

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 AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

24 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. 01.49/2004; Programme Update no. 1; Period covered: January to June 2004; Appeal coverage: 15.8%; Outstanding needs: CHF 870,732 (USD 688,870 or EUR 566,883).
[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\).](#)

Appeal target: CHF 1,034,112 (USD 776,652 or EUR 665,666).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: n.a.

Programme summary: In 2003, the Regional Delegation relocated its offices to Dakar, Senegal. It established four sub-regional offices to better and more directly serve the national societies in West and Central Africa: Sahel sub-region (based in Dakar), Mano River sub-region (based in Abidjan), Nigeria sub-region (based in Lagos), and Central Africa sub-region (based in Yaoundé).

The 2004 Annual Appeal for West and Central Africa emphasized the strengthening of the disaster management capacities of the national societies in the region. The Appeal also aims at improving coordination, and implementing the regional cooperation between national Societies and some strategic partnerships. Funds remaining from calendar year 2003 were rolled over into 2004; see the attached Contributions List.

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).

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

One of the regional delegation's most important missions is to ensure learning and knowledge sharing within the region and support linkages with global process for cross-regional learning. To reach that purpose, the regional resources are put together to address program and policy issues from within the West and Central Africa. Significant progress has thus been made in these areas since the beginning of the year 2004.

The four regional working groups are now directly linked to the sub-regional offices following the decision of the last management meeting in October 2003; the Central Africa sub-region was integrated into the system. The regional delegation still oversees the whole regional groups and sectors constituting workers from health, disaster management and organisational development. The Mano River and Sahel sub-regional working groups has so far held the first annual meeting to draw guidelines for the year and plan activities according to their priorities.

The regional delegation organized the first meeting with all sector heads from the four working groups to define a single and common approach to capacity building and local expertise reinforcement to improve regional level services. The regional delegation is involved in various negotiations in Benin and Bangui to support the national societies in crisis. Negotiation with the Central African Republic authorities to establish a new national society board was finally accomplished April 3 during an Extraordinary General Assembly. Negotiations with the Government are still ongoing for the Benin Red Cross.

Disaster Management

Goal: To improve the national societies' disaster management capacities, especially in information management, risk analysis / reduction, monitoring, preparedness and response.

Objective: To promote the use of regional teams for disaster response and preparedness.

In 2002 and 2003, training sessions for disaster management teams were held separately in the Central and West African sub-regions as there were two separate regions at that time. The regional delegation now has a database of all regional technical expertise in key disaster management sectors in both West (with RDRT) and Central Africa (with ERDAC).

A refresher course to strengthen the capacities of previously trained teams is being planned before year end. This will build one strong regional team for West and Central Africa and provide a common approach/strategy to disaster management issues. Initiatives have so far been taken for specific training such as water and sanitation (WatSan) held in Cameroon last May and IT-Telecom workshop in Dakar.

An ERDAC member from the national society has led the early coordination of Sudanese refugees since the Chad operation started pending the arrival of the [FACT](#) from Geneva.

The Cameroon Red Cross in collaboration with the civil protection in the Ministry of territorial administration launched an appeal for Cholera epidemic after an assessment in the Littoral and South West provinces. The Nigeria Red Cross provided assistance to victims of the Plateau State religious conflict which claimed several lives between April and May.

Impact

The disaster management capacities of these trained workers have been enhanced. Thus, with adequate financial support, the national societies can take on leadership roles and initiatives on disaster issues. The government and partners of member countries now appreciate the Movement's initiative to train people on disaster management, create and use competent local resource persons capable of rapid response in the event of disasters.

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Constraints

The main constraint is the absence of a regional disaster manager. Since the resignation of the previous manager in January 2004, the arrival of a replacement manager is expected at the end of June 2004.

Organizational Development

Goal: To maximize the Federation's efforts in improving the lives of the vulnerable peoples through supporting the national societies' development and programs.

Objectives: The quality of the national societies' programmes management on behalf of vulnerable populations is improved.

The regional delegation in collaboration with the offices and country delegations/Representations assisted the first national society targeted to scale up their programs in the four core areas. This is based on regular assessments of the country vulnerabilities and needs, the role of other organizations, their capacity and plans. These issues were widely explained during the May 3 to 5 Ouagadougou's meeting held with all sector groups. The meeting also emphasised on the use of the vulnerability, capacity and assessment (VCA) and the project planning process (PPP) as well as the necessity to establish and apply volunteers' policy in all national societies. Consequently, a PPP workshop for the Francophone national society was organized in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire May 24 to 28 while the Anglophone national societies workshop is scheduled between June and July.

Impact

The impact is yet to be measured. The appreciation of the participants in these two sessions Ouagadougou and Abidjan so far indicate an added value in knowledge sharing. They also have a better understanding of the VCA, PPP, [Strategy 2010](#), [ARCHI 2010](#) and other policies.

Coordination, Cooperation, and Strategic Partnerships

Goal: The regional national societies commit themselves towards development and capacity building for improved service delivery in the four core areas of Strategy 2010.

Objective: Member national societies develop local expertise as well as share information and resources with in addition to coordinating their plans and work with all important stakeholders.

To provide and develop effective local expertise, a meeting regrouping all sector group representatives of the four sub-regions was held in Ouagadougou on 3-5 May. The meeting further enhanced the knowledge of the representatives of Central Africa, Lagos, Mano River and the Sahel sub-regions in health, disaster management and organizational development. Participants were fully enlightened on issues and ideas on a common regional approach/strategy such as the Strategy 2010, ARCHI 2010, [Ouagadougou Declaration](#), VCA and the new Movement's Strategy; national society capacity building framework, health policies, development and disaster management. Findings from these reflections will be shared and discussed with the various sub-regional working groups.

More than 15 partner national societies (PNS) and the ICRC participated in the regional delegation's West and Central Africa Partnership meeting in Accra, Ghana on 1-3 March 2004. Five main objectives were targeted:

- Understanding regional priorities and programmes;
- Encouraging partners to discuss their objectives and interest in the technical area and geographic sub-regions;
- Granting stakeholders the opportunity to learn from one another and cross-border regional knowledge sharing;
- Challenging partners and national societies to expand their support both in size and outreach towards the "forgotten" countries which have been traditionally left out of funding cycles; and,

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- Understanding regional approach priorities.

Several observations were made at the end of the meeting including:

- The non-implementation of the expected Food Security following the Ouagadougou Declaration;
- The regular occurrence of disasters in Africa whose effects can be limited if not prevented and the need to develop the fundamental elements of training and techniques in epidemic evaluation and management;
- The need to make more effective use of the Regional Response Teams in West and Central Africa;
- The need to share lessons learned in Sierra Leone in conflict and post-conflict situation beneficial to all national societies;
- The existing lack of preparation and inadequate response to regional catastrophes;
- The challenges to coordinate strategy strengthen regional cooperation and strengthen partnership with the government;
- The over-dependence on RC/RC Movement funding sources;
- The problems arising from funds accessibility which are directly linked to reports availability and inadequate or inappropriate use of funds for existing projects;
- The unequal presence of PNS support in the West and Central Africa national societies.

The following recommendations were made:

- Increased advocacy at all levels including the Global Fund and the World Bank;
- Increased group cooperation and cohesion among the various components to avoid duplication;
- Reinforce capacities in planning as well as financial and program management
- Establishment of the national societies' plans of action with their priorities;
- Cooperation should be within these plans while the cooperate agreement strategy (CAS) process needs to be put into operation;
- Supported regional Working Groups and regional offices will be encouraged to operate in full transparency;
- Harmonized and complementary strategies among partners; and,
- Advocacy of regional Working Groups on behalf of poorly funded national societies.

Impact

The evaluation of the impact will be done during the Sixth Pan African Conference in Algiers, September 2004.

Representation and Advocacy

Goal: The Federation is well known as a credible and effective voice on humanitarian issues of concern in West and Central Africa.

Objective: The quantity and quality of the Federation participation in interagency coordination and planning is increased.

The regional delegation is participating in all inter agency coordination and planning meetings organized by the recently installed OCHA¹ regional office in Dakar. During the meetings, expertise on disaster management and emergency response to conflicts are shared. On the 29 April, the Programme Coordinator from the Guinea Red Cross participated in the mid-year review and shared GAPU (*Groupes d'Alerte et de Première Urgence*), experience with other participants. GAPU is a First Aid package conceived by the Red Cross of Guinea with Federation and ICRC support. It involves the provision of trained teams along the Guinean borders responsible for giving First Aid and early warning in time of internal armed conflict.

¹OCHA – (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

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Impact

The regional delegation submitted a proposal for the CAP second term appeal to OCHA to develop the same strategy for other targeted countries such as Ghana, Burkina Faso and Mali.

Delegation Management

Goal: The newly established regional delegation in Dakar is providing efficient and effective services in West and Central Africa.

Objective: The regional delegation, sub-regional offices and country delegations in West and Central Africa are well functioning with available human resources to support the development of West and Central Africa national societies with the collaboration of the Geneva Secretariat.

The head of regional delegation has settled in Dakar and the first management meeting with heads of offices was held on 13-14 May, 2004. Consequently, the following guidelines, responsibilities and time line were drawn:

Activity	Office	Date
DFID funded programme implementation	Regional Offices	31 August 2004
Human Resources policy and system	Regional delegation	30 September 2004
Exchange of experiences between regions	Regional delegation	September 2004 meeting
Move reporting to Dakar	Regional delegation	Two months
IASC experience (contact OCHA)	Regional delegation	Immediately
Floods operation (outstanding issues)	Regional Delegation	31 July 2004
Big 7 Alliance (more engagement)	Regional health person and RANY-WA	30 June 2004
Maintain database for regional training	Regional Delegation	June – July 2004
Working groups support / synergies	Regional Delegation	August 2004

Reporting

Regional reporting edited several information bulletins, operation updates and 2003 annual reports for the four regional offices and the regional delegation in conjunction with the Africa Regional Reporting Unit. All the reports are posted on the Federation Website.

The Regional Delegation and the Mano River sub-region supported the Regional Reporting office in facilitating a five-day narrative and financial reporting workshop in April 2004 for the Red Cross of Guinea (Conakry) to help them understand Federation reporting standards and how responsible reporting is related to marketing the Red Cross and building stronger partnerships. There were 25 participants in that training workshop.

As well, the Lagos sub-region also benefited from a narrative reporting workshop for the same objectives. Fourteen participants from the National Red Cross Societies of Togo, Benin, Nigeria, and Ghana, and from the Federation sub-regional office were taught Federation reporting standards and the impact of result-oriented reporting on the image of their national society. Case studies and practical exercises in reporting were addressed with a view to improving the quality of reporting in the region.

Impact

The national societies have greater understanding of Federation reporting and the quality of reporting has improved during this reporting period.

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

Western Africa Regional Programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.49/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

30/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

				TOTAL COVERAGE		
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,034,112		15.8%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				160,380		
GERMAN - RC				3,000	26.02.04	ACCRA PARTNERSHIP MEETING
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				163,380	CHF	15.8%

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	