

# Report 2006-2007



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Central Africa Sub Regional Programmes

Appeal No. MAA62001

Launch Date: 13/02/2008

This report covers the period of 1/01/2006 to 31/12/2007 of a two-year planning and appeal process.

In a world of global challenges, continued poverty, inequity, and increasing vulnerability to disasters and disease, the International Federation with its global network, works to accomplish its Global Agenda, partnering with local community and civil society to prevent and alleviate human suffering from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies.



Flooding was one of the major concerns of Red Cross societies in Central Africa throughout the period 20'06-2007. Red Cross volunteers were always there to help facilitate the drainage of water and prevent epidemic outbreaks.

## In brief

### Programme summary:

The Federation's Central Africa Regional Representation (CARR) in Yaoundé covers eight countries, including Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo (Congo Brazzaville) and Sao Tome and Principe (STP). The sub region has two country representations reporting to CARR, one in Kinshasa and one in Chad. For reports on Red Cross activities in these two countries, please see separate reports for Kinshasa and Chad representations.

The 2006-2007 appeal for Central Africa was revised twice to match the reality in the field. CARR supported national societies of Central Africa to implement their health and care, disaster management, organizational development and humanitarian values programmes. The most significant achievements in 2006 and 2007 include the Filles Libres HIV and AIDS project, the training of the regional disaster response team on water and sanitation, the training of the national societies of Cameroon and Central African Republic on the cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) and the schooling of young girls in the Northern part of Cameroon. Another major achievement over this period was the restructuring of CARR to enable it to fully play its coaching role in favour of the national societies (NS).

**Goal:** To meet the Federation's mission to improve the lives of vulnerable people in Central Africa.

**Needs:** The 2006-2007 budget is 4,412,901 (USD 3,947,138.64 or EUR 2,674,485.454) out of which 70 per cent is covered.

**Click here to go directly to the attached financial reports:**  
[report 2006](#)                      [report 2007](#)                      [report 2006/2007](#)

**No. of people we help:** In 2006, the programmes conducted by Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross societies, with the technical and financial support of CARR, benefited approximately 2,000,000 people. CARR endeavoured to build the disaster management and preparedness, organizational development and health care capacities of the national societies in 2006, to enable them to increase the number of beneficiaries from 2,000,000 in 2006 to 2,600,000 in 2007. The people assisted in 2006 and 2007 included female sex workers (in Cameroon), old people in Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe, as well as women and men and children in all five national societies. The programme for sex workers in Cameroon has proven very successful, as has the schooling of young girls. This will be reinforced in 2008 and 2009. Thus, it is anticipated that CARR will support Red Cross volunteers to carry out activities to benefit over 2,600,000 people in Central Africa in 2008. The following table indicates the number of people CARR helped in 2006-2007 and aims to in 2008.

| Year      | Project Title  | Target Population   | Total # of people we help | % of Women | % of Men | % of Children under the age of 18 | % of Elderly |
|-----------|--|---|---------------------------|------------|----------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 2006-2007 | All the programmes, including Health and Care, Disaster Management, Humanitarian Values and Organizational Development | Vulnerable populations in Central Africa and Red Cross NS | 4,600,000                 | 40         | 10       | 40                                | 10           |
| 2008      | All the programmes, including Health and Care, Disaster Management, Humanitarian Values and Organizational Development | Vulnerable populations in Central Africa and Red Cross NS | Over 2,600,000            | 40         | 10       | 40                                | 10           |

**Our partners:** The Federation's partners in Central Africa in 2006-2007 included the various communities of beneficiaries in all eight national societies (NSs), the eight NSs of Central Africa, associations of people living with HIV (AFASO)—associations of Filles Libres (CLAP—Club des amis de la prudence, AFID—Association des femmes dynamiques, and Horizons Femmes), the government ministries of Social Affairs and Health in all the eight countries, the Cameroon's DPC at MINATD (Direction de la Protection Civile au Ministère de l'Administration Territoriale et de la Décentralisation), the British and Canada High Commissions in Central Africa, the embassies of Japan and USA, the French Cooperation, the Central Africa Regional Network to Roll Back Malaria, WHO, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, the Irish government, the British DFID, the Swedish, Japanese and Greek Red Cross Societies, ICRC, as well as the Geneva-based Federation's Secretariat General and decentralized structures.

## Current context

2006-2007 was characterized by socio-political instability in Chad and Central African Republic. This caused the populations to flee into neighbouring countries, mostly into Cameroon. Consequently, The Central Africa Regional Representation's disaster management team concentrated much effort responding to population movements within the sub region. The flooding that also occurred in most countries of Central Africa made it very difficult to pursue programmes as initially planned in the appeal. In May 2007, we had to intervene when the Kenya Airways plane crashed in Douala Cameroon.

In addition, cholera outbreaks occurred in almost all the countries, thereby drawing the attention of our health team. This was the case in Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Congo Brazzaville. Other epidemics like Ebola and Chikungunya occurred in Congo Brazzaville and Gabon.

In reaction to these events, CARR recruited more staff, launched DREF requests that were approved, and assisted the vulnerable populations accordingly. These emergency situations prevented us from carrying out all the activities as initially planned in the 2006-2007 Appeal. However, they contributed to enhancing our visibility as we reached most vulnerable populations through our interventions.

## Progress towards objectives

### Health and Care

**Objective:** Improve the health condition of vulnerable populations in Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic (CAR), Congo (Brazzaville), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome & Principe (STP) by developing and implementing quality health, and HIV and AIDS programmes.

**Achievements:**

Throughout 2006-2007, the "Filles Libres" Project was executed in Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville and Central African Republic (CAR). A pilot home care project was implemented in the Central African Republic. The national societies (NS) of Cameroon, CAR, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome & Principe and Congo Brazzaville conducted sensitization campaigns on STIs/IHV/AIDS. As a result of these campaigns, close to 1,500 sex workers were sensitized in Cameroon, CAR and Congo Brazzaville. Fifty families benefited from home care visits by CAR Red Cross Society and received supporting kits. About 300 Red Cross volunteers have sensitized close to 2,000,000 people, mostly women, on HIV in Central Africa. The volunteers also promoted the appropriate and systematic use of condoms, distributing 5,000 condoms in CAR, 300 in Sao Tome & Principe, and 300 in Congo Brazzaville.

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) tools on HIV, malaria, water and sanitation and latrine maintenance were put at the disposal of all the NS, each of which also received a camera. National health officers were recruited in Cameroon, CAR, Congo Brazzaville, Sao Tome & Principe and Equatorial Guinea. CARR has been paying the salaries of health officers in CAR, Congo Brazzaville and Sao Tome & Principe. Health officers of Cameroon, CAR, Congo Brazzaville and Sao Tome & Principe NS participated in several training sessions on emergency health and avian influenza preparedness. Two local branches at Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome & Principe NS received two motorbikes each. The MCDI, PPSAC, CEMAC, WSM, Watsan, and Global Fund health/HIV projects were developed in close collaboration with health officers in Congo Brazzaville, CAR and Gabon within the framework of the implementation of contract programmes between the NS and the Federation.

One thousand Red Cross volunteers participated in immunization campaigns and were trained on epidemiological surveillance in Cameroon, Gabon, and Congo Brazzaville. Trained volunteers also set up early alert systems in their respective communities.

As a result of our advocacy activities, Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross received 6,000 impregnated mosquito nets from World Swim Malaria (WSM) and Cameroon Red Cross received 5,000 from the Empress Schöken's Foundation. Some 112,000 mosquito nets were also distributed in Equatorial Guinea thanks to the support of MCD, which is an oil company. Some mosquito nets were also distributed in Cameroon, Gabon and Congo Brazzaville within the framework of integrated immunization campaigns.

About 187 latrines were built in Sao Tome & Principe, Equatorial Guinea, CAR, Congo Brazzaville and Cameroon. Ten water wells and points were also rehabilitated or built in the same countries. Three street fountains were built in CAR and Congo Brazzaville respectively. Red Cross volunteers also trained populations on how to use and maintain these facilities in order to avoid epidemic outbreaks.

The NS of Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, and CAR worked with several associations of people living with HIV (PLWH) in order to help reduce the propagation of the virus.

Within the framework of the fight against discrimination and stigma, the Red Cross facilitated medical care and the distribution of food and clothes to 450 old persons and 120 orphans and other vulnerable children. Efforts were also made to combat female genital mutilations in CAR and Cameroon. Partnerships were also established with associations of PLWH in order to combat discrimination. CARR has been hosting the offices of RAP+AC (the network of PLWH in Central Africa).

In order to combat malnutrition, CAR Red Cross use animal draught power to cultivate 1,000 hectares of food in Bougoula to help combat food insecurity. The Bougoula local committee of CAR Red Cross purchased a plot with the money accruing from the sales of products.

A regional workshop of health officers was held in Limbe and Kribi (Cameroon) in 2006 and 2007 respectively. The workshop enabled participants to assess their achievements and draw lessons for the future.

#### **Constraints:**

The main challenge facing the NS in 2006 and 2007 was the delay in transferring money to NS. This prevented the smooth implementation of activities in time. In order to respond to this situation, usually people on mission carry the cash with them, thereby standing the risk of losing it. We believe that thing would be better if each NS had an account and their money transferred directly into it.

## Disaster Management

**Objective:** The disaster management capacities of the populations of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe are built thanks to the services rendered by their respective Red Cross national societies and the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT/ERDAC).

#### **Achievements:**

In 2006 and 2007, the water and sanitation (watsan), logistics, shelter building and emergency evaluation capacities of disaster management officers in all six NS were built through sub zone and zone training sessions.

The RDRT/ERDAC members deployment procedures were harmonized with those of West Africa, and most ERDAC members were deployed in the field on several occasions, including Sahel operation,

population movement in Chad, Cameroon and CAR, floods in Congo Brazzaville, DRC, Togo and Burkina Faso, flood preparedness in CAR, Gabon and Sao Tome & Principe, Cholera in Congo Brazzaville. A data base for ERDAC members has been created for future use.

About 400 Red Cross volunteers were trained on community-based first aid, floods preparedness, prevention and response in Cameroon, CAR, Gabon and Sao Tome & Principe. A disaster management department was created and organized at Gabon Red Cross. Community-based disaster response teams were set up in Congo Brazzaville. Emergency kits were pre-positioned in CAR, Gabon and Sao Tome & Principe to ease future interventions

Agricultural implements and first-aid kits were added to the relief material already pre-positioned in Malabo (Equatorial Guinea) to ease future interventions.

Cameroon Red Cross contributed to the development of a national relief organization plan along side with Government. The NS of Congo Brazzaville and Gabon respectively ensured health coverage during legislative elections and Independence Day. Cameroon Red Cross supported by the Federation contributed substantially to assisting the victims of shipwreck in Kribi, the Plane Crash in Douala, floods in Mokolo and Kolofata, landslide in Kekem, and CAR refugees in Cameroon. On its part, CAR Red Cross assisted Sudanese refugees in Samouanza, as well as floods victims in Bangui and Bossangoa. Congo Brazzaville Red Cross assisted victims of cholera in Pointe Noire, as well as floods victims in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire.



Cameroon Red Cross volunteers were very instrumental in collecting the remains of Kenya Airways' plane Crash in Douala, Cameroon in 2007

In order to ensure food security in the Northern part of Cameroon, 20 Red Cross and community-based volunteers were trained on farming techniques. Two horses were put at the disposal of the local Red Cross committee to encourage animal draught power farming. Two irrigation systems were created, and this enabled the trained volunteers to cultivate two community farms on which they harvested 250 kilos of onions.

The Central Africa regional representation's disaster management team participated in all important interagency meetings to manage disasters, especially population movements in Cameroon and CAR. The plans of action and reports on activities, as well as information were shared among with partners.

#### **Constraints:**

The numerous emergency situations that occurred in 2006-2007 prevented us from obtaining all the results that were expected from the Appeal. Moreover, the delay in the disbursement of funds made it very difficult to implement activities as planned.

## Organizational Development

**Objective:** Vulnerable populations receive quality support from the national societies of Cameroon, CAR, Equatorial Guinea, Congo (Brazzaville), Gabon and Sao Tome & Principe which have a good mastery of the CAS process and efficient local fundraising strategies.

This is the revision of the initial objective. It was changed in order to better contribute to the goal of the programme which is to build the operational capacities of the national societies.

**Achievements:**

The national societies (NS) of Cameroon and CAR took part in a regional Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) workshop in Kribi, Cameroon in 2006. Participants have redefined the outcome of the workshop to their respective NS executives, but everything stopped suddenly with no explanation to date. Cameroon Red Cross succeeded in establishing partnership agreements with local companies, namely MTN Cameroon and Coca-Cola Foundation Africa. Cooperation ties were also established between this NS and some embassies in Yaoundé, especially Japanese and American. On its part, Equatorial Guinea Red Cross established cooperation ties with few oil companies based in the country. Sao Tome & Principe Red Cross pursued its fundraising policy with Totoloto (lottery).

Most activities carried out in 2006-2007 were not planned in the appeal, but appeared urgent. These activities included coaching NS within the framework of their respective general assemblies. This led to the renewal of management teams at Equatorial Guinea, Congo Brazzaville and Sao Tome & Principe.

**Constraints:**

Activities that were not planned in the Appeal consumed the greatest share of the budget, thereby making it very difficult to carry out all the activities planned.

## Humanitarian Values

**Objective:** The populations of Cameroon and Central African Republic, governments and managers take part in the fight against all sorts of discrimination.

This objective was revised from the original one taking into consideration the limited funding available.

**Achievements:**

Red Cross activities were relayed considerably by national and international broadcasting houses, televisions and newspapers. A regional workshop of information and reporting officers was held in Douala, Cameroon, to brief participants on new developments in their area of specialization. Thanks to the involvement of the media, the project to combat female genital mutilations in Cameroon was vulgarized to the general public, thereby strengthening the visibility of Cameroon Red Cross and the International Federation. A media tour supported by Geneva experts was organized in Cameroon (Douala and Yaoundé) to promote the "Filles Libres Project". A press conference was organized in Equatorial Guinea in 2008 on the occasion of the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.

Within the framework of the "Filles Libres Project", some female commercial sex workers (the Filles Libres) were given the opportunity to explain their situation through the media and state the changes made in their lives thanks to the project.

Cameroon Red Cross organised a gala night to mark their social week. On that occasion, they collected over CFA 12 million (CHF 30,000) to help carry out their activities in favour of vulnerable people.

Within the framework of the fight against discrimination, the theatre group of Cameroon Red Cross organized shows in companies, schools and prostitution sites. This was during historical days like Youth Day in Cameroon (11 February), Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, World anti-malaria Day and Volunteer's Day.

A project on the schooling of young rural girls has started in Cameroon in 2005. In 2006, a joint Cameroon Red Cross and Federation team conducted an evaluation of the project and discovered that over 60% of the girls that were registered in schools in 2005 had been regularly attending classes. In 2007, 240 more girls were registered in schools, bringing the total number to 320 in two years. Thanks

to the partnership between Cameroon Red Cross and Coca-Cola Foundation Africa, 1,710 more girls were sent to school for the 2007-2008 school year in the East, Adamaoua, and North and Far North provinces of Cameroon.

A regional information and reporting workshop was organized in Douala, Cameroon to upgrade the capacities of the NS in information and reporting. Both the Secretary general and the information and reporting officer of each NS attended the workshop.

**Constraints:**

Most activities were not carried out due to insufficient funding. This programme recorded the poorest funding rate in the 2006-2007 Appeal.

## Coordination and Management

**Objective:** The Central Africa Regional Representation brings quality support to national societies of Central Africa to enable them to render a pertinent volume of community-based services to vulnerable people in their respective countries by mobilizing the volunteer network and by developing fruitful partnerships.

**Achievements:**

Three regional coordination meetings were organized, one in September 2006 to plan activities for 2007, another in March 2007 to facilitate exchange among presidents of NS, and the last in September 2007 to plan activities for 2008-2009. No plan of action of the meeting was agreed upon, but the organization of the meeting and the participation charges of all the representatives were included in the 2008-2009 budget of the Appeal. The president of the Central Africa regional group attended several international meetings on behalf of his peers. The presidents have also developed a contribution mechanism.

In line with its efforts to assist NS, the Federation facilitated the admission of Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome & Principe NS in their respective Country Coordination Mechanism. The Federation also facilitated the establishment of a partnership between CAR Red Cross and the Global Funds to fight against AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. In the same vein, the federation facilitated local partnerships between Equatorial Guinea Red Cross and MDC, Sao Tome & Principe Red Cross and Chevron, Cameroon Red Cross and Coca-Cola Foundation Africa, and Gabon Red Cross and Total Oil Company.

The Federation conducted active advocacy in Cameroon and Gabon, especially between late 2006 and June 2007. A cocktail was offered by CARR's Regional Representatives to diplomatic missions in Yaoundé in November 2006. Eight heads of diplomatic missions personally attended the occasion, and six other embassies sent in representatives. In addition, a partnership meeting was organized in Las Palmas, Spain, in early December 2007 to present the 2008-2009 challenges of Central Africa to potential donors.

The number of DREF allocations increased substantially in the region. The ERDAC concept was extended to West Africa making it a zone team. Hence, ERDAC training sessions were conducted by both Dakar Zone Office and Yaoundé Regional Representation.

A new Secretary General was recruited at Gabon Red Cross in 2006, but he was replaced in 2007. New local branches were created and new persons were elected at various positions, thereby making it possible to differentiate between governance and management. A proposal was made to the capacity building fund (CBF) in 2007 to build the operational capacities of Gabon Red Cross. Efforts were started to establish partnerships with local companies and other NGOs.

The Central Africa regional representation's communications department contributed actively to the marketing process of our activities in 2006-2007. Motivated personnel renewed efforts in carrying out activities as planned in the Appeal. National societies' needs received better coverage and were properly coordinated over 2006-2007. CARR now has three expatriates among its staff and 18 local staff members; many of them have been raised to managerial positions, thereby giving them the possibility to more efficiently participate in programmes' implementation. The Central Africa regional representation's administrative, financial and human resource systems have been restructured to set the pace for a new era. The fleet was better managed in 2007.

#### **Constraints:**

The bigger challenge was the restructuring of the office. In 2006, there were only 12 personnel at CARR, including two expatriates. Therefore, there was the need to recruit more people; and this was done in late 2006 and throughout 2007, bringing the number of staff from 12 to 22. Most achievements came as a result of this restructuring process.

## Working in partnership

All activities were carried out with the participation of targeted communities. The various associations of people living with HIV and the "Filles Libres" contributed enormously to the success of the "Filles Libres" Project. The other partners provided financial or technical contribution to make the 2006-2007 activities successful, with the Greek, Swedish and the Japanese Red Cross societies emerging as the best supporters of the programmes of the Federation in Central Africa and its national societies. Local partnerships were also established between individual NS and companies. For example, this was the case in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

The programmes of the Federation in Central Africa and its national societies contributed to the International Federation's Global Agenda in the sense that they helped combat discrimination against PLWHIV (the "Filles Libres" Project) and young girls (the project on the schooling of young girls in Cameroon). The project on Female Genital Mutilation contributed to protecting the dignity of girls and women. Through this project, the Red Cross sensitized populations in the concerned localities to the fact that excision is a gender-based violence practice that has to be stopped. Some parents have understood that girls have the same rights to go to school like boys. The "Filles Libres" project contributed to Cameroon's poverty reduction strategy as some girls received funding to start their own income-generating micro projects.

## Looking ahead

The "Filles libres" project and the project on Female Genital Mutilations were very successful in 2006-2007. People have been sensitized on HIV and the methods of transmission. In 2008-2009, more income-generating micro projects are expected to be funded to encourage a greater number of "Filles Libres" to abandon prostitution. Furthermore, the Red Cross is contemplating funding projects to enable the populations in the provinces targeted by the Female Genital Mutilations project to send their daughters and sons to school without waiting for the Red Cross to provide the financial means. Mindful of the success registered in 2006-2007, the Federation encouraged the inclusion of best programmes in the 2008-2009 strategies of other countries of Central Africa where AIDS and Female Genital Mutilations are rampant.

## How we work

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 \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering quality and accountable 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>

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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