

CENTRAL AFRICA : REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

15 September, 1999

*appeal no. 01.07/99; budget revision
situation report no. 1
period covered: January - June, 1999*

Despite an acute shortage of funds, effective progress has been made by prioritising the available resources, particularly in the area of regional co-operation. Encouraging signs include emphasising concrete results of seminars, increased transparency in the management of all National Societies, the implementation of the "Culture of Peace" activities, and improvements in the quality of disaster response. However, with programme reductions already having been made, immediate support is required for a minimum level of assistance to continue.

The context

The Central African region (comprised of Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tome and Principe) continues to be characterised by distress and disaster, both man-made and natural. Conflict in both the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Congo (RC) has caused internal displacement and the flight of large numbers of refugees. Meningitis, cholera and a volcanic eruption in Cameroon, as well as growing internal tension in Chad and Gabon, also caused further suffering and insecurity during the first 6 months of 1999. The underlying causes of the conflicts, increased poverty and political instability, persist, creating an unstable and volatile environment for the peoples of the region.

To respond to the needs, the Federation established the following objectives for 1999:

- { to strengthen the operational and managerial capacity of the National Societies involved by establishing transparent structures and systems in the field of human resources and fund-raising; by increasing community participation in their programmes; and by improving their visibility among the public-at-large; to promote peace and understanding in the region through the *Culture of Peace* programme
- { to meet the health needs of the population by helping to develop National Health Plans; by setting up peer-education programmes on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases; by developing preventive health strategies against diarrhoea and tuberculosis; by developing and executing plans to counter cholera and meningitis epidemics; and by putting in place community-based first aid programmes.

Latest events

A total of 21,000 refugees from the DRC arrived in the Central African Republic between January and July 1999, 25,000 refugees from the Republic of Congo arrived in Gabon during the month of July, 6,000 Angolan refugees from the enclave of Cabinda are still in Pointe-Noire (Republic of Congo), a total of 190,000 internally displaced persons are located in Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire and the region between the two cities.

Mount Cameroon in the south-west region of Cameroon erupted in March, causing the temporary displacement of the population in the surrounding area, and indicating the general lack of disaster preparedness. In a situation similar to that of 1994, the Nyos and Monum lakes (also in the south-west region) are reaching a critical point of toxic saturation, placing at risk hundreds of people.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

The limited response to the Appeal for the Central African region during the first quarter of the year necessitated a programme review, resulting in a revised budget (reduced to CHF 1,473,000), close to half of the original Appeal budget. With the number of delegates already at minimal levels, the only possibilities to reduce budgets entailed implementing programmes over a longer period of time, and delaying the replacement of delegates. The regional delegation itself as well as regional co-operation and health activities have been the most severely affected by the lack of support.

However, the Regional delegation has been able to uphold a reasonable level of activity by using local resources at low cost. This has also bolstered the "spirit of co-operation" vis a vis the national societies.

Regional programmes w

While the Congolese Red Cross (Republic of Congo) benefits from assistance provided through the country delegation, and the Red Cross of Chad enjoyed the support of a bilateral Delegate from the French Red Cross, all other National Societies in the region are supported directly by the Federation's Regional Delegates. Both the country delegation in Brazzaville and the delegate in Chad work on the basis of the priorities of the regional strategy as established by the National Societies.

Capacity building w

Upon request from the Cameroon Red Cross Society, the Regional Delegation has assisted in human resources recruitment process, and has provided technical assistance in the choice of an accountant. Training of this person is planned for the latter half of the year.

With the help of the French Red Cross delegate, the Red Cross of Chad completed their self evaluation in April this year and started implementing the recommendations. In support of this process, the Regional Finance/Administrative delegate spent a week in N'djamena to assist in improving their accounts and administration systems. The initial results indicate that these measures have already allowed the Red Cross of Chad to generate income, pay part of their statutory contributions, and improve their logistical capacities.

The Regional delegate for Institutional Development visited Congo/Brazzaville for discussions with the National Society's leadership on issues of governance and management as well as for clarification of the implementation of the Seville agreement.

In March, the Gabon Red Cross received the Joint Commission of the ICRC and the Federation in preparation for this National Society's recognition. The visit was jointly prepared and accompanied by regional delegates from the ICRC and the Federation.

Together with the regional co-ordination committee, the Regional Delegation organised a seminar in March in Douala on the development of financial resources and fund-raising. All events of the National Societies for the May 8 Red Cross/ Red Crescent were funded through the National Society's own efforts.

In June, a regional seminar took place in Douala on methods of recruitment of human resources, with the participation of representatives from the Burundi Red Cross and the Red Cross of the DRC. The objective of this seminar was the clarification and implementation of the process of recruitment of delegates from the region for assistance to other Red Cross Societies. At the same time, the present National Societies appreciated that the methods presented (definition of task, job description, interviews,) would help them in their own management of human resources.

The National Societies in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tomé & Príncipe are operating programmes for the Culture of Peace initiative, targeted at youth and children. The activities vary from drama groups, youth camps, sessions in schools, and universities to sessions with mothers and children.

Considering the budget revision, the funding for the regional programme in capacity building has been adequate (52% of the original budget), but further funds are needed to allow follow-up on the initiatives and seminars, and to assist the National Societies in the areas of planning, programming and reporting.

Disaster Preparedness and Planning (DPP) w

In close co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the regional delegation assisted the co-ordination committee and the Central African Red Cross Society to organise the regional seminar on DPP. Risk mapping, analysis of the main players in DPP in each country, and methods of management in case of disasters were discussed in depth. All National Societies involved will approach their governments for the elaboration of a national DPP-plan, and will produce the risk maps of each country.

The Regional Development Delegate assisted the Cameroon Red Cross in the aftermath of the volcanic eruption of Mount Cameroon in March this year, providing training in methods of needs assessment and organising volunteers. The Regional Delegation arranged the positioning of a small emergency stock in preparation for further disaster response needs in this area (either another volcanic eruption or the emanation of toxic gas from Lakes Nyos and Monum). The presence of First Aid volunteers, who had been trained by the Regional CBFA-delegate in 1997 and 1998, also proved useful.

Both the Delegates for Health and Development, in close co-operation with the technical departments in Geneva and specialised agencies such as UNDP, implement the programme in disaster prevention - mainly for health related disasters - and disaster preparedness. Further funds are required to follow-up on the seminar in Bangui, develop risk maps in each country, increase training in management of and response to disasters, and the purchase of supplies for a small regional emergency stock.

Health w

Funding for the Regional Health programme has been extremely low during the first half of 1999, and increased support is urgently needed to implement the revised priority programmes against cholera, HIV/AIDS, and malaria. The departure of the regional CBFA and Health delegates in early 1999 caused implementation problems and delays for the regional health programme. The new Regional Health delegate (supported by the Spanish Red Cross) arrived on August 10.

Regional Co-operation w

In February and June, the regional co-ordination committee met as planned in Libreville to evaluate the Regional Delegation's activities during the previous period, and the planning for the following six months. The two working groups (for capacity building and for programmes) as well as the co-ordination committee participated actively in the process of the development of the new regional assistance strategy which will form the basis for the Appeal 2000. The presentation and discussion of this strategy during the regional planning meeting in Libreville in June highlighted the priorities of the region in the field of health (especially prevention of and preparedness for epidemics), preparedness for population movements, promotion of humanitarian values (particularly the continuation of the

programmes for the “Culture of Peace”) and further capacity building in the National Societies with special emphasis on implementation of appropriate systems of governance and management, planning methods, reporting and branch development.

The discussions during the Libreville meeting showed a well established team spirit, developing south to south co-operation and broad participation in problem analysis and development of strategies and programmes. The creation of a regular Red Cross regional information bulletin was acknowledged as an urgent need in order to reinforce information sharing and to improve reporting in the National Societies.

Support for regional co-operation and co-ordination activities was initially funded from carry over of 1998 funds, but with no additional funding in 1999 this programme will come to a halt, thus stopping the involvement of the National Societies in the development and implementation of RC-programmes in the Central African region.

Relief operations w

The Congolese Red Cross (Republic of Congo) receives support from the Federation’s country delegation and the ICRC for the assistance of up to 60,000 displaced persons in Brazzaville. Since mid-May, most of the IDPs have returned to their homes in the two south-west residential areas of Brazzaville that were destroyed during the violence between December 1998 and April 1999. Approximately 100,000 IDPs in the area outside town remain unaccounted for due to lack of access. Humanitarian agencies operating in Brazzaville have expressed great concern over the fate of these 100,000 people who have been without any assistance since December 1998.

The ICRC is the lead agency in this conflict situation, co-ordinating the programmes for safe drinking water, improved health services in the government’s hospitals and health centres, and the distribution of food and non-food items to the displaced persons. The Federation supports the ICRC and the Congolese Red Cross with supervision and training of their volunteers in all fields of service delivery, including First Aid. Plans are being elaborated to extend assistance to 30,000 displaced persons and their host families in Pointe-Noire.

Upon arrival in the Central African Republic, 7,000 refugees from the DRC received medical assistance, food and non-food items from the Central African Red Cross Society (CARCS). In close co-operation with the government, UNHCR and other UN-agencies, CARCS assists these refugees in a settlement programme 300 km outside Bangui, comprising targeted distribution of non-food and food, the construction of latrines, the provision of First Aid and health education, the distribution of seeds and tools, assistance to women for income generation and the organisation of a kindergarten. If the rainy season continues normally, self-sufficiency in food-production will be reached by the end of this year.

Amongst the 14,000 refugees who arrived in July, 8,000 are members of the Democratic Republic of Congo army. With the assistance of UNHCR, the remaining 6,000 civilians are being assisted in the same way as 7,000 pre-existing refugees already located in the country.

A plan for assistance is presently being developed by the government, UN-agencies and the Gabon Red Cross Society for the approximately 25,000 Congolese refugees (Republic of Congo) who arrived in Gabon in early July.

In Cameroon, families displaced by the volcanic eruption were temporarily hosted by the local population. During the needs assessment the Cameroon Red Cross Society discovered a total lack of preparedness for this disaster, as well as adequate preparations for the potentially dangerous toxic emissions from Lakes Nyos and Monum. The Regional Delegation provided training in disaster preparedness as well as material for an emergency stock to the regional committee of the CRCS in this area.

In response to an outbreak of meningitis and cholera in Cameroon, the Regional Delegation supported the volunteers of the Cameroon Red Cross Society in an extensive campaign for environmental hygiene and health education.

Regional Delegation w

The regional delegation is now composed of a Head of Delegation, a Finance/Administration delegate, an institutional development delegate, and (since August 10) a health delegate. The regional delegation plays the role of a facilitator for development, a consultant for technical expertise, and a manager of relationships by organising regional seminars described above, facilitating regional co-operation and assistance, assisting in various technical fields (health, administration, accounting, governance/management, relief, DPP), and raising the awareness for the Red Cross Movement in the region.

For the development, implementation and evaluation of all activities and programmes in the region, the small regional delegation depends on close co-operation with the regional co-ordination committee and the working group of the National Societies. Regular communication, co-operation, exchange of best practices and mutual visits are the key features of the regional process in the Central African region. This "culture of co-operation" was most effectively represented by the spontaneous assistance provided by the Central African Red Cross to the Congolese Red Cross during the early days of the most recent conflict in Brazzaville, the assistance of the Red Cross Society of the Côte d'Ivoire to Cameroon Red Cross for the management of a small refugee operation, the support of the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea to the Gabon Red Cross for the development of programmes in Gabon, the smooth communication between the regional delegation, and the co-ordination committee and the National Societies in the region.

The signing of the status agreement with the Cameroon government in June presented an opportunity for contacts with the main UN-agencies and Embassies in Yaoundé as well as for a media campaign, thereby raising public awareness about the Red Cross.

Funding for the core costs of the Regional Delegation is particularly low, and the Federation will be obliged to consider closure of the Regional Delegation in Yaoundé if support is not forthcoming.

Outstanding needs

With the current level of underfunding for all the programmes, there are outstanding needs in all areas. Please refer to the attached revised budget for further details.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

On June 18, 1999, the status agreement between the Federation and the government of Cameroon was signed. The relationships with the UN-agencies are close: UNDP facilitated the workshop on DPP in Bangui; UNHCR works with all National Societies in the region; UNICEF and UNESCO have approached the Gabon Red Cross for co-operation, UNFPA is a close partner of the Red Cross in Congo, WFP co-operates with the Red Cross of Chad, a consultant from the region participated in the fund-raising workshop in Douala. The present contacts and co-operation indicate potential for further joint mid and long-term programmes. The Regional Delegation appears regularly in various media in Yaoundé, and all National Societies have established ongoing programmes in the media in their respective countries. The ICRC supported the National Societies in these efforts .

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Director
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Belele Geleta
Director
Africa Department

1
1
:

APPEAL No. 01.07/99

PLEDGES
RECEIVED

15/09/99

| DONOR | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
|-------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|

CASH

| REQUESTED IN APPEAL-----> | 1,313,000 | 01/01/99 | 43.20% |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| BRITISH - RC | 7,000 GBP | 16,210 12/03/99 | RES DEV SEMINAR |
| BRITISH - RC | | 60,000 26/07/99 | REGIONAL HEALTH |
| FRENCH - RC | 21,000 FRF | 5,118 16/03/99 | SEMINAR IN BANGUI |
| ICELANDIC - RC | 200,000 ISK | 4,066 27/03/99 | REG. DELEGATION |
| NORWEGIAN - RC | 425,000 NOK | 83,516 08/09/99 | REG. DELEGATION |
| SPANISH - RC | 4,779,700 ESP | 45,914 08/06/99 | HEALTH DELEGATE |
| SPANISH - RC/GOVT | | 81,400 03/05/99 | FUNDING FOR REG. DEVP. DEL. |
| SWEDISH - RC/GOVT | 1,000,000 SEK | 180,100 15/02/99 | REGIONAL DELEGATION |
| SWEDISH - RC | 500,000 SEK | 90,950 07/09/99 | REGIONAL DELEGATION |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH | | 567,274 CHF | 43.20% |

KIND AND SERVICES (INCL.
PERSONNEL)

| DONOR | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|--|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| | | | | | |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES | | | 0.00 CHF | | 0.00% |

NOT REQUESTED IN APPEAL

| DONOR | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|--------------------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| | | | | | |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED | | | 0.00 CHF | | |

BUDGET SUMMARY - Revised
Central Africa

APPEAL No.
01.07/99
IN CHF

ANNEX 1

| | Initial Budget | Revised Budget |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| RELIEF NEEDS | | |
| <u>Food items</u> | 42,000.00 | 0.00 |
| <u>Non food items</u> | 123,140.00 | 0.00 |
| <u>Medical items</u> | 81,000.00 | 240.00 |
| TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS | 246,140.00 | 240.00 |
| <u>Capital expenditures</u> | | |
| Land and buildings | 0.00 | 1,203.00 |
| Vehicles | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Telecommunications equipment/Computers | 27,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Other capital expenditure | 26,000.00 | 5,316.00 |
| <u>Transport, storage & vehicles costs</u> | 197,581.00 | 74,104.00 |
| <u>Personnel</u> | | |
| Expat staff | 905,549.00 | 455,814.00 |
| National staff | 489,976.00 | 299,642.00 |
| Training | | |
| <u>Administrative, office & general services</u> | | |
| Travel & Communications | 260,255.00 | 143,242.00 |
| Assessment/Survey mission/Evaluation | | |
| Printing Costs/Information/Visibility | 292,380.00 | 37,293.00 |
| Other administrative services | 373,321.00 | 280,890.00 |
| Secretariat operational support | 261,570.00 | 175,256.00 |
| TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS | 2,833,632.00 | 1,472,760.00 |
| TOTAL APPEAL CASH & KIND | 3,079,772.00 | 1,473,000.00 |
| LESS CASH ON HAND | 160,000.00 | 160,000.00 |
| NET REQUEST CASH & KIND | 2,919,772.00 | 1,313,000.00 |

All items are to be purchased locally