

# 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

## THE GAMBIA

9 June 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](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 05AA028; Programme Update no. 1; Period covered: January to May, 2005; Appeal coverage: 67.5%; Outstanding needs: CHF 84,648 (USD 66,132 or EUR 54,683).**

*(Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List (also available on the website).*

**Appeal target: CHF 260,790 (USD 207,100 or EUR 168,000)**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A**

**Programme summary:** About 80% of the Gambia Red Cross Society<sup>1</sup> volunteers are youths who play an active role in fund-raising events, first aid and relief operations across seven branches. The national society collaborates with the ministry of health (MoH) on health care delivery, is an active member of the local association of non-governmental organizations, and has worked with ANCHOR in reception and assistance of refugees. It has also worked with Concern Universal on its "Stepping Stones" AIDS project.

The Gambia Red Cross Society's main priorities are: financial resource development, disaster preparedness, relief, and HIV/AIDS awareness creation through ARCHI 2010 methodology. Upon request from the national society, the Federation organized "emergency" technical assistance (in 2003 and early 2004) to help address the organizational crisis that the national society was experiencing then.

The ICRC helped in creating a network of trained tracing volunteers, reinforcing emergency response capacities in at risk regions, and sustaining motivation of emergency response teams through community hygiene and public service. In addition, the ICRC supported dissemination activities by hosting the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day celebrations, supporting the production of a newsletter, conducting a workshop for head-teachers in two divisions and aiding the Bantaba youth camp.

While the Spanish Red Cross bilateral office in The Gambia supports the national society's HIV/AIDS programme, in 2003 the national society's first aid and emergency response project benefited from the Empress Shoken Fund. This enabled the launching of a 24-hour emergency ambulance service in the first quarter of 2004.

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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<sup>1</sup> Gambia Red Cross Society <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=70>

*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**

In spite of a substantial improvement in The Gambia's health indicators over the past 30 years, malaria still remains the number one killer, with over 350,000 cases reported annually. Tuberculosis and parasitic diseases are the next biggest causes of death. In addition, a third of the population still lacks access to potable water while more than half the population does not have access to adequate sanitation. Potential disasters are floods, fires, epidemics and environmental degradation. Although the spread of HIV/AIDS has almost been contained, there are still concerns that youth unemployment and migration could lead to an increase in the pandemic.

Gambia Red Cross Society is a working member of the government's national disaster preparedness plan. As a continuation of the programme it launched in 2004, the national society also continues to promote small-scale nutritional food security projects in North Bank and Lower River divisions. The school-based food security programme was only able to begin upon the recruitment of a programme coordinator.

Health activities involved social mobilization support for the December 2004 measles campaign, for which the national society's efforts were lauded by the local authorities. The regional office provided technical support for the 2003 and 2004 Bantaba youth camps and plans to invite neighboring francophone national societies in the future.

The Gambia Red Cross Society is now recovering from a management crisis that faced it as from 2002. The hiring of a new Secretary General in late 2003 and a full management team in 2004 initiated the recovery process. Throughout the period, The Federation (in collaboration with all key partners, including the ICRC) provided technical and financial support to aid the process. Still, major efforts are required to put the national society on a healthy footing; with well established and implemented programmes. By recruiting a new finance manager, upgrading its systems and auditing the 2003 accounts, Gambia Red Cross Society boosted its financial management systems development last year. More efforts are being made to diversify the national society's resource base.

## **Health and Care**

**Goal: The rate of HIV/AIDS in The Gambia is reduced.**

**Objective: An intensive awareness campaign on the truth about AIDS has been carried out among adolescents and youth (13-35 years) in Upper River Division (URD).**

### **Achievements**

- Organized HIV/AIDS prevention activities among youths (Gambia Boys Scout Association), aimed at increasing awareness and condom use.
- Established a network of trained volunteers with ability to organize and implement national programmes.
- Maintained a strong relationship with the national blood bank in the central area. Gambia Red Cross is recognized as a key player in the recruitment of blood donors (33% of regular donors being Gambia Red Cross Society volunteers).
- Developed a home-based care programme for PLWHA. The programme is backed by 40 volunteers who visit patients 4 times per month.
- Collaborated with the Global Fund project on HIV/AIDS. Areas of intervention include national coverage, blood safety, information education communication/behavioral communication change (IEC/BCC), and condom distribution.
- Established anti-AIDS and blood donor clubs.

## **Gambia; Appeal 05AA028; Programme Update no. 1**

### **Impact**

- Volunteers' capacities on implementing cholera epidemic programmes have been strengthened.
- Cooperation and partnership with the ministry of health (MoH) is now closer.
- Participation in emergency programme implementation has enhanced the visibility of the national society.

### **Constraints**

- A general denial of HIV/AIDS still exists.
- Unprotected sex remains the main mode of HIV transmission.

### **Other Activities:**

#### **Cholera**

With the eventuality of the cholera epidemic that hit Senegal (during the Magal pilgrimage of Touba) spreading into The Gambia, Gambia Red Cross Society implemented a prevention programme with the Federation's technical and financial support.

#### **Achievements**

- Enhanced diarrhea and cholera control.
- Trained 75 volunteers in the Lower River, North Bank and Central River divisions.
- Distributed detergents at border posts in the three divisions and sensitized the communities.

#### **Malaria and tuberculosis**

Although malaria and tuberculosis (TB) projects were not in the 2005 appeal, Gambia Red Cross Society is implementing the two through the Global fund for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

For tuberculosis, implementation is being done through home based social mobilization in Kanifing, Kombo north and Kombo south.

For Malaria, the national society is implementing insecticide treated bed nets (ITN) intervention at Upper River division.

## **Organizational Development**

**Goal: The Gambia Red Cross Society is a well-functioning national society capable of alleviating human suffering and delivering development services effectively and efficiently.**

**Objective 1: The national society strengthens its governing, managerial and financial capacities at headquarters, branch and link levels.**

**Objective 2: Gambia Red Cross Society increases its financial management skills and develops its ability to advocate and market its programming and mobilize its own resources**

### **Achievements**

- Improved visibility and public acceptance as a well-networked nationwide organization.
- Recruited and trained and committed volunteers.
- Ensured the existence of offices in all divisional capitals.

### **Constraint**

- Lack of adequate funding hampered the implementation of some activities planned for January to April 2005 thus hindering the achievement of most of the national society's programmes.

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

APPEAL No. 05AA028

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/06/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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## CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				260,790		67.5%
OPENING BALANCE				55,562		
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT				58,000	01.01.05	
ICELANDIC - RC				50,000	07.06.05	FINANCE DEVELOPMENT, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
IRISH - GOVT		8,124	EUR	12,580	04.02.05	FINANCE DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				176,142	CHF	67.5%

## KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

## ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	