

ANNUAL REPORT



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

MAURITANIA

14 July 2006

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA030; Appeal target: CHF 446,000 (USD 363,000 or EUR 284,000); Appeal coverage: 8.4%.

[<Click here to go directly to the attached Financial Report>](#).

Annual Appeal: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA030.pdf>

Programme Update no. 1: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA03001.pdf>

Programme Update no. 2: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA03002.pdf>

This Annual Report reflects activities implemented over a one-year period; they form part of, and are based on, longer-term, multi-year planning.

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, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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Operational context

Mauritania is a country that is subject to permanent natural disasters. The droughts of 1970s and 1980s transformed more than 150,000 square kilometres into a desert, which caused an exodus of population towards the south. Apart from the Senegal River, surface water is rare. In the last three decades, the water crisis has worsened. This has negatively impacted human and animal populations as well as agriculture thus causing food insecurity, damage to infrastructures caused by advancing sands as well as health problems. During the rainy season, the drought stricken lands are quickly submerged in floods. These climactic conditions have caused to urban migration resulting to a 53% increase of the urban population. Many squatter settlements have sprung up around cities as former rural families seek shelter, food, work and health care in these areas.

Approximately one-quarter of Mauritania's population is nomadic; more than three-quarters live by traditional subsistence activities, particularly animal husbandry. It is difficult to access most of the population as the country is huge and the roads are in poor condition, making interventions relatively expensive and difficult.

Health indicators are slowly improving. The mortality rate for the children aged under five years was 183 per 1,000 live births in 2002, down from 250 in 1970. However, only one-third of the population has access to potable water and adequate sanitation facilities. In 2001, the public health expenditure was only 2.6% of the gross domestic

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product (GDP)¹. Owing to people's reluctance to come forward for HIV/AIDS testing and the lack of testing facilities, official estimates show that 1.1% of the population is HIV positive; the actual rate could be higher. Several religious leaders have spoken openly in favour of HIV/AIDS prevention thus, by helping to overcome religious obstacles in prevention programmes.

The 2004-2005 harvest in the Sahel region was seriously affected by the worst locust invasion in twenty years, compounded by low rainfalls. Crops were greatly reduced, as was the availability of grazing land in pastoralist areas. This resulted in serious food insecurity in Mauritania as well as the other countries in the Sahel region. The 'lean' period, which occurs between April and October – when the harvest from the previous year has been exhausted and the current year's production is not yet ready – is always difficult in the Sahel region, and proved particularly lengthy over 2005, partly contributing to the food security crisis.

In response to the food insecurity situation in the Sahel, the International Federation launched an Emergency Appeal on 22 July 2005, for CHF 18,243,483, to assist 44,400 families (some 220,000 beneficiaries) in four countries, including Mauritania: refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/05/05EA015.pdf>. While a proposal was developed by a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) health member temporarily based in Mauritania, it was determined that the Federation lacked financial and human resources to undertake food assistance activities in the country. Federation assistance to Mauritania was thus limited to funding for a cholera response programme.

Analysis of 2005 programmes

Health and care

Goal: To contribute to improved health of vulnerable populations in Mauritania through the establishment of a health programme based on the ARCHI 2010 strategy, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH).

Objective: To contribute to the reduction of hygiene and sanitation related illness, malaria, sexually transmitted infections, vaccine-preventable diseases, and malnutrition in four pilot zones through social and community mobilization activities.

Achievements

- An ARCHI 2010-based health planning initiative was launched and has been strongly supported by the MoH. Many other locally-based international partners are now interested in this initiative. This strategy has now been adapted by the Mauritanian Red Crescent and the MoH.
- Main hygienists were trained so as to contribute to the reduction of hygiene and sanitation related illnesses, malaria, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), vaccine-preventable diseases and malnutrition in four pilot zones through social and community mobilization activities. They were able to carry out activities in Rosso, after the Nouakchott floods caused a cholera outbreak.
- The door-to-door and the public sensitization strategies were adopted to reach the targets groups.
- Cleaning campaigns in public places were organized also by hygiene and sanitation volunteers.

Disaster management

Goal: Community and national society branch capacity at headquarters and in four pilot regions to prepare, plan, and respond to emergencies is effective.

Objective 1: Put in place a sub-regional disaster management structure between the four branches and headquarters.

Objective 2: Recruit and develop emergency response brigades in four pilot regions (Gorgol, Assaba, Brakna, and Guidimaka).

¹ UNDP Human Development Index - refer to http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2005/pdf/hdr05_HDI.pdf

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Objective 3: Develop and implement two integrated disaster preparedness, first aid, community health and social action programmes within each of the four pilot branches.

Constraint

No activity was implemented due to a lack of human resources.

Organizational development

Goal: To decrease vulnerability of people living in Mauritania through improved service delivery by the Mauritanian Red Crescent.

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

Achievements

- Two regional coordinators were recruited to renew the regional committees, to disseminate messages and to initiate activities at regional level; one for the Nouadhibou region (north) and the other for Aleg (south West). The appointment of the regional coordinators helped the decentralization process to begin.
- One year of financial support for the position of Secretary General was earmarked to consolidate the NS staffing and programmes.
- The NS undertook strategic planning and professionalizing process. A four-year Strategic Plan (2005-2008) was developed with support from the Federation. Translation and dissemination of the new Strategic Plan among potential partners from Arabic-speaking countries was done.

Impact

- With the Federation support, the NS can now show clear directions and start mobilizing partners for various projects.

Constraints

- Poor donor response to the NS Appeal hindered implementation of many of the planned activities.
- The workshop on good governance and management planned to be held in 2005, was postponed.
- It was not possible to start working on the NS's volunteers' policy as planned.
- Lack of key staff at headquarters.

[Final financial report below; click here to return to title page and contact information.](#)

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2005/1-2005/9998
Appeal	M05AA030
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	357'341	40'743		48'209		446'294
B. Opening Balance	0	-422		11'059		10'637
Income						
Cash contributions						
British Red Cross		13'570				13'570
C1. Cash contributions		13'570				13'570
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
British Red Cross		-13'570				-13'570
DFID - British Government		14'585				14'585
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)		1'014				1'014
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	0	14'585		0		14'585
D. Total Funding = B + C	0	14'163		11'059		25'222

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0	-422		11'059		10'637
C. Income	0	14'585		0		14'585
E. Expenditure		-14'163		-10'941		-25'104
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0	-0		118		118

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2005/1-2005/9998
Appeal	M05AA030
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)		357'341	40'743		48'209		446'294	
Supplies								
Shelter	2'040							2'040
Clothing & textiles	2'016							2'016
Teaching Materials	4'000							4'000
Utensils & Tools	540							540
Total Supplies	8'596							8'596
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	20'500							20'500
Computers & Telecom	12'000							12'000
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	32'500							32'500
Transport & Storage								
Storage	2'000							2'000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	34'395		2'078				2'078	32'317
Total Transport & Storage	36'395		2'078				2'078	34'317
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	134'017							134'017
Delegate Benefits			2'188				2'188	-2'188
National Staff	110'903							110'903
National Society Staff			7'083		13'333		20'417	-20'417
Consultants	3'800							3'800
Total Personnel Expenditures	248'720		9'271		13'333		22'604	226'116
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	22'441							22'441
Total Workshops & Training	22'441							22'441
General Expenditure								
Travel	9'255							9'255
Information & Public Relation	31'600							31'600
Office Costs	27'777		2'573				2'573	25'204
Financial Charges			-680		-463		-1'143	1'143
Total General Expenditure	68'632		1'893		-463		1'430	67'202
Program Support								
Program Support	29'009		921		711		1'632	27'377
Total Program Support	29'009		921		711		1'632	27'377
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions					-2'641		-2'641	2'641
Total Operational Provisions					-2'641		-2'641	2'641
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	446'294		14'163		10'941		25'104	421'190
VARIANCE (C - D)		357'341	26'580		37'269		421'190	