

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

MANO RIVER SUB-REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

13 January 2006

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 183 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA024; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: June to December 2005; Appeal coverage: 0%; Project PCI101 under this appeal is closed; subsequently the Appeal is also closed.

For Programme Update no. 1 please refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA02401.pdf>

Appeal target: CHF 641,625 (USD 509,600 or EUR 413,300).

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Côte d'Ivoire; Annual Appeal 2005; Appeal no. 05AA019-
<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA019.pdf>**

Programme summary: During the reporting period, the Federation's Mano River sub-regional office in Abidjan was closed down (in September 2005) and the countries formerly under it were re-allocated to the Lagos sub-regional office and the West and Central Africa regional structure. It is hoped that this will drastically reduce administrative costs of the Federation and further allow for efficient and coordinated service delivery to national societies and vulnerable groups.

However, some disaster management (DM) as well as coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships activities continued to be implemented under the West and Central Africa regional structure.

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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 (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 situation in the Mano River countries is still characterized by violence, bad socio-economic living conditions and precarious health situation arising from war, ethnic conflicts and political tensions among others. The post war situation in both Liberia and Sierra Leone witnessed attacks on civilians, years of widespread human suffering and longstanding internal displacement of thousands of people.

The peace process in Côte d'Ivoire is threatened by the difficulties the authorities are facing in implementing the different agreements' terms. With a very short time to go before Côte d'Ivoire faces a new charged deadline in its simmering three-year conflict, the issue of the Prime Minister position is opposing the two camps (rebels and government). At the same time, ethnic clashes led to the arrest of dozens of people in Guinea (Conakry). As for Guinea Bissau, after the controversial presidential elections, populations are awaiting authorities to heal a country in crisis.

Post war situation in Sierra Leone is still worrying. "To avoid a recurrence of the long civil war in Sierra Leone, the international community must bolster national initiatives on human rights and the government must quickly establish related panels and a comprehensive law reform programme", the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) says in a report to the General Assembly.

Disaster management

Goal: To support national societies in alleviating the suffering of vulnerable people in disaster affected areas through networking, training and capacity building in co-operation with Movement partners and other stakeholders.

Objective: The capacity of the five national societies under Abidjan Office to provide timely, coordinated and effective response to disaster victims is strengthened through knowledge sharing and networking at regional and country levels based on GAPI and RDRT models.

Achievements

- In coordination with ICRC, continuous technical support and coaching was provided in the field to the national societies of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to help them revise their contingency plans.
- Technical support was provided to Liberian Red Cross Society on the restructuring of its DM programme. The result was an integrated DM and community-based health programme (CBHP) Plan of Action to maximize the impact of the national society's border response project.
- A distant follow-up and support was also regularly provided to Sierra Leone Red Cross Society on its partnership with the EU. The development of a three-year DM cooperation document between the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society and EU is almost completed.
- Thirty emergency team leaders were trained by the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire in Man and Yamoussoukro, with financial support from the Federation. Skills were upgraded in emergency management procedures- including security issues. Technical support was also provided by ICRC.
- Under the supervision of the regional DM coordinator in Dakar, continuous monitoring and coaching was provided to DM staff of the national societies of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Liberia on the implementation of the regional contingency plan managed by the regional delegation for West and Central Africa in relation to the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

Impact

- The various ad-hoc achievements in Benin, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Niger allowed for effective alleviation of the suffering of Togolese refugees on one hand and of families affected by famine in Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Mauritania on the other hand, hence improving the image of the Red Cross/Red Crescent in these countries.

Constraints

- Due to lack of funding, it was not possible to implement concrete sub-regional initiatives that would take advantage of the common understanding that the national societies, the Federation and ICRC share on the need to strengthen sub-regional DM networking mechanisms using lessons learnt from the June 2004 joint planning workshop in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire.

Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships

Goal: The capacities of Mano River national societies are strengthened through specialized training sessions and technical assistance.

Objective: Capacities of the five national societies are enhanced through quality assistance in training as well as technical and material support for the implementation and follow up of their activities.

Achievements:

- A well-coordinated CAS process, resulting in a partnership meeting, was completed by the five national societies with technical support from the sub-regional office.
- The capacity of key national society staff to prepare quality narrative and financial reports was increased through training and coaching by the sub-regional office. A permanent information sharing service has been established and information bulletins and newsletters on the Movement's activities are regularly published in both French and English.
- The Mano River sub-regional office monitored and evaluated regional and country programmes and the findings contributed to enhancing the regional networking and programming.
- The Mano River sub-regional office provided effective and adequate technical support to the Mano River working group mechanisms and thus contributed to the implementation of the Federation Change Strategy.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, a Federation 2005-2007 support strategy was developed for Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire in coordination with ICRC, the Spanish Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross.

Constraint

- Because of lack of funding, coordination at the sub-regional level could not be done properly. Instead, the focus was rather placed on country priorities (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone) and on regional DM strategy development.
- It is important to mention that the office was closed in September 2005 because of shortage of funds. The countries previously covered by the Mano River sub-regional office have been split between the Sahel Sub-region (directly supported by the regional delegation in Dakar) and the Nigeria sub-regional office.

Impact

- Even if the sub-regional office could not operate as one entity, the five national societies in the Mano river sub-region (perhaps excluding Guinea Bissau) are highly involved in putting in place preparedness measures to respond to the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and in any of the four other countries. This is done using an integrated approach.

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