

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

BURUNDI

8 December 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

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.01/2004; Programme Update no. 2; Period covered: June to November 2004;

Appeal coverage: 57.7%; Outstanding needs: None. (The 2004 Annual Appeal for Burundi was based on the plan of action drawn in 2003. An operational budget revision was done in May 2004; this Appeal is therefore fully covered with existing funds). [Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

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

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Although Burundi did not launch a 2005 Annual Appeal, it is anticipated that the 2005 Annual Appeal for East Africa sub-regional programmes no. 05AA004 will be amended during 2005 to include activities for Burundi – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA004.pdf

Programme summary: Following the termination of the mandate of the RC-Net Task Force for Burundi in June 2004, and as a follow up to the Burundi meeting held during the Regional Partnership meeting in Nairobi in June 2004, and meetings during the 6th Pan-African Conference in Algiers, the Federation's Regional Delegation in Nairobi and the ICRC met with the [Burundi Red Cross](#)¹ leadership in Bujumbura in October. The outcome of the meeting was an initial agreement for a six months support to the national society's preparations for its first ordinary General Assembly scheduled for April 2005. To this effect, a Federation Organizational Development delegate is being recruited to assist Burundi Red Cross with the country-wide restructuring and the processes leading to the General Assembly.

Meanwhile, the National Committee of the Burundi Red Cross confirmed Mr. Anselme Katiyunguruza to the position of Secretary General in November 2004.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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).

¹ Burundi Red Cross – refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=39>

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

Implementation of the peace process following the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Accord signed in August 2000 continues, giving hope for the future in Burundi. There is a general desire to support a peaceful democratic process to bring the country out of the spiral of violence. With few exceptions, all opposition parties and groups have joined the accord. The United Nations has deployed a peace keeping force (ONUB), mostly from African countries, and whose mandate includes disarming and disbanding militias as well as promoting the rule of law.

The peace process has however not gone without some problems. In August 2004, the Gatumba refugee camp was attacked and 152 Congolese Banyamulenge refugees massacred; it is widely believed that the attack was designed to disrupt the peace processes in Burundi and in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Then, at the critical stage of the political process in October, the Burundi government postponed the national elections and extended the country's transitional period for six months. The uncertain political situation that ensued prompted hundreds of Burundians in the northern province of Kirundo to flee into neighbouring Rwanda over fears of the emergence of violence reminiscent of the 1994 massacres.

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 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

The Federation did not initiate action to implement activities under this objective. These activities include 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 does not have sufficient capacity to respond to the needs of the vulnerable population. However, the national society was able to provide assistance to an estimated 25,000 - 31,000 refugees who fled into Burundi in June 2004 following heavy fighting between government forces and rebels over the control of the eastern border town of Bukavu. Burundi Red Cross was on site to disinfect three refugee sites (Karurama, Rugombo and Gatumba) and the town of Cibitoke, and to conduct health and sanitation education as well as water monitoring and quality control.

Constraints

There are insufficient structures 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.

Achievements

The national society marked the World Red Cross Day with a public information campaign that mobilized both Red Cross volunteers and the media to highlight the national society's activities in First Aid, health and HIV/AIDS.

Within the framework of the October 2004 agreement between the Burundi Red Cross, the ICRC and the Federation, the national society has initiated a nationwide Red Cross sensitization and media campaign in all provinces as part of the preparations towards holding a General Assembly. Burundi Red Cross has also composed a Red Cross song that is being broadcast on five different radio stations in Burundi. The song defines what the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement mission is, and invites people, particularly the youth, to register as volunteers and members so as to contribute to helping vulnerable people in Burundi.

Other media campaign activities include TV spots/features aired on the World Aids Day, broadcasts on the national radio about new branches being set up in four districts, and about the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Different news articles have also featured Burundi Red Cross activities, particularly the national society's commitment to fighting AIDS, and the process towards holding a General Assembly.

The Burundi Red Cross also undertakes tracing and reunification of street-children with their families. To date, 13 of 30 street children from the Ngozi transit center and 3 of 24 children from Bujumbura transit center have been reunited with their families. The national society also aims to review its own policy for orphans and vulnerable children.

Impact

The Burundi Red Cross has taken important steps in promoting Red Cross humanitarian values in the country. It will however take some more time before the impact can be realistically assessed and presented to the General Assembly in April 2005.

Constraints

The capacity of the national society to implement activities has been limited due to inadequate structures. The dedicated support agreed on by the ICRC and the Federation to assist in the country-wide preparations leading up to the General Assembly is meant to compensate temporarily for this inadequacy.

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.

Progress

The national society's leadership initiated side meetings on governance and management during the Nairobi Regional Partnership meeting in June 2004 and at the 6th Pan African Conference in Algiers. It was agreed with the national society's then Acting Secretary General that the Head of the Nairobi Regional Delegation and the Regional Programme Coordinator together with the ICRC would meet and discuss with the senior leadership of the Burundi Red Cross on how the Movement could best support the national society within the framework of the recommendations and the plan developed by the Burundi Task Force. The agreement from the meeting held in October 2004 has led to an organizational development approach focussing on support for the preparations of the national society's General Assembly in April 2005.

In addition to the sensitization and media campaigns described under Humanitarian Values above, the Federation's initial support is clearly organizational development oriented and concentrated on:-

1. The successful national recruitment and support of a Burundi Red Cross Branch Development Coordinator to assist the Secretary General in conducting provincial meetings to establish branch structures; and
2. The international recruitment of a Federation Organizational Development delegate to assist Burundi Red Cross in developing its local branches country-wide and in other preparations for the General Assembly.

Both positions run for an initial six months and could be reviewed subject to consultation with the national society.

The national society has also placed extra emphasis on strengthening its youth sections. As a first step, a meeting for all branches held on 13 November in Bujumbura recommended the creation of youth sections in three transit centers for street children managed by Burundi Red Cross in Gitega, Bujumbura and Ngozi districts as a possible base for volunteers for the national society.

Impact

The aim of the new agreement between the three Movement partners in Burundi is the successful holding of the first ordinary General Assembly of the Burundi Red Cross in April 2005. So far the agreement has enabled the national society to strengthen its capacity to support further developments at headquarters and local branches, and to continue the preparations for the General Assembly.

Constraints

The decision of the Burundi government to postpone the electoral process in the country means that the national electoral process will run parallel with the preparations of the Burundi Red Cross to strengthen existing branches, build a new governance system and organize the General Assembly. In view of these challenges, the Burundi Red Cross will have to be extra vigilant in order to avoid confusion between the two processes.

Coordination and Implementation

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 end of the mandate of the Burundi Task Force led the Federation to reflect on its strategy to support the change process of the Burundi Red Cross. The approach suggested by the Federation and the ICRC over six months focussed on financial support and technical assistance to strengthen the national society's central and local organisation and to assist in preparing for the General Assembly. Implementation started in early November 2004 and positive feedback and cooperation has been received from the national society's leadership.

The Board of the national society confirmed the acting Burundi Red Cross Secretary General to the position in November 2004, which is considered a very positive development. The Federation remains committed in providing support to Burundi Red Cross and is ready to embrace such positive changes.

Impact

The disruption of the work of the Burundi Task Force and its dissolution makes it nearly impossible to measure the impact of activities during 2004, particularly since the Task Force's main recommendations in February were not implemented.

It is probable that the many official meetings and close personal contacts between the Task Force members and the Burundi Red Cross have contributed to a better mutual understanding of needs, perceptions and requirements of the national society in the light of the country's very special situation and history on the one hand, and the Burundi population's need of a nationwide Red Cross organisation capable of representing and effectively reaching the most vulnerable with appropriate assistance.

Constraints

The implementation and the outcome of the political and electoral process in Burundi will represent additional challenges for the national society's leadership in its drive to achieve focussed public attention on the Movement's humanitarian values, its membership and volunteer recruitment drive, efforts to strengthen existing local branches, and the creation of new committees.

The Federation's Regional Delegation in Nairobi plans to include Burundi under the East-Africa sub regional office, currently based in Kampala and covering Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. This will be undertaken in close consultation with the national society,

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

APPEAL No. 01.01/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

17/01/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				453,755		57.7%
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	