

# 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

## GUINEA-BISSAU

20 January 2006

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

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 05AA020; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: June to October 2005; Appeal coverage: 4.1%; Outstanding needs: CHF 268,181 (USD 215,285 or EUR 173,692).** [Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

**For Programme Update no. 1 please refer to:** <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA02001.pdf>

**Appeal target: CHF 279,571 (USD 222,100 or EUR 180,100).**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Minor Emergency no. 05ME046 (Guinea-Bissau: Cholera).** Please refer to- [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?05/05ME046.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05ME046.pdf)

**Programme summary:** During this reporting period, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau<sup>1</sup> could not implement most of the activities planned under the 2005 annual appeal due to limited funding. Donor response to the annual appeal has been slow, with the appeal receiving a 4.1% coverage to date.

However, following a mid-June to August 2005 cholera outbreak that affected the capital city (Bissau) and its poorest suburbs and then spread to ten out of the twelve regions of the country, the national society mobilized its volunteers to conduct sensitization campaigns so as to curb further spread of the epidemic. To boost the response capacity of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau, the international Federation allocated CHF 20,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The DREF allocation allowed the national society to respond rapidly and effectively to the cholera outbreak and contributed to the curbing of the spread of the cholera epidemic.

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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. 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> Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau- refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=183>

## Operational developments

Guinea-Bissau remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with poor infrastructure and low social indicators. According to the UNDP Human Development Report 2005, Guinea Bissau- a country with a total population of 1.5 million people- is one of the world's poorest nations (ranked at 172 out of 177). Only 34% of its population has sustainable access to improved sanitation while only 59% of the population has sustainable access to an improved water source. The country has only 17 physicians per 100,000 people.

In August 2005, the government of Guinea-Bissau declared a cholera outbreak when the cases reported in mid-June 2005 started to escalate. The outbreak first struck the capital city (Bissau) and its poorest suburbs and then spread to ten out of the twelve regions of the country. The worst affected of the regions was San Domingos, along the northern border with Senegal. Urgent support and prevention activities were required to control the epidemic and prevent it from spreading to neighbouring Senegal and Guinea (Conakry). Immediately the cholera outbreak was announced in mid-June 2005, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau participated actively in the different meetings of the disaster response committee based at the Ministry of Health (MoH). The disaster response committee tasked the national society to conduct field sensitization in the capital city's neighbourhoods and all affected areas. Having been assisted by the regional delegation in Dakar to complete its technical assessment and to work out a plan of action, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau scaled up its prevention activities to include the Quinara region in addition to Bissau, Biombo and San Domingos.

Beyond the cholera operation, the health department of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau helped in the building of 4,800 latrines across the country. On the other hand, to complement the operation and in a good collaboration spirit, the Spanish Red Cross has offered to operate in the Oio region which was hard hit by the cholera outbreak. The national society has good co-operational relationship with the Spanish Red Cross, whose presence has been consistent since 1996.

## Health and care

**Goal: The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau contributes to the improvement of health conditions of vulnerable populations in 2005.**

**Objective: The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau has stimulated responsible behavioral changes against the most common and vaccine-preventable diseases in the areas of Sab, Quinara, Tombali, Oio and Bolama.**

### Achievements

- The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau assists the Ministry of Health (MoH) to constitute a national resource capable of reducing morbidity and mortality rate due to diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea and measles. In June 2005, a cholera epidemic has been declared in the country.
- National Immunization Days (NIDs) have been organized with active participation of the national society's volunteers. The national society took part in the social mobilization commission meeting which set the next round of the NIDs to take place in December 2005. The national society, with Federation financial support, would participate more efficiently in the Polio NIDs.
- The national society promotes voluntary blood donation through community sensitization, in association with voluntary blood donors.

### *Cholera operation*

- In June 2005, a cholera epidemic was declared in Guinea-Bissau. Immediately, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau participated actively in different meetings of the disaster response committee based at the Ministry of Health (MoH). The disaster response committee tasked the national society to conduct field sensitization in the capital city's neighbourhoods and all affected areas.
- Having been requested by the government- through MoH- to carry out sensitization, the national society, with support from the regional delegation in Dakar, conducted a rapid assessment of the outbreak in the hardest hit areas and developed a plan of action to respond to the disease. In order to carry out the different actions on the field, volunteers were trained to have communication skills required to deliver messages to the target communities and to capture the content of the messages. A total of 70 volunteers were trained (50

in Bissau, 10 in Biombo, and 10 in San Domingos) and were deployed to the field to take an active role in the operation. The volunteers carried out sensitization and physically demonstrated how people should properly wash their hands, chlorinate water, clean latrines, maintain environmental cleanness and wash their vegetables. The campaigns were conducted in public places- markets, parking lots, and public latrines among others. In addition, the volunteers cleaned 40 health facilities and latrines and assisted health staff in the health centres to disinfect wards. The volunteers assisted the MoH to identify patients, refer them, and manage cholera patients' camps within treatment centres.

- The health department of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau helped in the building of 4,800 latrines across the country.

### **Impact**

- The 4,800 latrines built across the country by the health department of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau will enhance proper sanitation and thus minimize the occurrence of future cholera outbreaks.
- The prompt response by the national society to the cholera outbreak allowed for a rapid and effective curbing of the spread of the cholera epidemic in Guinea-Bissau.
- The training of volunteers, prior to the cholera operation, not only contributed to the strengthening of the national society's capacity to respond to epidemics, but also to the empowerment of community members who will be in a better position to help themselves in future situations.

### **Constraints**

- The major constraint this year was lack of adequate funding.

### **Water and sanitation (WatSan)**

**Goal: Populations' living conditions are improved in 2005.**

**Objective: Vulnerable communities of Gabu, Bafata, Oio and Bijagos have access to safe drinking water and observe basic hygiene measures.**

### **Achievements**

- The initiative for improving access to safe water included the construction of 37 traditional wells and 16 public washing facilities for more than 225 people in the villages of Oio region.

### **Constraint**

- Lack of adequate funding hindered proper implementation of this programme. With only 59% of the country's population having sustainable access to an improved water source, there is need to ensure that water is made available to more people.

### **Disaster management**

**Goal: The Red Cross of Guinea-Bissau contributes to the reduction of disaster- related risks in Guinea-Bissau in 2005.**

**Objective: In 2005, the disaster management capacity of the regional committees in four border regions (S.Domingos, Tombali, Gabu and Bubaque) has been built and strengthened.**

### **Constraint**

- Inadequate financial resources did not allow activities to be carried out during this reporting period. Non-implementation of activities undermines members and volunteers' motivation and more donor support is encouraged.

## **Organizational development**

**Goal:** The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau's capacity to respond to the needs of vulnerable populations is strengthened.

**Objective:** The management of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau is improved to enable it respond to the needs of the vulnerable in 2005.

### **Constraints**

- Inadequate financial resources did not allow activities to be carried out during this reporting period.

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

# Guinea-Bissau

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05AA020

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

10/01/2006

### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				279,571	TOTAL COVERAGE	
					4.1%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				5,730		
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC	5,000	USD	5,660	19.04.05		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				11,390	CHF	4.1%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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	