

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: HUMANITARIAN ASSESSMENT MISSION

9 January, 2002

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This Bulletin is intended for information only, and while an international appeal is not being considered at this time the Federation is seeking donor support to cover the costs of this assessment mission estimated at some CHF 80,000.

The Situation

Despite the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC's) vast natural resources, it is one of the poorest country's in the world with a population facing ongoing conflict, malnutrition and an appalling lack of basic health care and hygiene. The absence or non-existence of practically all basic structures such as communications, public transport, maintenance of roads, and health facilities has aggravated an already dire situation, compounded further by the economic breakdown of the late 1990s.

Despite the Lusaka cease-fire agreement which was signed in July 1999 (involving Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe and representatives of the rebel forces) the conflict continues. There is some indication however that the reconciliation process has provided an opportunity for further dialogue and to undertake initiatives to develop the increased capacity to deliver basic assistance.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

International Federation

In the summer of 1997 a needs evaluation mission was undertaken by a three-person Federation team which sought to identify the needs which would serve as a basis for interventions initiated by the Democratic Republic of Congo Red Cross Society (DRCRC), with the support of the Federation.

At the same time, efforts were underway to resolve an internal management crisis of the DRCRC, resulting in reactivating the General Assembly process that finally led in November 2000 to the election of a new president and a change in the national society management.

During the conflict the Federation continued limited activities to support the activities of the national society in Kinshasa and in the Bas Congo areas, including basic health programmes, population movement relief activities, and organizational development.

Overall objectives of the assessment

Based on the improving situation and stability in the country, the national society has requested the Federation to provide assistance in assessing the current humanitarian challenges and options. Responding to the request, the Federation has organized an eight person team to undertake a two-week mission (12 -28 January) to define the capacities of the national society and clarify the needs for training to enable the DRCRC to initiate activities involving the rehabilitation of family households, water and sanitation requirements, and reinforcing community-based health structures.

The goal of the mission will be to assist the national society to design a technical rehabilitation programme and identify capacity building constraints and opportunities. The national society will assess and define its institutional capacity base (foundation, mission, legal) its resources (human, financial and material) and its past and current performance (activities, relevance, efficiency) and identify which branches offer the criteria to succeed in fulfilling a pilot function in reconstructing the capacities of the DRCRC.

Specific mission objectives:

- Identification of branches that offer sufficient capacities to serve as pilots in the development of an effective branch network.
- To come up with a plan of action focusing on the national society training needs at the headquarters and branch levels in term of project planning, implementation, monitoring, management and evaluation.
- Identifying the various national society options to support rehabilitation at the community level if and when possible.
- The Federation will support the DRCRC to develop relevant programmes to address capacity building in the short term and drawing plans for future rehabilitation programmes in the mid-term.
- To assist the national society in defining its options to participate in rehabilitation programmes.

Mission process and methodology

The mission will take into account the lead mandate of the ICRC and will not focus on emergency relief needs but rather on capacity building in the short term and drawing plans for future rehabilitation programmes in the mid-term. The mission will liaise with the ICRC's sub-offices in the country.

The DRCRC headquarters and branches will be fully involved in all steps of the mission. A draft proposal will be presented to the national society's leadership before departing the DRC in an effort to achieve a strong consensus and buy-in to the Plan of Action.

Transport and logistics within the DRC is a challenge at the best of times, and the only viable way for the mission to proceed as effectively and efficiently as planned is to travel between areas by aircraft. For this purpose, a versatile and low cost DC-3 aircraft belonging to the ICRC has been organized. The overall cost of this mission amounts to USD 50,600 (CHF 80,000), including the aircraft rental. Donors are encouraged to indicate their support for this Federation-organized mission and to defray costs in the form of cash contributions.

Tentative Schedule

Day	No of days	Description
10 January	4	Arrive in Kinshasa
11 - 12 January		Briefing and meetings with the Delegation. Meetings with the national society and Agencies/Government. Administrative matters.
14 - 16 January	2	Depart for Mbandaka. Meeting and reviews.
16 January	1	Depart for Kinshasa. Debrief and reviews.
17 - 18 January	2	Depart for Mbuji Mayi. Meeting and reviews.
18 - 19 January	2	Depart for Lubumbashi. Meetings and reviews.
19 January	1	Depart for Kinshasa. Debrief and reviews.
20 January	2	Depart for Goma
21 - 22 January	2	Meetings and reviews. Depart for Kinshasa
23 - 24 January	2	Planning meeting and debriefing. Depart for Nairobi
25 - 26 January	2	Meetings and reviews. Depart for Geneva

27 January	2	Briefing and debriefing
28 January	1	End of Mission

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

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For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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