

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

24 August, 2000

appeal no. 01.08/2000

situation report no. 1

period covered: 01 January - 30 June 2000

Despite the humanitarian needs which exist in the country, serious funding constraints continue to hamper the operation, causing the International Federation to consider closing the Delegation. Three factors, however, provide incentive for support: the National Society has recently held its first Central Committee meeting since 1984, successfully indicating a preparedness to promote change. The Federation is supporting the National Society by strengthening Institutional Development support. A General Assembly, the first since 1978, is scheduled for 5 to 9 November 2000. The ICRC and Federation are coordinating activities to develop the National Society and respective roles in the country.

The context

The International Federation has been present in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since 1994. The civil conflict in the country has not only had a serious impact on the economy and on the level of vulnerability of its population, but it has also had significant consequences on the process of developing capacity within the National Society. The General Assembly meeting planned for 1998 was unable to be held since full representation was impossible due to the conflict in the country. The Red Cross, rather than suspend its activities in resource and institutional development, decided to review its activities and concentrate on providing assistance to the immediate victims of the conflict and other vulnerable populations in the provinces of the country not directly affected by the conflict. As a result, the current country assistance strategy for the DRC includes the following projects:

- Institutional Development: To assist in the preparation of the Central Committee meeting and General Assembly, and in assisting the National Society in implementing the Price waterhouseCoopers audit recommendations. To assist in the training of the local committee in the villages in Bas Congo where there are Red Cross dispensaries.
- Women and Development/Youth: To provide the support and assistance required by the National Society to develop a programme aimed at encouraging the participation of women

within the National Society at all levels, national, provincial and local. To support the continuation of the school patrol programme.

- Disaster Response: To provide support and assistance to the National Society in order to develop local Red Cross Committees in seventeen villages in Bas-Congo where the Federation/National Society are already providing health care to the refugee and local population. Over a two year period these local committees will eventually assume responsibility for the operation of the dispensaries.
- Disaster Preparedness: To provide support and assistance to the National Society in order to further develop their ability to respond to man-made or natural disasters. A disaster preparedness plan to be drawn up which, among other things, will ensure the availability of well trained volunteers as well as material resources allowing immediate response in the event of a disaster occurring in the country.
- Promotion of Humanitarian Values: To assist the National Society to clarify its role in the promotion of humanitarian values within the country.
- Health: To provide assistance to the National Society to further develop their ability to respond to minor and major disasters in the area of health care and to implement a disease prevention programme in the targeted villages. The National Society will train 20 trainers in the area of primary health care who in turn will train 200 volunteers in villages in the Bas-Congo province. In addition, the project will assist the National Society to meet the objectives under the ARCHI project.

Unfortunately, due to limited support, the Federation has not been able to implement all activities listed above and has focussed on institutional development of the National Society and on the assistance to refugees programme in the province of Bas Congo

Latest events

The ongoing conflict and intermittent peace discussions continue to impact on the ability of humanitarian agencies to deliver urgently needed assistance.

The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo held its first Central Committee meeting since 1984. The Extraordinary Central Committee meeting was held from 28 April to 5 May. A report of the meeting is available on request.

In Bas-Congo, the number of Angolan refugees continues to increase. The refugee camp of Nkondo, which had a refugee population of 3,000 at the end of December 1999, now counts approximately 9,700 Angolans.

The International Federation and WHO provided support to the Ministry of Health and participated in the events marking World Health Day.

A "Concentration National" was held in Kinshasa in the months of February and March. This was organised by religious organisations and several commissions were established to review and make recommendations in key areas such as health, education, administration, transportation.

On April 14, a building located at the International Airport of N'dijili which housed munitions, caught fire. For three hours explosions were heard throughout the city. The final death toll is estimated at 150, with a similar number injured.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Central Committee Meeting •

The Federation supported the National Society in holding its first Central Committee meeting since 1984. The meeting was held from 28 April to 05 May with the first day reserved for information sharing among Provincial Presidents on ARCHI, the Seville Agreement, and Strategy 2010. The second day was devoted entirely to a training/information session on the concept of the separation of Governance and Management. The meeting was considered a success, with revised statutes adopted to be presented to the General Assembly for approval; the concept of separation between management and governance was approved; the vacant positions on the Central Committee were filled; recommendations of the firm Price WaterHouse Coopers were accepted in full; and dates for the next General Assembly were set for 5-9 November, 2000.

Tripartite Pilot Project •

The Red Cross National Society was one of three National Societies selected to participate in the Tripartite Pilot Project. As a result of the outbreak of civil conflict in DRC, branch development activities in Mbandaka and Kisangani, which had been started and were developing positively, were halted. Federation activities in the DRC were suspended for the period from August to October 1998. However, PricewaterhouseCoopers continued to work with the National Society to review their administrative and accounting systems. Job descriptions have been developed for all positions, procedural manuals were written for management of assets and finances, recommendations were made with respect to the role of governance and management and the DRC statutes were revised and sent to the Joint Committee in Geneva for review and approval.

With the successful conclusion of the Central Committee meeting, Price WaterHouse Coopers will begin training sessions for a number of people within the National Society in the area of management and accounting. New accounting practices and systems will be implemented, intended to lead to financial management with transparency.

Bas Congo: Matadi Dispensaries and Provincial Committees •

The Federation and National Society is supporting the operation of 13 dispensaries located throughout the Bas-Congo province. The support includes medicines, medical supplies, salaries, furniture and equipment. The project is supervised by a Federation team based in Matadi, in co-operation with the Provincial Committee of the Red Cross. The Federation continues its support to the Red Cross Provincial Committee of Bas-Congo to establish local Red Cross Committees particularly in villages where a Red Cross dispensary operates. The Federation has developed a training programme in the human and financial management and administration of the Red Cross dispensaries. This programme is partly funded by UNHCR

Activities in Dispensaries: January-June 2000

Dispensaries	Malaria	Measles	Worms	Anemia	URI	Gastri-tis	Flu	Malnu-trition	HB P	Others	Consul-tations	Trans-fers
Kimbianga	204	1	71	56	53	61	31	1	11	238	934	5
N. Matende	183	6	232	88	60	134	246	4	10	333	1,374	3
Mfuiki	515	86	157	76	83	4	30	1	4	125	1,071	2
Tshimpi	463	0	297	29	23	73	69	1	2	194	901	6
Kiemba	397	0	158	30	34	116	41	7	0	235	1,090	11
Nkamuna	236	0	133	9	98	77	1	1	0	270	855	42
Songololo	180	0	84	102	26	114	129	7	2	149	861	38
Luima	298	0	145	51	41	60	14	2	5	292	850	5
Mbumdu	317	0	91	30	47	67	6	4	1	215	854	11
Kilueka	386	0	321	33	28	65	22	5	6	283	750	4
Kimpese	1,353	1	470	173	202	409	405	18	30	1,397	4,380	38
Lombo	258	0	134	59	84	126	76	3	6	311	810	9
Nkalama	274	0	115	19	44	63	30	14	5	180	756	2

Total	5,064	94	2,408	755	823	1,369	1,100	68	82	4,222	15,486	176
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Bas Congo: Nkondo Refugee Camp •

The Federation and National Society administer and manage a refugee camp in Bas Congo for Angolans fleeing the civil war in their country. The camp was opened in September 1999 and now has a population of 9,700. The Federation and National Society are responsible for the distribution of food and non-food items, housing, security and education. The Kimpese Branch supervises the activities of the camp as well as two Red Cross dispensaries located in Kimpese and Kilueka. This programme is managed in partnership with UNHCR

Appeal 10/99: Population Movement in Bas Congo •

This project was officially closed in March of this year. During the project 3 dispensaries were constructed, 2 dispensaries were rehabilitated. All five dispensaries were provided with medical supplies and medicines, furniture and equipment, and nurses were hired for each dispensary. Local Red Cross Committees and local dispensary committees were established. Additionally, support was given to assist villagers to construct a roof over the school they were constructing and 5,000 families received agricultural tools and seeds. The Belgian Red Cross has requested an extension for the implementation of the water and sanitation portion of the appeal and will carry out the programme after the rain season.

Outstanding needs

There has been very limited support for any of the projects submitted in the Appeal 2000, and the Federation is unable to implement the majority of the planned programmes. Disaster response and preparedness programmes as well as health, women and development and youth programmes have been discontinued, leaving the delegation focussed on Institutional Development support of the National Society. Funding is urgently needed if the Federation Delegation is to maintain a presence in the country.

Additionally, support to the National Society to hold its General Assembly is also required. The National Society, with the help of the Federation, will carry out fund-raising in-country. However, it is not expected that the full amount needed to hold the General Assembly will be received through this effort.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Relations with all Government agencies and Ministries, UN agencies, NGOs and media are excellent

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Director
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Bekele Geleta
Director
Africa Department

This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>