

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

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

11 January 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.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.49/2004; Programme Update no. 2; Period covered: July to November 2004; Appeal coverage: 46.9%; Outstanding needs: CHF 548,794 (USD 484,800 or EUR 355,700).

[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

Appeal target: CHF 1,034,112 (USD 776,652 or EUR 665,666)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: See list on final page of this Update ([click here](#)).

Programme summary: During this reporting period, the Federation Head of Regional Delegation arrived and reinforced the management structure of the regional delegation. Funding constraints limited the implementation of activities, but progress was still made.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Senegal: Alasan Senghore, Federation Head of West and Central Africa Regional Delegation, Dakar; Email ifrcsn21@ifrc.org; Phone 221.869.36.41; Fax 221.860.20.02
- In Geneva: Christophe GrosPierre, Federation Acting Regional Officer for West and Central Africa, Africa Department; Email christophe.grosPierre@ifrc.org; Phone 41.22.730.43.13; Fax 41.22.733.03.95

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 West and Central Africa region embrace 24 countries. In spite of its diversity, the existing gap between the rich and the poor as well as prevalence of armed conflicts remains a common regional feature. In Central Africa Region, for instance, 65% of the country's income is shared by only 20% of the population, while 80% of the population, including the poorest (10% of the country's population) have to contend with the remaining 35%. (Source: UNDP 2003 Annual Report)

Many people lack access to the limited health facilities within this sub-region. Some of the health facilities are also confronted with the increasing number of HIV/AIDS cases daily. Although significant efforts have been made to

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prevent and follow up epidemics, the populations are frequently hit by epidemics such as cholera, meningitis, and occasionally, by the Ebola fever.

Food security problems are another major challenge. Although this has often been attributed to frequent floods and droughts, instability deriving from latent political tensions or open conflicts has also hampered progress in this area. Lately, the food security in the Sahel Region became even more precarious with the emergence of the locust plague. A report by WFP indicates that Mauritania is likely to remain the main recipient of its emergency food aid in the Sahel. At the same time, 19% of Senegal's population suffers from acute malnutrition; an estimated 300,000 people in Senegal have been receiving substantial food aid over the last 2-3 years.

The mass displacement of persons occasioned by sub-regional conflicts led to further strain of the refugee situation. The latest crisis in Côte d'Ivoire has further deteriorated the political situation in the country and may lead to a major humanitarian crisis in the sub-region. According to IRIN, an estimated 19,000 people crossed the border to Liberia; 10,045 were registered by UNHCR and Liberian Red Cross in Nimba county since the most recent hostilities on 4-8 November 2004.

Some of the main problems facing the National Red Cross Societies in the sub-region are inadequate funding and absence of an efficient internal and external policy for fund raising. Within Central Africa, these have been compounded by the lack of close historical ties with international cooperative countries and the language barrier which prevents them from establishing fruitful contacts with Anglophone donors: over 80% of people in Central Africa are francophone, which helps to explain the low response with fund raising. These National Red Cross Societies are thus unable to fully execute their annual action plans, and are constrained to abandon a number of activities which has further led to a reduction of Federation support.

Efforts have also been made to promote the action of these National Red Cross Societies at the international level. The pilot project on the fight against HIV/AIDS/STI for the benefit of sex workers in Cameroon has produced real opportunities for local partnerships. To fully exploit this potential, there is the need for effective fund raising campaigns coupled with creative ideas and active international representation. These national societies have benefited from the following support by the Federation Sub-Regional Office over the last two years:

- Multiplication of the successes of Strategy 2010;
- Development of local partnerships and improvements to image/credibility.
- Development of regional resources and regional cooperation.

Disaster Management

Goal: To improve the national societies' disaster management capacities, especially in information management, risk analysis / reduction, monitoring, preparedness and response.

Objective: To promote the use of regional teams for disaster response and preparedness.

Progress/Achievements:

The July arrival of the Regional Disaster Management Coordinator has allowed many DM activities to be re-launched:

- The process to update the RDRT database in West and Central Africa has started through collecting information from the Regional Offices and Country Delegations. Presently, there are 105 names, but their availability, qualification and capacity for deployment has yet to be assessed and evaluated.
- Concrete discussions on potential RDRT deployment were carried out regarding the Chad Refugee Operation. However, no deployment has taken place for various reasons. The possibility to do so will be followed-up.
- A specialized refresher RDRT/ERDAC training on WatSan was organized by the Regional Office for Central Africa (Yaoundé) in October 2004 with technical and financial support from the Swedish Red Cross.
- The DMC participated in all interagency meetings organized by OCHA, FAO and others agencies on the impact and response to the locust invasion, and Côte d'Ivoire crisis.

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Regarding locust invasion, the national societies in the affected countries were encouraged and supported to liaise with their respective governments and participate in the relevant meetings before drawing a plan of action to support vulnerable people affected by the situation.

As a response to population movement resulting from the Côte d'Ivoire crisis, the regional delegation sent a rapid assessment team to support the NS border areas in all five neighbouring countries of Côte d'Ivoire: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia and Mali. Findings from these missions were used during a coordination meeting in Dakar on 8-9 December. An allocation of CHF 100,000 was granted by DREF. The global regional plan and individual contingency plans for each of the countries were developed. An Emergency Appeal was then launched on 23 December 2004 to respond to the potential population movement.¹

The Regional Delegation has updated its inventory on IT/Telecom equipment and a radio network was restored in Guinea to facilitate and secure communication between Federation staff in Dakar and RDRT members in case of deployment in the region. Efforts were also made to strengthen national society capacity to respond to disasters and to build effective links with internal disaster response.

Impact:

Through updating the RDRT database and indepths analysis of deployments, the RDRT system and approach has been evaluated to ensure quality deployment and consistency. The five National Red Cross Societies that border Côte d'Ivoire have been well supported by the Regional delegation to face the population movement.

Constraints:

Gaps and inconsistencies of information available with the Regional Offices hampered the process of updating the database. Moreover, a quality assessment and evaluation of trained RDRT members had not been done in the past thereby making deployment difficult in the operations.

Organizational Development

Goal: To maximize the international Federation's efforts to improving the lives of the vulnerable peoples through support to the national societies' development and programs.

Objectives: The quality of national societies' programmes management on behalf of vulnerable populations is improved.

Progress/Achievements:

Each of the 24 National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies in the West and Central Africa region participated in the second phase of the Project Planning Process (PPP) workshops organized for the region. The goal of this training was and is the quality improvement of national society project proposals and project management, to better serve the vulnerable people.

From the beginning of the training workshops in 2003 until end of 2004, 46 national society representatives were trained, with a further 24 Federation delegates and local staff receiving the training. The impact of this training was reflected in the 2005 Annual Appeal process: most national societies presented their project frameworks (LogFrames) with minimal assistance from Federation staff. Regardless, more time is needed to have tangible results in the project planning management according to the PPP approach. We must invest much more in terms of energy to bring the PPP tool into general use with effective follow-up at local and regional levels. Mid-term assessment of the impact and added value of the PPP was done at the end of 2004 and results were shared with all regional offices.

Furthermore, the national societies received assistance to scale-up their programs in the four core area, based on regular assessments of country vulnerabilities and needs, the role of other organizations and their own capacity and plans. This assistance was also based on their strategic development plans which have now been developed by most

¹ West Africa: Population Movements, Emergency Appeal no. 27/2004 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/2704.pdf .
See also the Appeal's Operations Update no. 1 - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/270401.pdf

West and Central Africa regional programmes; Appeal no. 01.49/2004; Programme Update no 2.

national societies. Issues related to volunteerism were also discussed; the need for national societies to develop and implement a volunteer management policy was highlighted.

Impact:

The OD, Health and DM focal points from the sectoral groups have agreed, during the Ouagadougou's meeting on 3-5 May 2004, that using tools like VCA and PPP can help the national societies to decide on their priorities, and consequently elaborate and plan their programmes and projects. Participants clearly said that they now feel more comfortable with the PPP approach, for planning, implementing and reporting on their projects. Most national societies can now plan their projects and develop their logical frameworks coherently and with minimal Federation assistance..

Constraints:

The training-of-trainers' workshop for PPP for the region did not take place, due to lack of funding.

Coordination, Cooperation, and Strategic Partnerships

Goal: The regional national societies commit themselves towards development and capacity building for improved service delivery in the four core areas of Strategy 2010.

Objective: Member national societies develop their local expertise as well as share information and resources with each other, in addition to coordinating their plans and work with all important Stakeholders.

Progress/Achievements:

In collaboration with the Yaoundé Regional Office, the Regional Delegation organized a consultation and management meeting with the eight National Red Cross Societies² from the Central Africa sub-region. During the meeting, the national societies were supported to better define their priorities, draw their plan of action and discuss their expectations from the Federation and ICRC. They asked for an operational structure in the Regional Office to better advise, coach and support them and not being operational like they did before. Commitments were taken by both the Federation and the NS. On 5-6 October 2004, the Regional Delegation participated in the Sahel Working group meeting in Nouakchott. The regional delegation programme coordinator discussed the future of the Working groups with participants. To be more effective, guidelines were given on the purpose and ways of good cooperation and coordination among NS as well as internal and external partners. They were asked to assume ownership and more responsibilities in that area. The need to review terms of reference was also underlined.

The Regional Delegation was actively involved in the coordination and facilitation of the 6th Pan African Conference, held in Algiers 8-13 September 2004. The resulting Algiers Plan of Action will be supported by the African National Societies, the Federation and the regional delegations.

Impact:

There is enhanced understanding of individual roles and responsibilities, and ownership, by the national societies.

² Cameroon Red Cross Society - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=41>
Central African Red Cross Society - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=44>
Red Cross of Chad - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=45>
Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of the Congo - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=187>
Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=63>
Gabonese Red Cross Society - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=69>
Congoles Red Cross - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=184>
São Tomé and Príncipe Red Cross - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=185>

Representation and Advocacy

Goal: The Federation is well known as a credible and effective voice on humanitarian issues of concern in West & Central Africa.

Objective: The quantity and quality of International Federation participation in interagency coordination and planning is increased.

Progress/Achievements:

The delegation apart from participating in several meetings organized by some UN Agencies, maintained contact with several interlocutors including members of the diplomatic corps in Senegal. The HoRD made courtesy visits to the U.S. Embassy and the British High Commission in Senegal to sensitize them on the work and priorities of the Federation and the National Societies in West and Central Africa. Several issues were discussed including the humanitarian situation in the region and the ongoing civil unrest in Côte d' Ivoire, the situation in Guinea-Bissau and the Cassamance region of Senegal. Ongoing support from DFID and possible partnership with USAID were also discussed.

The HoRD represented the Federation at a regional meeting for WFP country directors in Dakar, and made a presentation highlighting the priorities and activities of the Federation and the national societies in the region. The meeting also discussed and agreed on strategies on how the WFP-Federation global agreement will be implemented in the region.

Delegation Management

Goal: The Regional Delegation newly established in Dakar is providing efficient and effective services in West and Central Africa.

Objective: The Regional Delegation, sub-regional offices and Country Delegations in West and Central Africa are well functioning, with human resources available to support the development of West and Central Africa National Societies, with the collaboration of the Secretariat in Geneva.

Progress/Achievements:

To better support the national societies in the region, the Regional Delegation adopted "Efficiency, proximity or equity" as the watch-words for its operations. The goal of this was to ensure learning and knowledge sharing within the region.

The response to these challenges was to put together regional resources and establish four sub-regional offices³ that can work more closely with the national societies. In 2002, the national societies organized regional working groups to take greater responsibility for their own development, and to meet this challenge by addressing program and policy issues from within the West and Central Africa. Significant progress has been made since the beginning of 2004.

With the establishment of the four sub-regional offices, the working groups now work closely with these offices. The Regional Delegation still assumes the coordination role by participating in the various meetings and organizing meetings with sectoral or technical groups from the four working groups to define a single and common approach to capacity building, to reinforce local expertise, and to improve services provided at regional level.

Furthermore, the Regional Delegation was involved in the facilitation processes to solve internal crises within the Red Cross of Benin and the Central African Red Cross.

- The Red Cross of Benin held negotiations with their government on the decree last July. Their plan of action was reviewed and a management audit was done at the end of 2004.
- A new Board of Governors was elected in April 2004 for the Central African Red Cross.

³ Sub-regional offices: Mano River, based in Abidjan, covering Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone; Nigeria, based in Lagos, covering Benin, Ghana, Togo and Nigeria; Sahel, based in Dakar, covering Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal; and Central Africa, based in Yaoundé, covering Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, DR Congo, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and São Tomé and Príncipe)

West and Central Africa regional programmes; Appeal no. 01.49/2004; Programme Update no 2.

The Regional Delegation organized a consultation and management meeting in Yaoundé in August 2004. The national societies discussed their concerns with the ICRC Regional Delegation, with the Federation Head of Africa Region, and with the HoRD/Dakar. They were also encouraged to establish long-term partnerships with their governments, donors and civil societies to better address the overwhelming problems their countries are facing.

The Regional Delegation held a two-day management meeting in Dakar with the heads of all regional offices in West and Central Africa to evaluate 2004 activities and plans for 2005.

Since the signing of the status agreement with the Senegalese authorities, the RD has been in the process of regularising and finalising the paper work on the following; work and resident permits for the delegate, registration of the Federation vehicles as well as the duty free and tax exemptions which has now been achieved.

A process aimed at making the delegation more effective and efficient in terms of delegation and human resources management is being finalized.

Constraints:

The Region continues to face serious financial difficulties which lead to the cancellation of certain key positions. On the other hand, the lack of French-speaking delegates is also a threat and undermines the Federation's ability to implement the set objectives.

Reporting

Objective: Support is effectively provided to Regional and country delegations in doing effective and timely reporting as well as in building the reporting capacities of National Societies.

Regional reporting edited all pledge-based and standard reports from the West and Central Africa region comprising 24 countries, four regional offices and one regional delegation. These included programme updates, operation updates, final reports and several information bulletins on Cholera, locust invasion and population movement. The department was actively involved in reviewing and editing appeals during the appeal planning process as well as in giving feed-back to concerned regional offices for further improvement of their appeals. During a 5-day appeal planning workshop, Mano river region benefited from the presentation and support of regional reporting officer for their appeal planning process. It also benefited from professional advice from regional reporting department in the preparation of its newsletter and in preparation of proposals for external donors.

Regional reporting facilitated a 5-day narrative reporting workshop in Lagos in June 2004 for the National Red Cross Societies of Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo. The Reporting officer co-facilitated a 5-day Project Planning Process workshop in Lagos in October 2004 for 20 participants from the National Red Cross Societies of Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana and Nigeria.

Impact

- National societies are warming up to the ownership of their programmes and are eager to acquire the necessary skills to help them in project planning and reporting.
- Timeliness and reporting quality have improved in some NS but remains a challenge in others.
- Capacities in reporting have improved as National societies are beginning to understand the need for responsible reporting that would lead their NS to stronger partnerships and enhanced credibility.
- National Societies have acquired additional capacities in project planning during the PPP training.
- The volume of reports and requests for training across the region were adequately handled despite limited hands in Reporting department.
- NS in the region are now becoming more acquainted with Federation reporting standards and tools.

Constraints

- Late funds approval slowed down activities and led to late submission of reporting updates.
- Regional offices lack strategies on collection of reports overdue from National Societies.
- Regional offices lack national society focal persons in reporting.
- The departure of the Regional information officer created more work for the reporting department.

IT/Telecom

Objective: Support is provided to the Regional delegation and regional offices with effective IT tools to ensure rapid and effective communication.

Apart from the daily tasks of managing the local network consisting in supporting the users, updating antivirus, installation of standard Federation soft wares and the monitoring of HF and VHF networks, IT role has been that of supporting regional offices, delegations and NS in the region.

Several missions to Guinea led to the renewal of telecom materials and the presence of a telecom delegate for at least six months. Sierra Leone RC benefited from a one-month training organized for the radio operator in April. The telecom delegate stayed more than two months in the NS and reactivated wave-mail communication, repaired the HF bases in the interior of the country.

In Liberia, after a first evaluation mission by the IT and Telecom department, the installation of wave-mail by radio was made possible in the subsequent mission.

The VHF network of the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire and that of the Mano River Sub-Regional Office (Abidjan) were perturbed after a storm in Abidjan. The VHF network has been repaired and damaged connectors have been changed thereby enabling the NS to coordinate its activities effectively by radio. The radio operator of Yatte RC also participated in the training held by the regional delegation in Senegal.

Two missions to Cameroon enabled the IT officer to update computers. The national society benefited from an essential update to their IT network. A second mission repaired lightning damage and installed the computer fax option.

Regional IT also organized a regional training for 12 francophone IT technicians (14-25 June) in Senegal; the Secretariat telecom unit supported the training. Discussions were held with Senegalese Red Cross related to the network in their new building.

Impact:

- Improved communication capacity in the national societies: 12 technicians were trained in IT, telecommunications, and Federation standards and tools.

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Constraints:

- Guinea still suffers difficulties and needs a qualified technician to manage the network.
- Difficulties with sending very large files still persist in Liberia.
- Lack of a regional telecom stock limits IT personnel ability to respond to urgent needs.
- Renewal of obsolete IT stock is difficult due to lack of funding.

For longer-term programmes in the West and Central Africa region, please refer to the following Federation Annual Appeals:

- *Mano River sub-regional programmes, 2005 Appeal no. 05AA024 - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA024.pdf*
- *Nigeria sub-regional programmes, 2005 Appeal no. 05AA025 - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA025.pdf*
- *Sahel sub-regional programmes, 2005 Appeal no. 05AA033 - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA033.pdf*
- *Central Africa sub-regional programmes, 2005 Appeal no. 05AA038 - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA038.pdf*
- *West and Central Africa regional programmes, 2005 Appeal no. 05AA039 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA039.pdf*

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

Western Africa Regional Programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.49/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

08/02/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					1,034,112	TOTAL COVERAGE 46.9%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				160,380			
GERMAN - RC				3,000	26.02.04	ACCRA PARTNERSHIP MEETING	
IRISH - GOVT		64,893	EUR	100,000	21.06.04	REG. RESPONSE TEAM	
IRISH - GOVT		42,180	EUR	65,000	21.06.04	REGIONAL COOPERATION	
SWEDISH - GOVT		685,000	SEK	114,738	20.05.04	REGIONAL COOPERATION, REGIONAL DELEGATION	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				443,118	CHF		42.9%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATES			12,400			
GERMANY	DELEGATES			29,800			
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.							
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				42,200	CHF		4.1%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
EGYPTIAN - RC				105,000	03.01.05	DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO MALI, MAURITANIA, SENEGAL WITH RELIEF FOOD
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				105,000	CHF	