting in some regional offices.
- The restructuring of the regional delegation leading to staff turnover created a big gap which left reporting department with a huge work load.

Information technology

Objective: Provide the Regional Delegation and regional offices with effective IT tools and support to ensure rapid and effective communication.

Regional telecom assisted the Regional Delegation and regional offices as follows:

- Daily technical assistance to all users of personal computers;
- Monitoring the high frequency communication systems with other regional offices;
- Provision of cc-mail addresses and local area network for Dakar Regional Delegation;
- Missions to regional offices in the region to provide telecom assistance.

Impact

Optimal telecom support is being provided to national societies in West and Central Africa.

Constraints

Lack of funding has disrupted the flow of IT support to the national societies.

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>](#)

Western Africa regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.45/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

17/12/2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				494,484		143.0%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				43,028		
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		13,333	USD	18,133	29.04.03	
DANISH - GOVT/RC				55,735	28.11.03	FEDNET TRAINING & REGIONAL NS WORKING GROUPS
DANISH - RC				48,234	28.11.03	
GERMAN - RC		2,500	EUR	3,806	03.06.03	
IRISH - GOVT				120,000	28.04.03	REG. RESPONSE TEAMS
SWEDISH - GOVT		2,425,000	SEK	418,313	23.10.03	REGIONAL COOPERATION, MANO RIVER, DM/RDRP, RANY-WA/HIV/ AIDS, GAMBIA OD
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				707,249	CHF	143.0%

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
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	