

# 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

## THE GAMBIA

3 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](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 01.34/2004; Programme Update no. 2; Period covered: May to November 2004; Appeal coverage: 30.6%; Outstanding needs: CHF 394,650 (USD 328,700 or EUR 258,000).**  
[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

**Appeal target: CHF 568,741 (USD 427,142 or EUR 366,102)**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: The Gambia 2005 Annual Appeal no. 05AA028 –**  
[http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA028.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA028.pdf)

**Programme summary:** The Gambia Red Cross Society<sup>1</sup> is likely to have experienced two very constructive quarters with the finalization of its Strategic Plan and the development of resultant projects based on the Project Planning Process (PPP). In addition, the national society has carried out its General Assembly, successfully organized its Youth Bantaba camp and launched its food-security project. The future challenge will be to capitalize on 2004 achievements to reinforce the existing partnerships and develop new ones.

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

- *In Gambia: Lamin William Jammeh, Secretary General, Gambia Red Cross Society, Banjul; Email [redcrossgam@yahoo.com](mailto:redcrossgam@yahoo.com); Phone 220.437.35.68, Mobile 220.990.040; Fax 220.776.22.33,*
- *In Senegal: Andrea Wojnar-Diagne, Federation Head of Sahel Sub-Regional Office, Dakar; Email [ifrcsn03@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcsn03@ifrc.org) ; Phone 221.842.23.41; Fax 221.842.23.39.*
- *In Geneva: Christophe GrosPierre, Acting Federation Regional Officer for West and Central Africa, Africa Dept; Email [christophe.grosPierre@ifrc.org](mailto:christophe.grosPierre@ifrc.org); Phone 41.22.730.43.13; Fax 41.22.733.03.95.*

*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).*

*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>*

<sup>1</sup> Gambia Red Cross Society – <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=70>

## **Operational developments**

Following the organization of its local-level assemblies, the Gambia Red Cross held its General Assembly on 25-26 September in Banjul leading to some changes: the chairperson of the Human Resources Committee was nominated as vice-president, and the president and the treasurer were re-elected.

Reports showed that the annual 10-day International Youth Camp, "Bantaba", held in Basse Upper River Division 27 August-5 September 2004, was extremely well attended and organized. With Federation support, the national society's Executive Secretary conducted a volunteer management training session. Similarly, the Regional DM Coordinator made a presentation on the main elements of the Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) and conducted a simulation exercise on floods.

The Gambia Red Cross presented the status of its restructuring process and its needs to become a well-functioning national society at a meeting held in Accra, Ghana, on 4 March 2004. Following that meeting, a conference call was held on 22 June to review progress made as well as the needs for further support. It also served as a platform to appraise the Gambia Red Cross forecast for the rest of 2004

In July 2004, Regional Development and Health officers visited the Gambia and agreed with the national society to conduct general strategic and specific project-planning workshops in October. The documents were further refined and complemented by the development of specific project proposals and budgets.

The Gambia is among countries scheduled for polio/measles national vaccination days in the last quarter of this year. Given its very successful and lauded performance in last December's measles vaccination campaign, the Gambia Red Cross is expecting to actively participate in this programme. Within the health department, the national society recruited a health manager to complete its restructuring process.

Finance development has made notable progress since the recruitment of a new finance manager: the 2003 accounts have been audited, financial procedures manual finalized and analysis conducted for the computerization of accounts. The Regional finance officer scheduled a mission in December to continue the review of standard financial budgeting and reporting procedures, the Gambia Red Cross progress in financial reporting, areas for improvement and the best way to integrate the Federation and the national society financial systems.

## **Health and care**

**Goal: The rate of HIV/AIDS in the Gambia is reduced.**

**Objective 1: Central River Division: A HIV/AIDS social mobilization campaign has been carried out among selected target groups.**

**Objective 2: Upper River Division: An intensive awareness campaign on the truth about AIDS has been carried out among adolescents and youth (13-35 years).**

### **Progress/Achievements**

- Following its strategic planning workshop, the national society held a PPP workshop in October 2004 with the Federation's technical and financial support. Two priority problems were identified: high infant mortality and high population vulnerability related to HIV/AIDS. Thus three projects were developed: Integrated Child Health, Malaria and HIV/AIDS. The national society developed matrices of projects with budgets, which can be submitted to the various partners for funding.
- The Gambia Red Cross recruited a health coordinator specializing in public health that will certainly enhance management of the health projects.
- National Immunization Day's Campaign of Polio Vaccinations was organized from 8-12 October 2004 and from 18-22 November 2004. In the preliminary phase, the Gambian Red Cross took an active role in the Ministry of Health's National Commission of Social Mobilization. Four hundred volunteers were mobilized to do activities in Social Mobilization, contributing on the reduction of mortality due to vaccine diseases.

## **The Gambia; Appeal no. 01.34/2004; Programme Update no. 2**

### **Constraints**

- The activities related to sensitizing about HIV/AIDS could not be implemented due to lack of funding.
- Unfortunately, the transfer of funds to support the vaccination campaigns could not be organized in time; such an uncomfortable situation affected the national society and the Regional Office in their efforts to complete all of their activities.

### **Disaster Management**

**Goal: Gambian households have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food.**

**Objective: Five thousand school children (grades 4-6) understand, practice and benefit from adequate food to meet their dietary needs.**

### **Progress/Achievements**

- A good relationship and coordination mechanism is established between the Department of State for Education, Department of State for Agriculture and the Gambia Red Cross to implement the Food-Security project among thirty-six Lower Basic Schools in North Bank Division.
- Students demonstrate their full understanding of the relationship between nutritious food and personal health.
- Students maintain their own gardens in schools while others maintained mini-gardens at home.
- Parents are sensitized on the importance of having Muringa gardens at home. This encouraged some in assisting their children to maintain mini-gardens at home.
- The target audience, having established nursery gardens for Muringa trees, is actively promoting the use of Muringa leaves in the community.
- Volunteers demonstrate good capacity to implement food-security projects in the Red Cross branches.

### **Impact/Constraints**

- The late disbursement of funds delayed the implementation process.
- Human resource and organizational constraints resulted in inability to launch the food-security project during the reporting period. These include low staffing levels, strategic planning process and the Basse storms emergency.
- A revised plan of action and budget matching available funds are now under implementation.
- The lack of a Disaster Preparedness/Management Officer had imposed a rather heavy workload on the Regional Office staff. There is a need to recruit a Disaster Preparedness/Management Officer with a focus on food-security programmes.

### **Organizational Development**

**Goal: The Gambia Red Cross is a well-functioning national society capable of alleviating human suffering and delivering development services effectively and efficiently.**

**Objective: The national society has strengthened its governing, managerial and financial capacities at the national society headquarters and at branch and link levels.**

### **Expected Results:**

**The Gambia Red Cross has restructured and improved its organization and capacities at headquarters and branch level.**

- **Human resource policy and management are enhanced and administration procedures introduced at the national society headquarters.**  
After the dissolution of the former management team, the national society with ICRC support, proceeded to recruit a new Secretary General, programme coordinator, financial manager, administration officer and a Communications/Dissemination Officer. A Disaster Management Officer was also recruited in October. A health coordinator has been hired to enhance the national society's capacities. This coordinator facilitated the finalization of the planning process, by October.

## **The Gambia; Appeal no. 01.34/2004; Programme Update no. 2**

- **The national society has adopted policies and strategies in all core areas of intervention.**  
The national society, with Federation support, has completed its planning process with a Strategic Plan for 2005-2010. Project planning matrices are also available in Health, Disaster Preparedness with Food Security aspect, Conflict Preparedness and Organizational Development.
- **The Gambia Red Cross is decentralized, having strong branches with the capacity to carry out the Mission of the national society.**  
This question will be addressed within the Organizational Development programme which includes communication/dissemination activities in the 2005 branch development with a joint ICRC support. Branch development will be incorporated in every future project as institutional support.
- **A nation-wide membership drive is promoted.**  
This issue will also be addressed within future organizational development programmes with a focus on the membership management system as a means to develop financial resources.

### **Financial management systems and procedures are improved, and revenues from resource development activities are increased and diversified.**

- **Installation of new accounting and budgeting software and development of a procedural manual.**  
The Deloitte Touche external audit carried out last year, covering the 2000-2002 financial years, revealed various irregularities highlighted in their management letter. The letter recommends amongst other things, the introduction of a Finance Procedures Manual covering areas such as: segregation of duties and functions within the Finance Department, formalization of delegation of authority and responsibility, authorization of expenditure, and Fixed Assets Register maintenance. Thus, a manual has been set up and endorsed by the Board during the Gambia Red Cross General Assembly organized on 25-26 September. Meanwhile Deloitte Touche carried out a new audit on the 2003 accounts. The issues raised include the internal control and accounting procedures. Progress has been made since the national society took proactive measures on the recommended implementations in both areas.  
The Gambia Red Cross selected the Deloitte Touche proposal to design and implement Access Accounts Horizons software package, a financial management system aimed at furthering the Gambia Red Cross objectives to prepare/maintain proper accounts and timely financial statements/annual accounts to donors. A preliminary diagnostic phase involves an in-depth review of the national society's financial environment. Subsequent design, development and implementation stages will include: software installation on three designated workstations, Accounts Chart design, data file establishment on the server and software training of five staff members.
- **Competent, motivated and well-trained staff runs the national society**  
The Finance Development programme supports all personnel finance salaries for 2004 and part of 2005 as well as training courses, particularly for the accounts clerks. Reflections within the national society to consider how to secure future funding for these positions have commenced and will certainly be a challenge next year. In addition, the finance staffs have improved their working conditions. Improved tools facilitate their daily tasks: the computer hardware has been upgraded with additional office equipment; the offices have been totally refurnished.
- **Adequate financial resources allow the national society to cover its core costs at headquarters and branch levels.**  
The 2005-2010 Strategic Plan will expedite developing partnerships and better cover core costs.
- **Resource development committee meetings produce an operational resource development plan.**  
This action was pending the development of a Strategic Plan and should know significant steps next year.

### **Impact**

- Strengthened management capacity through new human resource recruitment.
- Developed Strategic Plan for 2005-2010.
- Developed project planning matrices which can be shared with partners.
- Developed Finance Procedures manual based on the 2000-2002 audit's management letter.
- Upgraded internal control and accounting procedures in line with the 2003 management accounts report.

[Contributions List below; Click here to return to the title page.](#)

APPEAL No. 01.34/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

01/12/2004

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

## CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				568,741		30.6%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				38,731		
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				50,000	29.01.04	FOOD SECURITY
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				18,000	29.01.04	TECHNICAL ADVISOR
BRITISH - RC		10,000	GBP	22,860	01.11.04	FINANCE DEVELOPMENT
ICELANDIC - RC				32,500	07.10.04	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE
IRISH - GOVT		7,787	EUR	12,000	21.06.04	FINANCE DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				174,091	CHF	30.6%

## 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	