

# 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  
الإتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## BURUNDI

3 June 2004

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 181 countries.

For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 01.01/2004; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January to May 2004;**  
**Appeal coverage: 57.7%; Outstanding needs: CHF 191,813 (USD 151,750 or EUR 124,878).**  
[\(Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\).](#)

**Appeal target: CHF 453,754 (USD 340,784 or EUR 292,085)**

#### Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

**Programme Summary:** The impasse between the President of the [Burundi Red Cross](#) and the national society's task force still prevails, and has hampered implementation of most programme activities. There is an acting Secretary General following the resignation of the former secretary general. A special meeting about Burundi Red Cross was held during the Regional Partnership Meeting in Nairobi in June 2004; the national society was represented by the acting Secretary General. This was an opportunity to seek ways of resolving the impasse; a separate report on the meeting is available at the regional delegation.

The Federation Appeal for 2004 was based on the plan of action drawn last year. Delays in implementing the Task Force proposals hampered the regional delegation to spend the funds raised in 2002 and 2003. Consequently an operational budget revision was undertaken in May 2004 and the Appeal is fully covered with existing funds.

Special Note: the Nairobi Regional Delegation will integrate Burundi activities under the Eastern Africa sub-regional programmes office as from 1 July 2004.

#### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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- In Kenya: (Until 30 June 2004) Françoise Le Goff, Federation Head of Eastern Africa Regional Delegation, Nairobi, email [ifrcke03@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcke03@ifrc.org); Phone 254.20.283.50.00; Fax 254.20.271.84.15
- In Uganda: (From 1 July 2004) Anitta Underlin, Federation Head of East Africa sub-regional office, Kampala, Email [ifrcke42@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcke42@ifrc.org); Phone 256.31.26.32.48; Fax 256.41.25.81.84
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*This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents).*

## Burundi; Appeal no. 01.01/2004; Programme Update no. 1

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](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

### Operational developments

The period was characterised by a continuous implementation of the Peace Process following the Arusha Peace Agreement; more leaders of rebel groups have joined the accord despite ad hoc violent clashes. The deployment of an African Mission in Burundi (AMIB) has provided some minimal security; AMIB will be replaced by a United Nations peace keeping force before the presidential elections of November 2004. However, most of the provinces are still facing massive human rights violations, internal population displacements and refugee outflow which are increasing the vulnerabilities and the negative impact on socio-economic conditions in Burundi.

According to a preliminary report issued by OCHA on 10 May, the number of people in Burundi's camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) dropped by half from 281,000 in 2002 to 140,000 in 2004. The report reports the findings of a survey conducted by the Ministry for the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Displaced and Repatriated Persons in collaboration with the National Commission for the Rehabilitation of War-affected People in March and April 2004. The survey aimed at giving the humanitarian community up-to-date data on the IDPs situation, its demographic profile and the intent of the people to return, as well as to produce a comprehensive analysis on their needs within the framework of either settling them at their present sites or returning them to their places of origin. The survey did not include the people temporarily displaced by internal conflicts, especially in Bujumbura Rural Province, and the IDPs living with host families. However, OCHA has stressed that it is essential to take these two groups into consideration when any national response strategy is mapped out; further qualitative analysis will continue in the coming months.

The return of refugees from neighbouring countries is steadily improving; as of 16 May 2004, UNHCR facilitated 38,468 persons to return to Burundi while 2,320 spontaneously returned, making a total of 40,788 returnees. The estimated total refugee population in Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda is around 374,000. A further 200,000 refugees who left Burundi in the 1970s are still in Tanzania.

### Health and Care

There is no Health and Care Programme under this appeal until the new national society structure is fully implemented.

### Disaster Management

**Goal: To build capacity for Burundi Red Cross to respond effectively to the needs of the vulnerable and the populations affected by the current armed conflict and its consequences.**

**Objective: To define and implement a national policy for disaster management, and to develop an intervention plan for Burundi Red Cross that will be included in the government plan. Train, equip, and supervise the intervention teams to prepare them to respond effectively to emergency situations.**

#### Progress

No further action was initiated by the Federation to develop and implement the Burundi Red Cross intervention plan, the training and the equipment of five brigades of 20 volunteers each, and the establishment of effective partnerships in disaster management and protection of civilian population.

#### Impact

The Burundi Red Cross has no capacity to respond to the needs of the vulnerable population affected by the post conflict situation and the risks from natural disasters.

#### Constraints

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There are insufficient structures in place to address this objective in its full scale. The focus remains on organizational development and the restructuring process within the Burundi Red Cross at all levels leading towards the General Assembly.

### **Humanitarian Values**

**Goal: Burundi Red Cross has the capacity to effectively disseminate the humanitarian values among the population, the community leaders and the local authorities.**

**Objective: Burundi Red Cross information and communication unit produces reliable information and disseminates actively the fundamental principles and humanitarian values; it creates public awareness and knowledge of the Movement, the International Humanitarian Law, and of the activities of the Burundi Red Cross in the country through a reliable communication system.**

#### **Progress**

Little has been implemented so far because of the lack of a qualified communications officer at the headquarters. Some of the activities that were anticipated to be completed are; development of a Communications Policy, the procurement of communications material and equipment for the office, the development of information/dissemination campaigns (for sensitizing the general public on the Movement, the basic principles and humanitarian values, the International Humanitarian Law, the emblem and the activities of Burundi Red Cross in view of achieving better visibility, protection of the emblem, and safeguarding the integrity of the national society). However, these activities have fallen behind schedule.

However, the Burundi Red Cross acting Secretary General took the initiative to mark the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day with a public information campaign. Red Cross volunteers in Bujumbura city and their municipal services colleagues cleaned the "Avenue de la Croix-Rouge", which was blocked by refuse. In primary schools, 100 selected children were given first aid training to treat accidents within the school. With support from the national media, a programme was produced on the activities of the health centres and on assistance to street children. The Burundi Red Cross president concluded the day with a press conference highlighting the role of the national society to assist persons living with HIV/AIDS.

#### **Impact**

The capacity of the national society to increase its visibility in the country has not been fully utilized because of limited activities. However, the recent initiative of the acting Secretary General to increase these activities is positive and has to be noted.

#### **Constraints**

The capacity of the national society to implement this objective is limited due to inadequate structures. The focus of the Federation remains on organizational development and the restructuring process within the Burundi Red Cross at all levels leading towards the General Assembly if the Federation and the Burundi Red Cross can agree on a plan of action as soon as is possible.

### **Organizational Development**

**Goal: Burundi Red Cross is a well-functioning national society that renders efficient service to the community according to the basic principles and humanitarian values of the Movement, and formulates and implements good quality programmes that respond to the needs of vulnerable people at branch level.**

**Objective: Burundi Red Cross institutes an effective decentralization through the establishment of operational structures at branch and headquarters levels; and separates governance and management by strengthening the capacity and involvement of members of the national committee to deal with major problems related to governance; by having the management to take responsibility of the day to day affairs, to establish policies (especially a volunteers management policy), procedures and systems with a view to realizing efficient coordination of the national society's activities at all the levels; and to allocate adequate resources for programme.**

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### **Progress**

None of the activities under this programme have been implemented so far. Activities under this programme include the recruitment and training of new technical heads at the national headquarters; the restructuring of existing branches in eleven provinces and the creation of six new ones; the training in capacity building of new branch leaders and volunteers; the formulation of branch activities and a resources mobilization plan; the development of a mid and long-term strategic plan for the national society to be adopted at the next general assembly, to serve as a basis for the elaboration of a Cooperation Agreement Strategy; the organization of the first General Assembly; the establishment of an active national committee that supports and collaborates with management for the advancement of the national society; the development of appropriate information systems to support efficient communication between the national committee, the headquarters and branches; the increase of membership of Burundi Red Cross and the establishment of a database; the adoption and the dissemination of a policy on volunteerism; and finally the preparation of clear documents on policy and implementation of procedures and systems in view of achieving good management, coordination and planning of activities of members and volunteers.

The impasse between the President of the national society and the Burundi Task force is delaying the capacity of the national society to restructure its base from branch to headquarters levels and to undertake any major humanitarian programmes in the country. The plan of action agreed with the Task Force in April 2003 and revised in early 2004 is still valid, only the timetable needs to be adjusted.

### **Constraints**

The organizational development programme is directly linked to the commitment of the President of Burundi Red Cross to hold a general assembly in 2004. It has been announced several times and has been confirmed, given that it will be held before end of August 2004. No major external support to the other activities of this programme is likely to happen until the realization of this objective and its outcomes. The process leading to a transparent and democratic general assembly is clearly planned and is feasible if there is no political interference.

## **Coordination, Cooperation, and Strategic partnerships**

**Goal: The Federation coordination role is accepted and respected by all partners in Burundi in view of enhancing good cooperation and successful partnerships**

**Objective: Through constant dialogue, good coordination is achieved with the various partners with a view to building the capacity of the Burundi Red Cross.**

### **Progress**

The Burundi Task Force had a meeting with all members of the Network of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies for Eastern Africa (RC-NET) and the monitoring cell of the Task Force on 11 February 2004 in Nairobi, at which a set of four recommendations paving the future relationships between the parties were adopted after long debates. Notwithstanding the mutual agreement, Burundi Red Cross did not comply with these recommendations and instead denounced the role and support of the Task Force in a letter to the President of the Federation. It also announced that the Burundi Red Cross will pursue the organization of the General Assembly by 31 August on its own. The Secretary General of Burundi Red Cross resigned in April and the national treasurer is now acting as Secretary General. He will attend the Regional Partnership meeting in June and will have the opportunity to share the national society's position with all Movement partners.

The other activities of this programme have not been implemented as well. They include strengthening of good collaboration and working relations with all external partners (through an effective mechanism of consultation with a view to achieving a Cooperation Agreement Strategy by 2005) and the signature of a memorandum of understanding with a service agreement between the Burundi Red Cross and the Federation until the finalization of the Cooperation Agreement Strategy.

However, the coordination between the Federation, ICRC and representatives of the bilateral partner national societies is continuing on a limited scale but it will be no problem to revitalize them as soon as programme implementation starts. In particular, the relationship with the ICRC is very cordial, the dialogue is open and

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professional and the joint strategy is respected. The Federation regional delegation continues to include information on Burundi in the biweekly regional information bulletins.

The Federation Appeal for 2004 was based on the plan of action drawn last year. Delays in implementing the Task Force proposals have not allowed the regional delegation to spend the funds raised in 2002 and 2003. Consequently, a budget revision was undertaken in May 2004 and the Appeal is fully covered with this existing funds.

### **Constraints**

It is unfortunate that all attempts of negotiations with the Burundi Red Cross since 2003 have failed. The restructuring process started two years ago and so far no tangible results have been registered. There is no trust and confidence between the national society and the Federation; the President of the national society is not willing to conduct the change process which will need serious dialogue with the acting Secretary General. The situation in Burundi will also depend on the decision of the Federation governance to address the integrity issue of the leadership.

## **Effective Representation and Advocacy**

**Goal: The Federation has a high profile as a key humanitarian actor and advocate in the region with the added advantage of a network of national societies able to deliver services at community level.**

**Objective: The Federation is an effective and reliable partner in support of the Burundi Red Cross and in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable.**

### **Progress**

It is rather difficult for the Federation to represent the Burundi Red Cross since there are no concrete activities in the field. However, the regional delegation continues to attend all United Nations meetings related to Burundi, especially the Great Lakes Contingency Plan organized by UN-OCHA. The image of the national society is not very popular and it is not considered as a reliable organization. External partners, the government and United Nations agencies are aware of the internal situation between the national society and the Movement and are awaiting the results of ongoing negotiations.

Consequently, no support has been provided directly to the national society to implement the objectives under this programme which involve; maintaining advocacy and sensitization with external partners, the government, United Nations agencies, donors and humanitarian NGOs, supporting Burundi Red Cross in advocacy resulting in a positive image of the national society and providing support to the national society's advocacy activities at the local level

### **Impact**

No impact has been registered under this objective.

### **Constraints**

The image of the national society and lack of Movement support jeopardizes any attempt to change the current situation in Burundi.

## **Delegation Management**

**Goal: The Federation structure is streamlined to effectively support the implementation of the foregoing objectives**

**Objective: To maintain an efficient, flexible and service oriented infrastructure coordinated with all partners.**

### **Progress**

The head of regional delegation has continued to be the acting head of delegation for Burundi since February 2003. While activities are non-existent within the national society, there were some outstanding issues to follow up after the phasing out of the delegation. This includes the close up of all financial issues; maintenance of a very small office room in an ICRC rented house, a vehicle and a bank account. Some old legal cases with former employees are still in court for which the regional delegation is dealing directly with the lawyer.

However, as part of the Federation [Strategy 2010](#) and implementation plan of the decentralization of responsibilities to the field, the plan for Burundi was to integrate the national society in due time within the scope of the Office of the East Africa sub-region, which is based in Kampala and already covers Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. Due to the end of mission of the current head of regional delegation soon, it has been agreed that direct monitoring of the Burundi Red Cross support will start from July 2004 after an effective and smooth hand-over procedure to the Head of the East Africa sub-region. Nevertheless, this will be an administrative support to the Federation liabilities in the country until a detailed agreement is reached with the national society's leadership through a Memorandum of Understanding on the role of the Federation support (and presence) to the Burundi Red Cross and on clear mutual expectations. The negotiations will start in June at the Regional Partnership meeting in Nairobi.

The statement of the Burundi Red Cross President to the Federation President has stopped the relationship with the Task Force and incapacitated other new options of negotiation. The Task Force still exists until its members decide otherwise; the decision will depend on their availability to meet for discussion on the way forward, which eventually will end with its dissolution; the dissolution was planned after the effective management of the restructuring process.

### **Impact**

The Federation regional delegation has maintained contact with the Burundi Red Cross and has the potential to be rapidly operational if need be. The structure exists in the region to cope with such a situation.

### **Constraints**

The Federation support to the Burundi Red Cross is linked to the leadership's willingness to move forward with the restructuring process, to follow international standards and the characteristics of a well-functioning society. The uplift of funding support is conditioned by the issuance of a clear plan of action and a budget after the political crisis is resolved. Donors who supported the transition process will be consulted on the way forward.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

APPEAL No. 01.01/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

23/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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## CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>453,755</b>		<b>57.7%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				225,942		
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				36,000	29.01.04	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				261,942	CHF	57.7%

## KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
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	