

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

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

20 January 2006

The International 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

In Brief

Appeal no. 05AA036; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: July to December 2005; Appeal coverage: 36%; Outstanding needs: CHF 325,882 (USD 248,386 or EUR 209,369). [Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List](#), also available on the website.

For Programme Update no. 1 please visit- <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA03601.pdf>

Appeal target: CHF 509,259 (USD 404,500 or EUR 328,000).

Related Annual or Emergency Appeals: N/A

Programme summary: Over the second half of 2005, the Congolese Red Cross¹ continued carrying out activities based on the priority areas contained in its development plan, i.e. community health, disaster management, organizational development and promotion of Humanitarian Values.

However, the national society faced some difficulties in implementing these activities. The difficulties were related to unpredictable factors, such as inadequate funding received from the 2005 annual appeal. On the other hand, lengthy disbursement procedures significantly delayed the implementation of some activities.

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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>

¹ Congolese Red Cross- refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=184>

Operational developments

The socio-political situation in the Republic of Congo saw some remarkable improvement over the second half of 2005. Hostilities between government and Ninja militiamen have officially ended and a peace agreement has been signed by the two parties (the government and the militia).

Another major event was the former Prime Minister's, Bernard Kolela, return home following his public apology statement to the Congolese people for all the harmful deeds he caused to them during his tenure. The former premier pledged to work with all stakeholders in ensuring that peace is back in the Republic of Congo.

The security situation has somewhat stabilized, with several thousands of former militiamen leaving the forests of the Pool district. In October 2005, however, government forces launched an attack intended to pull out a group of insurgents who had found refuge in the Bacongo neighbourhood of Brazzaville.

The humanitarian situation remains a matter of great concern in the Pool region, with problems of housing, access to care, education and food insecurity. The Congolese Red Cross participated in a joint government-partners mission that toured the Pool district. Although local committees have been scattered by the war, the national society managed to continue assisting the most vulnerable.

Health and care

Goal: A reduction in the disease-related vulnerability of people living in the programme's target areas is achieved.

Objective: With the support of the Ministry of Health and other partners, the Congolese Red Cross improves access to community health services in the project target areas.

1. HIV/AIDS/STI in Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, Dolisie and Owando.

Achievements

- 220 volunteers were trained in communication skills regarding sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS (25 in Brazzaville, 75 in Pool, 30 in Bouenza and 90 in Lékoumou).
- 22,000 people were sensitized about STD/HIV/AIDS by 720 volunteers (220 volunteers trained on STD/HIV/AIDS and 500 on PSBC) through 225 educational chat sessions to promote behavioural change with the established anti-AIDS clubs and public sessions in market places, churches, schools as well as other organized communities.
- The Congolese Red Cross participated actively in the World Population Day and the World AIDS Day. A total of 25,000 people were sensitized on HIV/AIDS in Brazzaville.
- A new chat centre has been created in Pointe Noire. Chat centres help to improve the access HIV/AIDS-related information among the youth.

Impact

- There was increased involvement of beneficiaries in social mobilization activities against STD/HIV/AIDS. This is an indicator of the level of community involvement to the programme.
- There is improved knowledge about HIV/AIDS within the communities reached with sensitization messages.

Constraints

- Activities to support out-patients treatment Centres in Brazzaville and in Pointe-Noire and home visits to patients were not carried out due to lack of funds.
- Three chat centres in Brazzaville, Dolisie and Owando are not operational due to funding limitations.

2. ARCHI 2010 (fight against Ebola hemorrhagic fever).

Expected result: Through social mobilization activities, the populations of Kellé, Mbomo, Ewo and Etoumbi districts are well-informed and take positive steps to fight Ebola.

Achievements

- 43 anti-ebola clubs were created. The clubs were made of representatives of organized communities, Congolese Red Cross volunteers and opinion leaders. They have conducted social mobilization and implemented activities to respond to Ebola hemorrhagic fever in 43 villages.
- Training in communication skills was done for 430 volunteers and members of anti-ebola clubs from the 43 villages most vulnerable to Ebola hemorrhagic fever.
- Three Red Cross committees in the districts of Kellé, Etoumbi and Mbomo were provided with relief equipment (50 kits). The emergency kits comprised of 62 pairs of boots, 62 pairs of gloves, 100 mufflers, 88 combines, 50 body bags, five sprayers, 15 wheelbarrows, 18 bicycles and 180 batteries.
- 32 Red Cross volunteers were mobilized to carry out disinfection, burying of corpses and sensitization during the May 2005 ebola outbreak.
- Water and sanitation (WatSan) operations (maintenance of water points in District 7, cleaning waste water pipes, collecting the bodies of the Air Kasai crash victims) were conducted by communities with the assistance of 500 volunteers trained in community-based first aid (PSBC²).
- 800 Congolese Red Cross volunteers participated in social mobilization activities during the two polio vaccination campaigns in 2005.
- The British Red Cross programme officer undertook a visit to assess the progress of activities implemented as part of the Ebola project.
- Advocacy campaigns were conducted to authorities with a view of improving working conditions for volunteers operating in the area. Consequently, the Congolese Red Cross was granted a piece of land to construct a headquarters building- with a warehouse.

Impact

- There is more recognition of Red Cross among the communities. Formerly the communities confused the Red Cross with the Rosicrucian.
- Following the involvement of Red Cross volunteers in several humanitarian activities, its humanitarian mission gained recognition and its credibility among the populations, authorities and local partners has improved.
- The information, education and communication/behavioural change communication (IEC/BCC) activities conducted by volunteers- with active and massive participation of community members- have increased awareness and prepared the communities to better handle future ebola outbreaks.

Constraints

- Difficulty in accessing some vulnerable areas due to the bad state of roads.
- Persistence of risky eating habits (consumption of primates' meat).
- Difficulty to motivate and maintain volunteers.
- Lack of volunteers with stock management skills within the concerned committees.
- Inadequate funding for the programme.

Disaster management

Goal: A reduction is achieved in the disaster-related vulnerability of people living in the target districts in the Republic of Congo.

Objective: The national society's disaster management capacities to provide rapid and effective response in emergencies are improved.

² In French: premiers secours à base communautaire

1. VCA, risk mapping and building operational disaster management capacities.

Expected Result: Risk mapping and disaster preparedness activities are carried out in Central and West Cuvette.

Achievements

- Two fact-finding missions have been conducted in the country in preparation for the vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) in the Central and Western Cuvette areas.
- A risk map has been developed and baseline data has been collected (Brazzaville map and a Western Cuvette layout).
- Four disaster response teams have been created in Brazzaville (Mfilou, Makélékélé, Ouénzé and Moundali).
- 500 volunteers were trained on community-based first aid (PSBC) in Brazzaville.

Impact

- The existence of 56 trained volunteers (ready to respond when needed) from the four vulnerable districts of Brazzaville is evidence of the preparedness of the national society to respond to disasters. The volunteers have demonstrated their availability and knowledge.

Humanitarian Values

Goal: Respect for human dignity and more effective solidarity with the vulnerable are assured through the promotion of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

Objective: The level of discrimination against pygmies, PLWHA, the disabled and rape victims is reduced in the target areas (Pointe-Noire and the regions of Pool and Lékoumou).

1. Combating discrimination.

Achievements

- Ten sessions for the dissemination of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles have been held, reaching 350 people.
- Nine radio programmes have been aired on the national radio to enhance the populations' knowledge of the Red Cross, its principles, values and work.
- Six sessions for the dissemination of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) have been organized in four districts.
- The fourth edition of the national society/Red Cross newsletter has been issued.

Constraints

- Inadequate funding to achieve some of the planned activities.

Suggestions

- The research and fund-raising framework of the national society should be strengthened.
- A pact for Red Cross volunteers to be on secondment in the civil service should be negotiated so as to enable the Congolese Red Cross have some full-time expertise and therefore become more professional.

Organizational development

Goal: The Congolese Red Cross progresses towards becoming a well-functioning national society.

Objective: The Congolese Red Cross is technically and financially self-sufficient and capable of meeting its major challenges through its volunteer network.

1. Good governance and management

Achievements

- Administrative and financial management training was conducted for 33 officers from the 11 Congolese Red Cross branches.
- The financial management systems of 11 Congolese Red Cross committees were improved and necessary training on the improved systems was provided.
- Seven of 11 department councils of the national society have been restructured.
- Three out of six communal councils of the Congolese Red Cross were revitalized.

2. Finance development

Expected result: By the end of 2008, the national society's own financial resources are sufficient enough to cover 50% of activities carried out to assist the vulnerable (missions to evaluate emergency situations) and 80% of expenses.

Achievements

- Several income generating projects have been identified and developed at national level.
- The projects (selling Congolese Red Cross membership cards, restoring the peace standard, exploiting the Victoria whaler and the Mpoumako pilot farming project) have been rationalized through the establishment of monitoring and control mechanisms.

Impact

- New members have joined the re-structured councils.
- The new governance standards are gradually being applied.
- New strategies have been adopted to attract youth and women in the Congolese Red Cross activities.
- There now is a high demand among the members of the community to join local Congolese Red Cross branches.
- Improved capacity for the national and departmental structures.
- The income generating projects have significantly increased income for the national society.

Constraints

- Lack of dissemination and documentation equipment.
- Transportation difficulties to reach some dissemination areas.
- Weakness of the system for the development and management of income generating projects coupled by a lack of a formal policy to make projects cost-effective as well as to motivate coaches.

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

Goal: Stakeholders in the Republic of Congo are familiar with Federation values and programmes.

Objective: The delegation represents the Federation at national, regional and international levels to promote Red Cross values and have its programmes appreciated.

1. Effective representation and advocacy

Expected Result: The Federation's profile in the RoC is established through the promotion Strategy 2010 and the Ouagadougou Declaration.

Achievements

- As the head of the Congo delegation took office in Kinshasa, contacts were established and steps made towards approaching some UN agencies (such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs-OCHA), government authorities, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in collaboration with the Congolese Red Cross- including

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Holland. Such meetings, which were held in the presence of the acting director of the Congolese Red Cross, intended to introduce the national society's activities to the different institutions, market its image and initiate new partnerships.

- To promote exchange and best practices sharing among sister national societies, the president, the second vice president and the director general of the Congolese Red Cross participated in the CAS workshop of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo held on 26-27 November 2005 in Kinshasa, DRC.
- After the meeting with the head of the Congo delegation and ICRC, it was agreed that the three-party meeting between the national society, ICRC and the Federation, which had been adjourned for the last 18 months, be started again.
- Technical support was provided to the different resource persons from the Central Africa Regional Disaster Response Team (ERDAC)³ - including from the Congolese Red Cross- deployed to the Sahel, Benin and Chad operations.
- The national society has consistently shared monthly information relevant to the funding of the appeal budget as well as the financial update of its operational budget.

Impact

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and OCHA manifested their interest in working with Congolese Red Cross and the national society is expected to make project proposals.
- Cooperation has been developed with the government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Following the participation of the national society's top management team in the CAS workshop of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo, lessons learnt by the national society will be implemented on the cooperation partnership model.
- The national society met and discussed with representatives of partner national societies (PNS) on the possibility of establishing or renewing partnerships.
- The Congolese Red Cross has the opportunity to better monitor its financial situation.

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

³ In French : Equipe de Réponse aux Désastres en Afrique Centrale.

APPEAL No. 05AA036

PLEDGES RECEIVED

10/01/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				509,259		36.0%
OPENING BALANCE				27,066		
BRITISH - RC		5,000	GBP	10,905	14.01.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BRITISH - RC		17,195	GBP	39,171	28.09.05	EBOLA PREVENTION
JERSEY OVERSEAS AID		33,655	GBP	73,401	23.05.05	EBOLA PREVENTION
IRISH - GOVT		21,204	EUR	32,834	04.02.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				183,377	CHF	36.0%

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	