

CÔTE D'IVOIRE, GUINEA, LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE

RELIEF, REPATRIATION AND RESETTLEMENT

CHF 13,279,000

1,815,000 beneficiaries

Programme no 01.05/99

The Context

The civil wars raging in Liberia and Sierra Leone since 1990 have had serious repercussions on both the countries themselves and their neighbours. Liberia and Sierra Leone were faced with huge internal population displacements, while Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea were burdened with hundreds of thousands of refugees. Ever since the outbreak of hostilities, the Federation has supported the National Societies in all four countries to provide relief assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). It is foreseen that in 1999, the relative stability brought by the reinstatement of the Sierra Leonian government will continue, with at least

two-thirds of the country being safe and accessible. Refugees who fled from north-eastern Sierra Leone, the country's most productive region, are expected to return to their homes in 1999. In Liberia, the political stability that followed the 1997 elections is likely to hold, prompting a significant number of refugees and IDPs to return to their places of origin.

The Federation's response to this situation will be to facilitate the return of 1.8 million IDPs and refugees by increasing the provision of resettlement and rehabilitation services in Sierra Leone and Liberia, while continuing to seek a reduction of relief assistance in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire as refugees repatriate. Specific programme components include repatriation services and resettlement programmes, community health interventions, disaster preparedness and prevention as safeguards against potential destabilisation, as well as capacity building for communities, Red Cross branches and headquarters involved in assisting the war-affected.

Côte d'Ivoire

Objectives

- To complete the voluntary repatriation of 80,000 Liberian refugees and continue food aid to the 25,000 most vulnerable refugees.
- To decentralise the system of follow-up and supervision of the community health programme benefiting 600,000 people.
- To finalise and implement the disaster preparedness and response plan.

- To strengthen the operational capacities of the National Society through the planning of resource development activities at local committee and national level.

Plan of Action

- Relief and Repatriation

To facilitate the repatriation of 80,000 Liberian refugees through the distribution of return packages, medical screening of returnees, as well as management of departure and transit sites in conformity with the schedule established by UNHCR.

To distribute food aid provided by the European Union targeting the 25,000 most vulnerable refugees in the host zone, identified by a screening committee, until May 1999.

- Community Health Programme

Retraining of 237 health workers, 216 traditional midwives and 127 health post treasurers in the course of the fourth quarter. Training of health officers at the nine local committees supervising of the health posts

so as to be able to transfer responsibility for the programme to them by the year 2000.

Integration of nutrition, reproductive health and STD/AIDS awareness activities targeting women at the health promotion centres. Continued assistance to the Ministry of Health by Red Cross health workers disseminating information, implementing vaccination campaigns, and controlling STD/AIDS and reproductive health.

- Disaster Preparedness and Response

Organisation of two training workshops, finalisation and dissemination of the national disaster preparedness and response plan. Training and equipping emergency relief teams at the nine local committees.

Setting up of the response plan in high-risk zones in anticipation of natural disasters or internal troubles in the North.

Dissemination of information on the Red Cross Movement through disseminators from the 30 local committees.

- Capacity building

Training of the nine committees in the host zone in techniques for managing income-generation projects. Identification and feasibility study of an income-generation project for headquarters and one for each of the nine local committees in the refugee zone.

Evaluation of the National Society's development plan and the "Women and Development" projects in the committees of the host zone so as to adapt their strategies if required.

Training of the central committee in good governance in May 1999. Strengthening of administrative and financial procedures in liaison with the Federation.

Guinea

Objectives

- To reduce the vulnerability of refugees, returnees and local populations living in the host and high-risk zones through relief, social programmes and repatriation initiatives.
- To promote community health in the host and high-risk zones for the refugee, returnee and local populations.
- To reinforce the operational capacities of headquarters and of the 22 local committees in order to improve their response capacity and self-sufficiency.

Plan of Action

- Relief and Repatriation

Distribution every two months of food/non-food items donated by the WFP and the UNHCR to 200,000 Sierra Leonean refugees who arrived in 1998 in Guéckédou, and social support to the 10,000 most vulnerable among them. Monthly distribution of food/non-food items to 12,000 refugees from Guinea Bissau in the north-west.

Participation in the process of repatriation of 52,000 Liberian refugees from N'Zérékoré through registration, distribution of return parcels and their accompaniment.

Social support and distribution of food/non-food items to 30,000 particularly vulnerable Liberian refugees for six months until their repatriation from N'Zérékoré.

Integration of 5,000 most vulnerable indigenous people into income-generation projects and support for their self-help initiatives.

Establishment of social support for the 21,210 most vulnerable people identified among the indigenous populations in the host zones.

- Community Health

In the seven local committees of the host zone: construction of seven wells serving 17,000 people, 14 latrines for 6,000 people, preparation of seven water sources for 35,000 people. Construction of two health posts in the prefecture of Mali for the local population.

Initiation of health and first aid education programmes, targeting in particular young people and women, on themes such as AIDS, female circumcision, mother/child health, voluntary blood donation, environmental protection, etc.

- Institutional and Resource Development

Support for development of the capacities of the National Society through institutional strengthening (recruitment of four supervisors, management training, fund-raising, etc.) and promotion of gender awareness at headquarters and six local committees.

Provision of operational and relief equipment, maintenance of committee headquarters, recruitment and training of 99 supervisors and 220 volunteers for 11 new committees.

Support for an income-generation project at 15 targeted local committees (training courses, health services, membership fees, etc.) ultimately resulting in a 25% coverage of committee expenses.

Identification of high-risk zones, preparation of maps and training of 25 supervisors in vulnerability and capacity assessment. Training and equipping 22 emergency relief brigades in the committees and the most exposed regions.

Improvement of communication capacities of the National Society by diversification of information channels (radio, contracts with transport organisations, the media, activity reports and distribution of the newsletter *Espérance*).

Liberia

Objectives

- Provide basic health and water and sanitation services, as well as support self-sustainable agricultural projects for 450,000 former IDPs, returnees, women, children, elderly and other vulnerable groups throughout all 13 counties by the end of 1999.
- To provide basic health, water and sanitation, and relief services to 20,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in West and South-western Liberia and assist in their repatriation throughout 1999.
- To develop the institutional and resource capacities of the Liberian National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) headquarters and chapters to decentralise operational decisions and functions.

Plan of Action

- Relief services

Provide shelter material, basic household utensils or second-hand clothing to 200,000 former IDPs, 240,000 returnees and 10,000 other vulnerable people throughout the country.

Provide 2,500 sets of gardening tools and seeds before the 1999 planting season to single mothers and elderly persons to strengthen their food security and income-generating capacities.

Provide seeds and farming tools to 1,200 vulnerable families (6,000 beneficiaries) in 40 communities covered by six LNRCS chapters.

Continue to provide support to 500 school drop-outs, ex-combatants, and abused women through the Red Cross day-care programme and 13 LNRCS schools in five chapters.

Continue to provide food, non-food and shelter support to approximately 20,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in Lofa and Grand Cape Mount counties.

- Health

In co-ordination with the Health Ministry, reduce the existing 11 clinics and two health posts to six for greater efficiency, more professional health care, and sustainability on a long-term basis.

Upgrade the medical laboratory facilities at LNRCS headquarters to a central diagnostic lab for income-generating purposes. Establish a blood bank at LNRCS headquarters as part of the lab and extend facilities in 1999. Establish a medical mini-laboratory in Gbarnga to serve as main laboratory to the Northwest, Central and Northeast regions of Liberia.

Conduct a decentralised water and sanitation programme to carry out construction of 250 latrines, 108 wells and rehabilitation of 100 others. Conduct 24 clean-up campaigns in conjunction with Community-Based First Aid (CBFA) workshops, and four Training-of-Trainers workshops in nine operational chapters in 1999. Acquire one motorcycle for the CBFA unit for co-ordination purposes.

Expand the Ambulance Service Program of LNRCS to enhance its capacity to respond to the growing needs. Conduct a series of training sessions: 10 industrial first aid sessions, health information sharing for 2,500 mothers, spot training for staff in 11 clinics, health and hygiene education in all 13 chapters in 1999.

Train 150 relief, health, water and sanitation volunteers at the chapter level.

- Institutional Development

Establish one relief warehouse in each of the 13 chapters to build their disaster preparedness and response (DP) capacities. Conduct two DP and two development relief workshops once every three months for all chapter volunteers and zonal officers.

Start one income-generating project (rice mill, farming, fishery, soap-making, etc.) per chapter, resulting in 35% self-sufficiency of the National Society by the end of 1999.

Decentralise management by dividing Red Cross activities into three country zones, monitored by three zonal offices based in Grand Gedeh, Bong and Montserrado counties respectively; provide zonal offices with technical and human resources to enhance effective implementation of National Society programs.

Provide logistics support to four of the eight most remote chapters in the western and south-eastern regions. Conduct in each chapter one Branch Development Training and one workshop on income generating.

Conduct one Youth Leadership Training workshop per chapter for the promotion of youth activities.

Organise vocational skill training centres in 2 LNRCS chapters for 100 school drop-outs and other disadvantaged youths.

Continue to identify, implement and manage women and development projects and workshops in five chapters to promote gender awareness and capacity building.

Continue to implement two bilateral programmes for war-affected women and children, supported by the Spanish and Belgian National Societies.

Sierra Leone

Objectives

- Reduce vulnerability and dependency of IDPs, returning refugees and other vulnerable groups by providing seeds, food and non-food items.
- Provide selective primary health care services to improve the health situation of the most vulnerable.
- Enhance the operational capacity of the National Society, especially in Makeni and Kenema.
- Plan rehabilitation and resettlement assistance for the Kono and Kailahun districts based on vulnerable group needs assessments.

Plan of Action

- Relief

In the 12 chiefdoms of Tonkolili and Kenema districts for a 12-month period:

Provide regular distributions of food and non-food items to 12,000 beneficiaries in schools, hospitals and orphanages.

Provide food for 15,000 vulnerable people including mothers, children and disabled.

Provide food assistance to 100,000 resettled war-affected people.

Organise a food-for-work project for 120,000 beneficiaries who will be engaged in road and shelter construction, well rehabilitation, rebuilding of the social infrastructure and agricultural programmes.

Provide planting provisions (cassava cuttings, sweet potatoes, vines etc.) for 5,000 farm families.

Provide household kits, seeds and tools for 4,500 farm families.

Carry out needs assessment, particularly in the Kono and Kailahun districts, in order to provide health care, seeds, food and non-food assistance to resettling IDPs and returning refugees.

With the support of the Regional Delegation, provide adequate transport and telecom equipment (1 truck, 10 bikes, 6 motorbikes, 2 base radios and 10 VHF handsets) to branches.

- Health - Water and Sanitation

Provide primary health care and ensure environmental health and safe drinking water for 150,000 war-affected persons.

Assist the Ministry of Health to rehabilitate and reactivate eight clinics.

Undertake a Training-of-Trainers in Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment in nine branches. Rehabilitate and chlorinate 316 wells and rehabilitate 583 traditional toilets.

Liaise with UNICEF's expanded programme on immunisation (EPI) for the provision of cold chains, vaccines, and consumables for 45,000 children under the age of five.

Sensitise communities through traditional and other opinion leaders on family planning.

Disseminate health messages in communities, particularly emphasising environmental sanitation and hygiene awareness.

- Blood programme

Promote voluntary blood donation throughout the country while ensuring the availability of safe blood in Freetown and its environs.

- Development

Achieve territorial coverage of Sierra Leone, recruit more members, strengthen human resources.

Strengthen the financial and material resource base, and improve the effectiveness of organisational structures at all levels.

Improve understanding of the vulnerabilities and capacities of the most vulnerable groups.

Develop and implement programs and services that are better able to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance capacities.

Improve planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting procedures.

Capacity

- The National Societies

The Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire consists of 30 local committees, nine of which have been involved in the refugee operation. It has 12,000 volunteers and first aid workers at its disposal. At headquarters, there are 13 permanent technical supervisors.

In the course of seven years of relief work, the National Society in Guinea, supported by the Federation, trained 557 relief workers, including 40 first aid workers, 16 supervisors and three co-ordinators, who are presently active in refugee aid operations and branch development activities. The National Society has considerable human resource potential - its 38 prefectural and municipal committees have approximately 12,300 members.

In Liberia, the National Society has 201 paid staff and more than 2,000 volunteers, who are active throughout the nation's 13 operational chapters and 67 branches in each of the major districts.

The National Society in Sierra Leone has nine branches throughout the country, with a total membership of about 11,000. Core staff and volunteers are trained and experienced: the relief programme presently employs 63 temporary staff, including medical personnel, and 36 volunteers.

- The Federation

In Côte d'Ivoire, the Federation has one delegate/co-ordinator for the programmes in that country, as well as two administration/relief delegates in the refugee host zone.

The Federation Delegation in Guinea consists of three delegates and some 20 local employees.

In Liberia, the Federation is maintaining a delegation with five expatriates. Transport, telecommunications and computing equipment is adequate.

The Federation delegate complement in Sierra Leone will be increased from two to four expatriate staff. During the recent upheavals, operational capacity was greatly reduced as 15 vehicles, 11 motorbikes and

two radio sets were looted or vandalised beyond repair. Currently, there are six four-wheel drives and one base radio.

In all four countries, the regional delegation in Abidjan provides technical assistance in the fields of development, first aid, and health, as well as financial, logistic and information services.

Co-operation

In all four countries involved, the Federation and the National Societies co-operate closely with the ICRC, various UN agencies, and the respective governments.

NIGERIA

HEALTH, CAPACITY BUILDING, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE, RELIEF

CHF 1,446,000
185,000 beneficiaries

Programme no 01.06/99

The Context

Nigeria is still under military rule, but recent events indicate that a handover of power to a civilian government may occur in the near future. The new head of state, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, has promised general elections in the first quarter of 1999.

While the economy is still in a fragile state, with low growth and investment levels, recent indicators suggest an upturn in 1999. However, a majority of Nigerians have seen a deterioration of their social and health conditions over the last decade. Less than half the population in rural areas now have access to health services and safe water. Annual per capita income has plummeted to USD 240.

As a result, people are particularly susceptible to outbreaks of infectious diseases such as yellow fever, meningitis and cholera, and to natural disasters such as floods and landslides. Competition for scarce resources has also led to a steady increase in the number of communal conflicts which have led to loss of life and destruction of property in different parts of Nigeria.

The Operation

The Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) works in three programme areas: Community-Based Health, Capacity Building, and Disaster Preparedness/Relief.

The health programme concentrates on preventive health: 150 volunteers and officers have been trained and are now working within their communities. In 1999, the network of community volunteers will be extended, while Mother's Clubs are to be established to improve mother and child health care. NRCS youth groups will start peer education to encourage safe sex and reduce the level of sexually transmitted diseases.

NRCS capacity building is being funded by the Tripartite Programme, which started in 1998 with the support of the governments and National Societies of Sweden, Britain and Canada. Headquarters were strengthened by new management systems and structures, the implementation of a new reporting system, and additional staff. The branches received support through training of Branch Training Officers in disaster management. The programme will continue in 1999.

During 1998, NRCS has been responsible for providing assistance to over 5,000 Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees residing in western Nigeria. The programme was implemented in co-operation with UNHCR, who will pull out in 1999. While the majority of Liberian refugees are self-sufficient, the most vulnerable groups among them (600 persons) still need food assistance, as do 1,350 Sierra Leonean refugees.

NRCS aims at continuing its role as the most effective in-country organisation to respond to natural and man-made disasters. Nigeria is included in the regional health-related disaster preparedness and prevention plan. The objectives and activities of the regional plan are included in the Community - Based Health Programme.

Objectives

- Health

Ensure strengthened management and monitoring capacities of health staff at all levels of NRCS.

Establish strengthened capacity among the most vulnerable through First Aid, immunisation, health education and community health measures against the most common epidemics and water-borne diseases.

- Capacity Building

Develop efficient headquarters to provide adequate guidance and support to branches.

Establish functional offices with a full-time Branch Secretary in each of the 37 branches.

Set up an adequate communications system throughout the country, with strategically placed relief stocks in Lagos and Kano.

- DPP/Relief

Pre-stock non-food relief items in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters.

Provide food to 600 Liberian and 1,350 Sierra Leonean refugees.

Train volunteer Disaster Preparedness and Response Management teams in each branch to respond in a planned, timely and appropriate manner in the event of disaster.

Plan of Action

- Health

Hold Training of Trainers Workshop, two workshops on the programme for Health Advisers, and six zonal technical committee meetings with a training component.

Establish three service units: emergency squads, mothers' clubs and youth peer groups in one community in each branch; training of 20 volunteers within each service unit. The emergency squads will be trained in accident and disaster response, as well as disaster preparedness; the mothers' clubs will provide education in mother and child care and household hygiene; the youth peer groups will focus on environmental sanitation, adolescent health, and sexually transmitted diseases.

Carry out routine immunisation campaigns in 12 Local Government Areas benefiting a total of 48,000 children and women of child-bearing age.

- Capacity Building

Expand headquarters office space.

Hold training workshops in governance and management, reporting, and management skills, as well as resource development.

Implement the results of these workshops at branch level through the appointment of Branch Secretaries and through the establishment of reporting systems in all branches.

Installation of four HF radios and two pactors in selected branches.

- DPP/Relief

Purchase relief items for pre-stocking in Lagos and Kano warehouses.

Establish disaster management, needs assessment and relief distribution training in all branches.

Distribute monthly supplementary food supplies to 1,350 Sierra Leonean refugees: 3 kg of rice and 1.5 kg of beans per person per month.

Distribute monthly supplementary food supplies to 600 Liberian refugees: 6 kg of rice and 1.5 kg of beans per person per month.

Resource Planning

The NRCS programmes in Community-Based Health, Capacity Building and DPP/Relief will be carried out by the staff of NRCS headquarters and its 37 branches. While the National Society will develop a fund-raising plan aimed at tapping local sources of funding, continued financial support through the Federation Delegation will be instrumental to the implementation of the programmes.

Capacity

- The Operating National Society

The National Society has a Red Cross Branch in each of Nigeria's 37 States with a total membership of 262,700 volunteers. National headquarters is staffed with nine senior officers. The gradual appointment of full-time Branch Secretaries will start by the end of 1998 as part of the Capacity Building Programme. Fifteen branches have HF radios and 22 branches have transport. The headquarters has five vehicles.

- The Federation

A three-person delegation (Head of Delegation, Health Delegate and Finance/ID Delegate) will be maintained to assist the National Society in implementing the development plan. The Regional Delegation in Abidjan provides additional assistance in the prevention and preparedness for health-related disasters.

- Other Red Cross/Red Crescent Resources

The ICRC has a delegation in Lagos. It has provided support in the areas of dissemination, extending the radio network, emergency relief and institutional development over the last decade. This support will continue in 1999.

Co-operation

There is close co-operation with UN agencies, UNHCR and UNICEF in particular. In the Health and Relief programmes, NRCS co-operates closely with the government. The Health Programme is carried out with the full support of the Federal Ministry of Health with technical input from MSF. Embassies generally provide support in disaster situations.