

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

CAMEROON

23 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

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.40/2004; Programme Update no.1; Period covered: January to March 2004;
Appeal coverage: 36.8%; Outstanding needs: CHF 264,893 (USD 209,567 or EUR 172,456).
[\(Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\).](#)

Appeal target: CHF 418,917 (USD 314.620 or EUR 269.660)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Central Africa sub-regional programmes Appeal no. 01.48/2004](#)

Programme summary: The [Cameroon Red Cross Society](#) has been able to bring in a substantial contribution to the improvement of the living conditions of communities by carrying out activities related to community-based health and HIV/AIDS control, despite the limited means at its disposal. The construction of latrines and the rehabilitation of water points are some of the activities that contributed to strengthening the image of the Cameroon Red Cross as an auxiliary of the government.

Through the HIV/AIDS control project on commercial sex workers, the national society has contributed enormously to raising people's awareness on the problem of these vulnerable people who always have the feeling that they are rejected by the community. Through this project, the Red Cross has initiated the process of restoring the rights and dignity of commercial sex workers and to ensure their protection (health).

As far as disaster management is concerned, the Cameroon Red Cross established a fruitful partnership with the Department of Civil Protection (DPC) of the Cameroon Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MINATD). The national society also responded quickly and efficiently to disasters during the reporting period.

The national society organized an Extraordinary General Assembly during which the new members of the Central Committee were elected. These members were subsequently trained in good governance. The national society recruited a Programme Coordinator with the support of the Central Africa sub-regional office, and is now aiming at achieving the characteristics of a well-functioning national society.

The Cameroon Red Cross received support from the French Red Cross (equipment for the health center) and the Swedish Red Cross (support for the execution of the project on AIDS control for the benefit of youths, especially for the organization of educative talks and theatre shows).

Cameroon; Appeal no. 01.40/2004; Programme Update no. 1

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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).

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 Development

There is a social deficit in Cameroon characterized by the degradation of the populations' health and a higher HIV/AIDS prevalence which escalated in 2001 when the construction of the Chad - Cameroon pipeline began. Commercial sex workers from neighboring countries invaded the construction site engaging in prostitution as a means of livelihood.

The Cameroon Red Cross has intensified efforts to resolve this problem through a variety of programmes.

Health and Care

Cameroon is one of the sub-Saharan countries with the most alarming health statistics. In conformity with the [ARCHI 2010](#) initiative, the national society, in close collaboration with the Cameroon Ministry of Public Health, and other partners, engaged in health activities as stated in its development plan.

Supporting Community-Based Health

Goal: Reduce the Cameroon populations' vulnerability to diseases.

Objective: Encourage the populations in the targeted communities to adopt low risk behaviours and increase the use of the Cameroon Red Cross' quality health services.

Construction of Latrines

The Cameroon Red Cross has been fully involved in sanitation activities during this term, as it launched the construction of latrines in popular quarters of Yaounde. These activities were supported financially by the Federation sub-regional office for Central Africa.

A latrine has already been constructed at the West Province bus station in Yaounde, on a site provided by the local populations.

Rehabilitation / Maintenance of Five Water Sources

During the reporting period, the national society was involved in rehabilitating and maintaining five water sources in the Messa neighborhood, Yaoundé, which previously did not have a source of portable water.

The national society has ensured the maintenance of five water sources in the Nyom locality. This activity was carried out by six volunteers who cleaned the surroundings of the sources and chlorinated the water.

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HIV/AIDS Control

Goal: Reduce the spreading of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis among high risk populations.

Objective: Enlighten the populations in the targeted communities on adopting low risk sexual behaviours and increasing the use of prevention, screening and treatment services.

HIV/AIDS Control: The Project on Sex Workers

To strengthen partnership between the Cameroon Red Cross and the Association of Cameroonian Employers, generally known by its French acronym "GICAM" (Groupement Inter Patronal du Cameroon), the national society's HIV/AIDS control officer, the sub-regional office's assistant to the health delegate and the coordinator of the programme on commercial sex workers went to Douala on a three-day mission to meet GICAM authorities with an aim to strengthen the national society's involvement in the fight against HIV/AIDS at the work places.

The national society, with support from the sub-regional office, retrained peer educators in communication to encourage change in behavior. The national society used the occasion to review the content of educative talks and elaborate a manual on this activity.

A new theatre group known as "Les Combattants de l'Humanitaire" (Humanitarian Warriors) was set up in January 2004 in Douala. This young group is made up of about 15 volunteers and has been staging plays in schools and enterprises since its creation. The Humanitarian Warriors have already performed about ten plays on the theme "Youth, for a better Future". They also performed plays in private companies like AES-SONEL and GUINNESS, both employers of a large workforce. Through these performances, the Cameroon Red Cross strengthened its image as a humanitarian organization.

Sensitizing through educative talks

The Cameroon Red Cross volunteers, in collaboration with members of the Club des Amis de la Prudence (CLAP), carried out awareness campaigns on HIV/AIDS through a series of 13 educative talks in March in all areas known for prostitution in Cameroon. The national society succeeded in raising awareness among 450 sex workers during this term and is targeting 1,000 more for the next quarter.

The awareness campaign was carried out with support from the regional logistic office in line with the execution of the sex workers programme. Prior to the replication of that project in other towns of Cameroon, contacts had been made to establish a network of sex worker's peer educators in Douala. To this effect, two training sessions involving about 50 volunteer First-Aid workers have been organized at the national society's headquarters. The first training session was held from 26 to 27 March 2004 for the first group. The second group was trained from 1 to 2 April 2004.

Sensitizing people to HIV/AIDS in hair-dressing saloons and barber shops

This activity was scheduled in three phases. The first phase 13 to 16 January 2004, involved the training of 12 volunteer First-Aid workers in STIs/HIV/AIDS peer education. The second phase which lasted two months February and March was aimed at sensitizing people in 24 hair-dressing saloons and barber shops in some popular quarters of Yaoundé like Nsam, Olezoa and Efoulan among others.. The third phase held in April 2004 consisted in distributing products used to sterilize hair-dressing and barbing tools.

The Cameroon Red Cross intends to reach many people through targeting sectors where HIV/AIDS is likely to spread rapidly.

Two national society's volunteer First-Aid workers took an active part in the elaboration of an action plan for the benefit of the Cameroonian youths. The Pan-African Youth Forum preparatory meeting was held from 14 February to 19 March 2004. Similarly, the Action Plan in favor of the Cameroonian Youth under the theme "Cameroonian Youths against HIV/AIDS" was presented in Dakar from 21 to 27 March 2004.

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Impact

The Cameroon Red Cross proposes a concrete approach to controlling the HIV/AIDS pandemic. So far, the project on sex workers has contributed enormously to polishing its image.

About 80 per cent hair-dressers and barbers have been mobilized and sensitized to HIV/AIDS prevention thereby considerably reducing the risk of contamination through the use of hair-dressing and barbing tools.

Constraints

The construction of the national society's Health Centre was slowed down due to cumbersome administrative procedures and objection to the choice of entrepreneur. This has led to the temporary closure of the site.

Disaster Management

The national society executives developed close and concrete collaboration with the Department of Civil Protection (DPC) of the Cameroon Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MINATD), with knowledge acquired at the regional level.

Goal: Reduce the vulnerability of Cameroonian populations to disasters.

Objective: Set up a national disaster management team and build its water and sanitation (WatSan), epidemic management and food security capacities. Establish a mechanism to enhance the hosting of an ERDAC (Regional Disaster Response Team for Central Africa), a [FACT](#), or an [ERU](#) team. Build the prevention, preparedness and response capacities of local branches in high risk areas.

Achievements

Following the outbreak of cholera in Douala early this year, the Cameroon Red Cross carried out an information, education and communication (IEC) campaign on this disease and on the need to obey hygienic rules. Cholera claimed 20 lives in that locality. Sixty national society volunteers treated wells and other water sources in the affected areas.

The national society with support from the sub-regional office support sensitized the public through brochures and posters on the theme "How to avoid Cholera". This enabled the national society to sensitize over one million people in Douala, thereby enhancing its image.

Following the repatriation of over 1000 Cameroonians from Equatorial Guinea, a Joint Mission made up of authorities from the Cameroon Red Cross, the sub-regional office and the DPC went to Limbe where returnees were disembarked. The Limbe local branch of the national society took an active part in welcoming the returnees, as its Chairperson was a member of the Joint Committee.

Government authorities provided food that was distributed in the transit centre by a team of 10 national society's volunteer First-Aid workers. They also administered First Aid to returnees and referred the most serious cases to the nearest Health Centre.

Impact

The Cameroon Red Cross image as a humanitarian agency at national level has been enhanced through the collaboration of the sub-regional office and the DPC.

Promotion of Humanitarian Values

In Cameroon, the promotion of humanitarian values is mostly perceived through the youth activities to combat stigma against people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and to advocate peace.

Goal: Eradicate discrimination against specific groups of people.

Objective: The Government and Cameroonian population understand the positions of the Federation in promoting humanitarian values and contribute to the fight against discrimination, especially against PLWHA.

Achievements

In an attempt to fight against HIV/AIDS and problems related to the pandemic such as discrimination and hatred, the Cameroonian Red Cross has integrated PLWHA and commercial sex workers in its theatre groups in order to give these people who are generally victims of social exclusion, a chance to enlighten the public.

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

APPEAL No. 01.40/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

23/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				418,917		36.8%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				64,940		
IMPERIAL COLLEGE		23,000	GBP	53,084	11.05.04	FILLES LIBRES/SIDA
BRITISH - GOVT		15,000,000	XAF	36,000	11.05.04	FILLES LIBRES/SIDA
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				154,024	CHF	36.8%

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	