

# 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

## MANO RIVER SUB-REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

21 June 2005

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.

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### In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA024; Appeal target: CHF 641,625; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January to May, 2005; Appeal coverage: 0.0%; Outstanding needs: CHF 641,625 (Note: - the sub-regional programmes are no longer being implemented. Project PCI101 under this appeal remains open and in use, and therefore the appeal will remain open, but the main activity to be carried out under this appeal in the remainder of the year will be the closure of the Federation's office.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

**Program summary:** In spite of very limited financial support for this appeal, the Abidjan Regional Office effectively carried out some activities under the health and care, disaster management and humanitarian values' programs. Specifically, it provided technical support to the Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross (CIRC) on partnership management with the Global Fund in the fight against HIV/AIDS. During this period, the health coordination team played a lead role in needs evaluation missions and project implementation processes resulting in the rehabilitation of four voluntary test centers in the West (Odiéné and Man) and the North (Ferkessedougou and Korhogo). In addition, personnel training (200 Red Cross volunteers) were organized for social mobilization and home-based care as well as training of 16 senior staff of the management centers and counseling activities. The project targets 9,600 beneficiaries for voluntary tests and psycho-social support; and 200 beneficiaries for nutritional support. In Guinea, besides reinforcing the technical and social mobilization capacities of the volunteers, the Regional Office also helped the Guinea RC strengthen its partnership with the MoH and other stakeholders. Before the polio national immunization day (NID), the Office provided needed volunteer training which enhanced their capacity and increased the coverage rate in Conakry up to 114 per cent during the April campaigns and 134 per cent during the May campaigns. Within the DM framework, the Regional Office provided a one-week technical support and coaching to the Ghana and Togolese RC during the Togolese crisis in February. Both National Societies provided effective emergency assistance to casualties and IDPs in Togo and refugees in Ghana with the Regional DM Coordinator and ICRC's technical support. The DREF financial support provided within appeal number 05EA010 enabled both national societies to revise their contingency plans.

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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

The Mano River area is one of the most vulnerable regions to socio-political and military conflicts. Recently, it has been faced with several unstable and violent situations leading to mass displacements and deaths. In February, as many as 15,000 people fled to Duekoue, a town under government control from the troubled area following attacks on the Western town of Logouale by a group, MILOCI, movement for the total liberation of Cote d'Ivoire. The OCHA report indicates that it is unlikely that the food security situation in Duekoue can be stretched to accommodate the influx of panicked arrivals. Late last month, inter-ethnic conflict in Duekoue further worsened the humanitarian situation in the already troubled town.

In neighbouring Guinea, the annual locust swarm invasion is not expected this spring as breeding failed to occur in northern Mauritania during the winter. Limited control operations are in progress against immature swarms in Guinea and southern Senegal. Meanwhile, Liberia and Sierra Leone are undergoing socio-economic rehabilitation and Guinea-Bissau has found stability after a few years of social and military unrest. It held presidential elections over the weekend of 18 June; 2005. Guinea (Conakry) on the other hand, remains susceptible to possible conflicts over succession of the head of State. Besides this apprehension, the country remains stable. This synoptic view of the Mano River region emphasizes the need to pay particular attention to disaster management and health. The sub-regional office thus implemented several polio and measles vaccination campaigns as well as training workshops to build member national societies' capacities to provide timely and efficient response to disaster victims.

## Health and care

**Goal: To support national societies in alleviating the suffering of the vulnerable people in remote areas through networking, training and capacity building in co-operation with Movement partners and other stakeholders.**

**Objective: The capacity of the national societies to provide quality health services in remote communities is strengthened through knowledge sharing and networking at regional and country levels.**

### Achievements

- Participated in a regional review and planning workshop in Lomé on RAN-WAC in January 2005. The workshop adopted new ToRs and a PoA for the extension of the network.
- Provided technical and financial support for the supervision, monitoring and evaluation of four National Immunization Days, NIDs on polio in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. Also requested funds for the polio immunization program for Sierra Leone and Guinea Bissau.
- Attended the global health coordinators forum in Geneva.

### Impact

- Increased coordination capacity of the health team in the Abidjan Office.
- Reinforced partnership relations with other organizations resulting in more effectiveness in implementing activities.

**Constraints:** Apart from the money transferred by Geneva to cover NIDs, no funds have been received from the 2005 appeal budget. Thus, inadequate fund to support health capacity building activities of the office has been hindering the program implementation, monitoring and evaluation capacities of member national societies.

## COTE D'IVOIRE

## Community-Based Health Care

**Goal: The health status of the West and Southwest rural populations is improved in 2005**

**Objective: The rural populations in the Western Côte d'Ivoire are provided with better access to health care in 2005.**

**Achievements:** No activity could be implemented under this objective due to delays in transfer of funds. The budget approval process is still underway.

**Impact:** The Federation's image has greatly suffered from the incapacity to implement planned activities.

## STIs and HIV/AIDS

**Goal: By the end of 2005, the rate of occurrence of STI/AIDS among the youths (aged 12-24) is reduced in the rural areas of the regions of Korhogo, Yamoussoukro, Gagnoa and Aboisso.**

**Objective: The Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire has contributed to the reduction of the STI/AIDS vulnerability of the youths in the rural areas.**

**Achievements:** in spite of lack of funding to implement activities under this objective, Abidjan Regional Office however carried out the following programs:

- Provided technical support to the Red Cross of Cote d'Ivoire on the management of their partnership with the Global Fund in the fight against HIV/AIDS. During the reporting period, the health coordination team played a lead role in needs evaluation missions and project implementation processes resulting in the rehabilitation of four voluntary test centers in the West (Odiéné and Man) and the North (Ferkessedougou and Korhogo).
- Organized training of project personnel (200 Red Cross volunteers for social mobilization and home-based care; 16 senior staff responsible for the management of the centers and of counseling activities. The project targets 9,600 beneficiaries for voluntary tests and psycho-social support and 200 beneficiaries for nutritional support.

## Other Activities for the Red Cross of Cote d'Ivoire

### Vaccine preventable diseases projects:

#### Achievements

- Participated in the three government-organized polio eradication NIDs with the Federation's technical and financial support.
- Conducted door to door social mobilization through the volunteers in four of the country's major towns, reaching at least 54.7 per cent of the total population 1.5million inhabitants. The immunization coverage varies from 98 per cent to 100.8 per cent over the three campaigns.

**Impact:** Increased visibility and partnership confidence as one of the best NGOs in the area of social mobilization. Consequently, the WHO and UNICEF provided additional financial support for the National Society's the extension of the social mobilization activities to other districts in the country.

#### Constraints:

- Delays in the Federation's release of funds.
- Delays in the submission of the National Society's reports.
- Unavailability of adequate project management tools from the MoH.

## GUINEA

### Vaccine preventable diseases projects:

#### Achievements

- Participation in task force social mobilization meetings with the MoH and UNICEF.
- Recruitment, training and coaching of 100 Red Cross volunteers responsible for social mobilization in the capital city, Conakry.
- Production of social mobilization tools.
- Daily briefing meetings with local supervisors.

The Guinea RC social mobilization volunteers identified 80,137 children in 14,253 homes, reaching 25 per cent of the total population of the five targeted communes in Conakry and contributed to 132 per cent immunization coverage.

#### Impact:

- Increased technical and social mobilization capacities of the Guinea RC volunteers.
- Strengthened partnership between the MoH, other stakeholders and the Guinea RC.
- Increased coverage rate in Conakry up to 114 per cent during the April campaigns and 134 per cent during the May campaigns, indicating that the populations have adhered to the volunteers' messages.

#### Constraints:

- Delays in the release of funds.
- Drastic increase of fuel price during the project implementation leading to significant changes in budget implementation.

## Disaster Management (DM)

**Goal: To support national societies in alleviating the suffering of the vulnerable people in disaster affected areas through networking, training and capacity building in co-operation with Movement partners and other stakeholders.**

**Objective: The capacity of the five national societies under Abidjan Office to provide timely, coordinated and effective response to disaster victims is strengthened through knowledge sharing and networking at regional and country levels based on GAPI and RDRT models.**

#### Achievements

- Provided field technical support and coaching to the Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea RC to enhance the revision of the contingency plans in coordination with ICRC.
- Supported the LNRCs on the restructuring of the DM program resulting in an integrated DM and CBHP plan of action to maximize the National Society's impact border response project.
- Developed a joint Federation/CIRC/ICRC strategic document in January/February 2005 to serve as fundraising marketing tools and harmonization base for DM capacity building.
- Provided technical support to the Sierra Leone RC (SLRCS) on their partnership with EU. The development of a three-year DM cooperation document between the National Society and EU is almost completed.
- Organized three training sessions in January-March 2005, for 45 GAPI<sup>1</sup> team members in Guinea Bissau (in San Domingos at the border with Senegal; in Buruntuma and Sanconha at the border with Guinea) using human resources from Guinea Conakry. Also developed plans to train three GAPI teams in Guinea along the border with Guinea Bissau.
- Held discussions with the sub-regional ICRC delegations and Federation secretariat in Geneva resulting in a consensual agreement on the organization of the second National Societies/Federation/ICRC joint planning workshop as a follow up on the June 2004 joint planning workshop in Grand Bassam in Côte d'Ivoire.

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<sup>1</sup> Groupe d'Alerte de Première Urgence – first aid group

## Mano River Regional Program; Appeal No. 05AA024; Programme Update no. 1

- Provided a one-week technical support and coaching to the Ghana and Togolese RC during the early days of the crisis in Togo (February 2005). Both National Societies provided effective and efficient emergency assistance to casualties and IDPs in Togo and refugees in Ghana with the Regional DM Coordinator and ICRC technical support. The DREF financial support enabled both National Societies to revise their contingency plans.
- Provided continuous monitoring and coaching to the DM staff of the National Societies of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Liberia on the implementation of the regional contingency plan managed by the Regional Delegation for West and Central Africa in relation to the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.
- Participated in a field assessment and coordination mission in Benin and Ghana, coordinating Federation field activities in camps (Agamé and Comé camps in Benin) as well as in host communities (Volta region in Ghana).

### Impact:

- The disaster preparedness and response skills of member National Societies' DM are reinforced.
- The GAPU team members' relevance and visibility within the sub-region is increased.
- The suffering of the Togolese refugees is alleviated through the various achievements in Benin, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.
- The image of the Red Cross is improved in the beneficiary countries of the refugee assistance program.
- The partnership and understanding amongst member National Societies, the Federation and ICRC is strengthened.

### Constraints:

- Lack of funds hindered the implementation of this joint Federation/CIRC/ICRC strategic document.
- Lack of funds also affected the implementation of the sub-regional 2005 DM PoA. Apart from the Swiss RC which accepted to cover the costs of the Abidjan-based regional DM delegate, none of the Federation's traditional donors or newly targeted donors accepted to support the DM programs in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Guinea Bissau. Also, very low amounts were earmarked for Liberia and Sierra Leone.
- Absence of strong DM programs owed to low funding or lack of it in some member National Societies, whereas these are countries either recovering from devastating long armed conflicts (Sierra Leone, Liberia) or still struggling with socio-political instability (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau).

### Lesson Learned

There is a need to prioritize DM programs in member countries given the fact that most are faced with serious armed conflicts.

## Humanitarian Values

**Goal:** The Mano River national societies have more characteristics of well-functioning national societies.

**Objective:** The capacity of national societies to provide quality and timely services in the dissemination Movement of principles is strengthened.

**Achievements:** Provided financial and technical assistance to the Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross' partnership building strategy with community radios for the promotion of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values nationwide.

**Impact:** Non-implementation of planned activities affected the Federation's public image.

**Constraints:** Delays in funds transfer prevented the implementation of the other activities under this objective at regional level. The balance on this project carried forward from 2004 was used to support part of the Office's deficits and also other reallocations.

## Organizational Development (OD)

**Goal:** To support the Mano River national societies to develop a good profile in responding to the needs of the vulnerable.

**Objective 1: To increase governance and management capacity of the national society to come closer to achieving the characteristics of a well- functioning national society.**

**Objective 2: Elaborate a volunteer management policy for national societies in the sub-region.**

#### **Achievements**

In Côte d'Ivoire:

- Provided technical and logistic support to the CIRC during the preparation and deliberations of the Central committee's statutory meeting. Made useful contributions on the discussion under the theme, 'Volunteering in conflict situations.'
- Organized and facilitated a six-day workshop on "Branch Development" and "Project Management" in June 2005 in Abidjan. Nineteen participants from 18 local branches benefited from the workshop with funding from the CBF.
- Collaborated with the ICRC and CIRC for funding the May 8 World Red Cross Day celebrations.

**Impact:** Incapacity to implement its regional plan of action has weakened the Federation's image and perception. However, in Côte d'Ivoire, the relationships between the Federation and the National Society have significantly improved.

**Constraints:** Delays in funds transfer hindered the implementation of any activity under this objective at the sub-regional level. Nevertheless, the balance on this project carried forward from 2004 has been used to support part of the Office's deficits.

## **Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships**

**Goal: The capacities of Mano River national societies are strengthened through specialized trainings and technical assistance.**

**Objective: Capacities of the five national societies are enhanced through quality assistance in training as well as technical and material support for the implementation and follow up of their activities.**

#### **Achievements**

- Organized monthly bi-lateral meetings with Partner National Societies.
- Held monthly Movement coordination meetings under the leadership of ICRC as lead agency.
- Developed a harmonized security procedure for all Movement's expatriates.
- Sustained the management of the service agreement between the Federation and Netherlands RC.
- Provided logistic support to the French RC in relation to the closing up of this PNS representation in Côte d'Ivoire. Some French RC's fixed assets are presently in the Federation warehouse.
- Planned a three-year multi-lateral Watsan project proposal to be submitted to the EU.

#### **Impact**

- The Federation's mandatory lead roles related to representing and linking PNSs is still recognized and respected.
- The successful implementation of the WatSan project and partnership with the EU will not only improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable in the northern part of Côte d'Ivoire, but ease the Federation's running costs through opening additional financial resources.

#### **Constraints**

- The lack of financial resources makes it almost impossible to effectively implement the Federation's mandatory lead roles in the sub-region and in Côte d'Ivoire. In a near future this may lead to the "auto-exclusion" of the Federation because of the continuous deterioration of its credibility and image vis-à-vis the other partners.
- The appropriate structure to support the transition from a "Regional Office" to a "Country Delegation" is yet to be developed.

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