

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

CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC

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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. 05AA034 ; Programme Update No. 2, Period covered: May to December 2005; Appeal coverage: 26.1%; Outstanding needs: CHF 270,738 (USD 206,355 or EUR 173,940). [Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List also available on the website](#)

For programme Update no. 1 please refer to-http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA03401.pdf

Appeal target: CHF 366,210 (USD 290,900 or EUR 235,900)

Programme summary: Since holding an Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA) in April 2004, the Central African Red Cross Society¹ entered a restructuring phase. During that EGA, all participants agreed that a new governance system should be put in place based on the separation of governance from the executive, the enforcement of financial accountability, the integrity of leaders and the polishing of the national society's image. The restructuring was to restore the national society's focus on its primary mission- to provide assistance to the most vulnerable.

With the support from the Federation and the Central Africa Sub-regional office (BRAC), the national society was able to implement some of its activities. The main activities carried out were:

- Prevention and management programme on health education, environmental hygiene and sanitation;
- Training and retraining volunteers on mobilization techniques and epidemiological surveillance;
- Mobilization of communities before, during, and after the campaigns (two);
- Establishment of community-based disease surveillance;
- Commenting the efforts made by the national society;
- Good governance and management.

Most of the activities planned under the Annual Appeal 2005 were, however, not implemented due to lack of funding. The appeal has received a coverage of 26.1% to date.

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¹Central African Red Cross Society - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=44>

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. 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 Central African Republic (CAR) is an enclosed country located in the heart of African. It shares boundaries with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Congo (ROC) in the South, Sudan in the East, Chad in the North, and Cameroon in the West. The total surface of CAR is 623,000 km². CAR is endowed with a variety of natural resources (diamonds, old, uranium, wood, etc.), the majority of which is yet to be exploited. The country has enough land, a conducive climate, and adequate soils to boost the development of its agriculture and animal husbandry. CAR has a wide range of food crops and cash crops. Tropical closed forests in which a diversified fauna can be found cover 3.5 million hectares in the Southwest of the country.

Despite all the natural resources it has, CAR remains one of the least developed countries in Africa. According to the Human Development Index as established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1999 (0.347), CAR ranks at the 166th position. Its GDP per capita deteriorated rapidly between the late 1980s (close to 480 US dollars) and 1999 (290 US dollars).

In an attempt to repair the internal and external imbalances so as to boost the economic development, the CAR government signed three Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP) from 1986 to 1992, a confirmation agreement in 1994, and a Facility of Reinforced Structural Adjustment (FRSA) in 1998, with the Breton Woods institutions (the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank). However, despite all those economic and structural reforms, the country still faces serious socio-economic problems. In the early 1990s, the country experienced a serious economic recession, which contributed to political and social tensions. The GDP suffered a 6% decline between 1990 and 1993, and tax collection services practically collapsed.

The cycle of military and political crisis that started in 1996 and paved the way to the looting of public goods and the total disorganization of the administration substantially reduced the economic progress that had been achieved since 1993. The economy of CAR is dominated by the primary sector as about 80% of the active population work in agriculture and animal husbandry. This sector alone accounts for up to 53% of the GDP and represents over 80% of the country's export income.

As far as the social situation is concerned, the majority of population does not have access to certain public services owing to the dilapidation of basic infrastructures and the fact that the government has not been able to invest in those domains for long. Consequently, the majority of the population (63%) lives under the national poverty line (an average monthly expense of CFA/F 10,030). The deterioration of the living conditions of the population that started to be perceived in 1996-1997 when the three mutinies of that period occurred, and the persistent situation of salary and pension arrears (34 months), seriously exacerbate social tensions and make it difficult to embark on a process of poverty reduction.

The recommendations of the EGA are related to three main areas, including organizational development, community-based health, and disaster management. As far as organizational development is concerned, the priorities of the Central African Republic Red Cross Society for the years ahead will include the following:

- Good mastery of good governance and management principles by its administrators at all levels.
- The development of a clear and precise juridical basis that would be easy to understand to all its members.
- The definition and implementation of a policy to manage human resources (volunteers and permanent workers).
- The recruitment of qualified volunteers and permanent personnel.
- The development of criteria for the auto evaluation of its administrators and personnel.
- The elaboration of a strategic plan for the development and mobilization of resources.

- The development and execution of programmes and projects by local committees.
- The mobilization of the material and financial resources needed for the execution of programmes and projects
- The development of tools for administrative and financial management.
- The development of a policy for the management of material and financial resources.

Regarding community-based health, the priority of the Central African Red Cross Society will be to develop its own health policy taking inspiration in the ARCHI 2010 strategy as an approach to building the capacities of vulnerable people and community leaders so as to enable them to have conscience and take care of their major health problems. As far as disaster management is concerned, the national society will have to encourage the government to develop and implement a policy on emergency response to disasters through its local committees. All the activities aimed at attaining those priorities will be carried out in four pilot local committees in 2005, and will be replicated in other committees in 2006.

Health and care

Goal: The vulnerabilities of the CAR populations to health related issues are reduced.

Specific Objective: The targeted populations in the communities working with the programme have adopted risk free behaviours as far as health is concerned, and continue to use the quality health and care facilities put at their disposal by the national society.

Achievements

- Thanks to the technical support of the Bureau Regional pour l'Afrique centrale (BRAC), the national society was able to develop a project to combat poverty and malaria. In fact, the Central African Republic Red Cross Society is to launch the execution of two integrated and ARCHI 2010-oriented pilot projects, which combine environmental health education, environmental hygiene and sanitation, and the fight against malnutrition and poverty.
- A social mobilization project within the framework of the anti-measles immunization campaign for children between 6 months and 14 years was developed and submitted to the Federation's Secretariat for funding, thanks to the support of BRAC. The national society actually received funds for the immunization campaign which took place from 24 to 30 October 2005. The main activities carried out included:
 - Training and retraining volunteers on mobilization techniques and epidemiological surveillance.
 - Mobilization of communities before, during, and after the campaigns (2).
 - Establishment of community-based disease surveillance.
 - Commenting the efforts made by the national society, one official declared:
 - "Taking into consideration the results obtained, one can say that the actions taken by the Central African Red Cross Society yielded satisfactory results. In fact, 39,597 children out of the 41,682 that were registered by Red Cross volunteers have effectively been vaccinated, representing 95%. This shows that if the Ministry of Health (MoH) had given full responsibility over community-based mobilization and the follow-up of volunteers on the field to the Red Cross, the expected results would have been obtained beyond expectations. The MoH has understood this and has decided to entrust the national society with the exclusive responsibility to carry out community-based mobilization and to follow up volunteers on the field during the anti-polio NIDs that are scheduled for early November 2005".
- The Central African Red Cross Society volunteers mobilized within the framework of the anti-polio immunization campaign which took place from 11 to 13 November 2005, achieving the same success like the previous anti-measles campaign.
- The Federation's Secretariat in Geneva approved the disbursement of CHF 23,000 to enable the Central African Red Cross Society volunteers to carry out social mobilization within the framework of the upcoming anti-measles campaign to take place in January 2006.

Constraints

- Most of the activities under this programme were not implemented due to lack of funding.

Health and care: AIDS Control and the fight against Tuberculosis

Goal: The spread of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis in the populations that are highly exposed in CAR is reduced.

Objective: The targeted populations in the communities working with the programme have adopted risk free sexual behaviours, and have continued to use the prevention, screening, and treatment services provided by the national society.

Achievements

- Thanks to the support of BRAC, Central African Red Cross Society was able to develop a pertinent programme to combat STI/HIV/AIDS among prostitutes. The peculiarity of this project lies in the fact that the pilot phase will take place in two subdivisions of Bangui (3rd and 5th subdivisions). Condom selling points will be established in targeted localities. The micro-projects will be funded on the basis of three “Filles Libres” for one micro-project in order to create greater impact on communities.
- The regional health officer of BRAC visited the national society from 16 to 20 August 2005 to assess the health activities carried out so far and pave the way for the launching of the “Filles Libres” Project in CAR. Such a project has started and is ongoing in Cameroon. The BRAC regional health officer also helped consolidate the partnerships of the Central African Red Cross Society with WHO, FNUAP, UNICEF, and the CAR National AIDS Control Committee. The mission was also intended to help develop pertinent projects to improve the living conditions of vulnerable people.
- In order to celebrate the World AIDS Day, the national society volunteers carried out activities such as sensitization, distribution of bonds for free of charge screening tests, and theatre shows in Boali, 95 km from Bangui. These activities lasted for three days.

Constraints

- Most of the activities under this programme could not be implemented due to lack of funding.

Disaster management

Goal: The vulnerabilities of the populations in the prefectures of Sibut, Bossembélé, and the 3rd and 7th districts to hazards, natural and man-made disasters are reduced.

Objective: The capacities of the populations in the local committees of Central African Red Cross Society and those of community leaders in the targeted prefectures and districts are built.

Achievements

Disaster Response: Reacting to floods

- In August 2005, torrential rains fell in Bangui, the capital of CAR, causing serious material and human casualties. After the publication of the first information bulletin which yielded funds from the Disaster Relief and Emergency Funds (DREF) to combat the disaster, BRAC conducted a mission to the Central African Republic to support this national society within the framework of assistance to affected people.
- After a second evaluation of the situation in the field, a second information bulletin was published, and the plan of action was updated. The affected populations received non-food items, and a sanitation kit was provided to the national society. The 3rd information bulletin was published on August 27. The national society is currently pursuing the relief operation while preparing the response to the potential consequences of future floods in the country.

Relief and Assistance

- During the torrential rains in the night of 6-7 August 2005, the Central African Red Cross Society volunteers were very active in responding to the disaster. Volunteers identified 2,160 affected families, i.e. 15,000 persons. The Federation (BRAC) provided non- food items and distributed to the 800 of most

affected families. Concretely, the volunteers distributed 800 cooking pots, 1,600 pieces of soap, 800 buckets, and 800 blankets (including the 500 blankets donated by the ICRC).

Training of community-based first aid (CBFA) trainers

- In order to build the disaster preparedness, prevention and management capacities of the Central African Republic Red Cross Society, selected executives of this national society were trained in CBFA. The training was facilitated by a regional resource person deployed by BRAC.

Constraints

- Most of the activities under this programme could not be implemented due to lack of funding.

Organizational development

Goal: The performances of the targeted local committees in at least one essential domain of the ARCHI 2010 strategy are improved upon.

Objectives: The principles of good governance and management are implemented by the Executive Committee's members and by leaders of the targeted local committees.

Achievements

- Members of the Executive Committee and leaders of target local committees participated in a training session on good governance and management.
- Qualified executives and supporting staff have been recruited, and adequate equipment has been purchased to ensure the smooth functioning of the headquarters.
- The national society organized a training session on management at its headquarters.
- Leaders of target local committees have been lectured on the ARCHI 2010 strategy.

Impact

- At least 50% of the needs of qualified and permanent personnel, as well as qualified volunteers are covered.
- The auto-financing capacities of local committees are increased by at least 5%.
- The equipment and materials needed for the execution of these programmes are available.
- The project management capacities of the targeted local committees are reinforced.

Constraints

- Most of the activities under this programme could not be implemented due to lack of funding.

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

