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West Coast Mid-Year Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA61002

12 October 2012

**This report covers the
period 1 January to
30 June 2012**

*Distribution of essential non food items
(NFIs) to the population in Toulepleu; Côte
d'Ivoire /IFRC*



Overview

The West Coast Regional Representation Office provides support to 7 National Societies (NS) namely; Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo which work within the framework of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Strategy 2020 to contribute to improving the lives of vulnerable populations in the region.

During the reporting period, the West Coast Regional Representation Office worked in close collaboration with the National Societies in the region to implement some of the business lines as planned. However, due to staffing constraints brought about by the office relocation from Abuja to Abidjan in December 2011, programme activities only began at the end of quarter 1. National Society flagship programmes such as the Mothers Clubs (Togo, Ghana and Benin), Child Advocacy Rehabilitation (Liberia and Sierra Leone) and Community-based Health and First Aid (Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone) have been implemented with considerable success. However, these successes have had little visibility in country and internationally as would be required for mobilization of additional programme resources and or attraction of new partnerships for the purposes of scaling-up. As a result the West Coast Regional Representation has prioritized support to the National Societies in strengthening their capacities for efficient and timely response to humanitarian challenges in their respective countries as well as in their flagship programmes with the aim of highlighting their success and scaling up. In addition, insufficient funding for the programmes resulting from the economic crisis that the country experienced during the political

turmoil as well as the lack of interest by donors in supporting the region has driven the Regional Representation leadership to adopt a cost effective regional strategy in providing support to the National Societies.

Calm has returned in Côte d'Ivoire following the assumption of office by the new government. The security has greatly improved but remains very unpredictable. The increase in number of Dozos (traditional hunters) and military personnel in various parts of the country continues to sow seeds of mistrust amongst people in some of the programme intervention areas. Social tension has been reported in in Doukouyo, Nebo, Tiepa, Gnamboisso and Gragba Dagolilié.

Working in partnership

Operational Partners	Agreement
PNS (Finish Red Cross , Swedish Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, British Red Cross)	Bi-lateral or tripartite agreements in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone on Health, Disaster Risk Reduction, Organisation Development, Water and sanitation,
Irish government	Agreements with regional office in Health, Disaster Management and Organisation
DIFD	Disaster Management
Nestle	In Côte d'Ivoire for watsan
Laraba Foundation	Disaster Management
USAID	Disaster Management

Progress towards outcomes

Business line 1: To raise humanitarian standards.

Outcomes:

- Regional trends on key humanitarian and development issues are analyzed and shared by the West Coast Regional Representation (WCRR).
- The region participates fully in the HQ-led process of establishing a standard Africa databank. The WCRR database is connected to the HQ and Africa database of capacities and resources.
- The West Coast office contributes to the Africa zone wide peer review mechanism to accredit and rate National Societies and the Secretariat; facilitates and coordinates Peer-to-peer capacity building between National Societies in and out of the West Coast region
- WCRR ensures the participation of National Societies in the Red Cross Red Crescent Academic Network

Comments on progress towards outcomes

- No progress on the outcomes yet reported.

Business Line 2: To grow Red Cross Red Crescent services for vulnerable people

Outcomes:

- In coordination with the W&C Africa Hub and the operation coordinator, provide the required support to NS in the provision of emergency water and sanitation, health, relief, logistics and warehousing, HR, IT, finance to the West Coast NSs; the recovery programme in Liberia and the Federation OD delegate in Liberia.
- Support and facilitate systems and tools such as RDRT, DREF, FACT, ERUs deployed to support NS address disasters and crisis in West Coast.
- The representation will support fully the Africa Zone to review the effectiveness, and operationalisation of the regional disaster response teams (RDRT, NDRT).
- The 7 NS in the Region assisted to develop contingency plans for the most recurrent hazards which cover shelter, recovery issues and related capacity building at both NS and regional levels and to test and regularly update these plans.
- The 7 NS are provided with adequate logistics, financial management and HR procedures in preparing for, reducing risks and recovering from disasters and crisis.
- The 7 NS have been strengthened with well structured branches and national disaster risk management teams.
- Non-food items are prepositioned in a coherent logistical plan to ensure rapid response to affected communities.
- Epidemics hot spots in the West Coast region are known, surveillance systems in place and NS supported to respond. The Regional network that monitors and coordinates floods information from all countries within West Coast will be strengthened.
- Coordination, partnerships and knowledge sharing in disaster and crisis strengthened Supported 7NS to review, update develop, promotion of tools, SOPs, policies, database, guidelines.
- Created a tool box in collaboration with the NS in the West Coast.
- Inspired by the risk reduction partnership with MSB and Swedish RC, creating and promoting a 'One stop shop' for all NS health, DM, OD programs and other tools, policies, standard operating procedures, guidelines, principles and standards to improve the 7 West Coast NS capacities in programming, and planning disaster Risk Management Strategies.
- Disaster risk reduction capacities of West Coast NS strengthened to address floods, health and other related (natural or human provoked risks at the community, branch and national levels.
- The youths of the 7 NS supported to embark upon Disaster risk reduction activities in schools.
- The region is actively facilitating the work of the youth activities to address the needs of vulnerable children in and out of schools.
- A stronger culture of voluntary service, and greater youth leadership and participation in 7 NS and community affairs.
- The region advocates with the governance and management of NS to ensure that youths are fully represented in NS decision making bodies of the NS.
- The region continues to facilitate the signatures and implementation of youth declarations by NS leadership.

- Youth commission representatives in the West Coast assisted to follow up on decisions taken at the global level; their participation in international events and supporting the annual gathering of youths of the West Coast Region.
- 4 NS (Togo, Benin, Ghana, and Nigeria) close to Mano River and Mono are assisted to develop effective early warning systems to monitor, reduce risks related to floods and respond to save lives and properties.
- 5 NS governance and management trained and sensitized on disaster management.
- The region continues to review and develop a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Management Strategy integrated in country DM policy, migration policy and Well Prepared NS (WPNS) used as a monitoring tool.
- In close coordination with the AU Representative, the region continues to lead the agenda of climate change adaptation within the regional IASC and build strong relation with regional organizations like ECOWAS, and relevant institutions in the African Union to support IFRC disaster response management agenda including RC&RC Principle and Values.
- Supporting 4 NS (Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria) to develop food security, livelihoods, nutrition community-based projects in targeted countries including EWS and climate adaptation programs to reduce food insecurity in line with the Africa food security initiative.
- Strengthening 5 NS capacity in the management of recovery operations, to support early recovery activities to assist populations affected by flooding, epidemics and other disasters.
- Supporting NS to implement tree planting and other environmental activities.
- NS assisted to participate effectively in the world environment day commemorations and other regional initiatives on environmental sustainable living.
- Baseline and monitoring framework in line with Strategy 2020 and Federation-wide Reporting System are developed.
- The region supports the Africa Zone to develop a Plan of Action for strategic engagement and how to work with regional and intergovernmental organizations in tackling major disasters and crises (ECOWAS, AU).
- The region will support the NS in the implementation of the Africa Leadership decisions.
- Liaising with international agencies and organizations when appropriate and be the focal point for Inter Agency coordination and other NGO meetings, task forces on disaster management where appropriate and beyond the formal coordination meeting
- The region is supporting 4 NS to put in place country based movement partnership to implement West & Central Africa food security strategy through technical support to NSs. This will include all other organizations involved in FS (WFP, FAO).
- Strengthening the existing partnership with meteorological organizations, the African Centre for Meteorological Applications and Development (ACMAD) to support quality programme for food security, EWS and DM community service delivery.
- Partnership with universities will be strengthened to bridge university studies with DM needs

Comments on progress towards outcomes

During the reporting period, West Coast region experienced a number of emergencies ranging from health epidemics namely; Lassa fever in Nigeria, cholera, meningitis and yellow fever epidemics in Ghana, cholera epidemic in Sierra Leone and cerebrospinal meningitis in Côte d'Ivoire as well as a plane crash in Lagos-Nigeria. Relevant technical departments from the West Coast Regional Representation Office supported the respective National Societies in responding to the crises. IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) amounting to CHF 953,842 were allocated to assist the National Societies respond to the various emergencies in the respective National Societies.

Business Line 3: To strengthen the specific Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to development**Outcome:**

- The region is promoting an active roll-out of Strategy 2020 and supported 7 NS to utilize Strategy 2020 in their planning and budgeting.
- The Pan African Coordination Team (PACT) is supported in the implementation of the already developed plan of action, based on the Johannesburg Commitments and aligned with Strategy 2020.
- Develop internal understanding, consensus and promote RC model on sustainable development within the Africa context based on existing policy guidance and Strategy 2020
- Supporting 3 NS (Côte d'Ivoire; Liberia; Ghana) to scale up actions to reduce vulnerability to HIV and its impact through preventing further infection, expanding care, treatment, and support, and reducing stigma and discrimination
- Strengthening actions of NS to protect vulnerable populations, children under five years, pregnant women, People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) from malaria
- 5 NS are being supported to reduce the risks associated with communicable diseases, and Identify and address risks from new and emerging diseases
- MNCH strengthened through 5 NS community based activities, including safe motherhood and child health initiatives, nutrition activities, immunization services during both mass vaccination campaigns and routine immunization services for measles and polio.
- CBHFA programme strengthened in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Ghana and Togo
- Improved access to curative and preventive health services in the target area.
- Increased capacity of communities and volunteers who are prepared and are able to respond to first-aid needs and identify health priorities in their communities.
- Morbidity and mortality from malaria reduced in 5 countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, and Togo) through collaboration with MoH and other partners.
- The use of Insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs) to reduce maternal and child Mortalities caused by malaria and other preventable diseases promoted widely in the West Coast region.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

In the CBHFA programme in Côte d'Ivoire, 1,762 beneficiaries drawn from 512 households were identified.

Of those identified, 286 households consisting of 1,453 beneficiaries (702 men and 751 women) benefited from sensitizations session on nutrition, malaria, immunization, buruli ulcer, HIV/AIDS and hygiene promotion.

In Sierra Leone, 571 home visits across 13 branches were conducted by 278 Red Cross Volunteers. Dissemination of health messages focussing on the importance of exclusive breast feeding for infants below the age of 6 months and right weaning foods, management and prevention of diarrhoea, Malaria prevention through bed net use was conducted. Peer educators from 13 branches conducted 32 outreach sessions targeting school and out of school youths. A total of 14 condom dispensers were provided and stocked bringing the total number of condom dispensers per branch to two. In support of the People living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) 60 beneficiaries received home based care kits (buckets, bowls, soap, disinfectants, bleach, and disposable gloves). 400 trained Red Cross volunteers participated in social mobilization during the countrywide Polio immunization between 23-26 March 2012. The red Cross volunteers were charged with crowd control and house to house campaigns encouraging mothers to take their children for immunization. Post monitoring was carried out by Red Cross volunteers to trace and refer defaulters and 103 children were traced for immunization to respective MCH Posts.

In Liberia, 480 households (2,500 beneficiaries) received seeds for their kitchen gardens.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

The West Coast Regional Representation (WCRR) main clients are the National societies. WCR has invested on the capacity building with the aim of creating stronger National Societies that in turn are able to effectively deliver services to their clients. Project cycle management trainings focussing on effective Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms has been provided. Meetings held to monitor communities plans of action held regularly have been found very useful as they provide forums for information sharing and measurement of progress towards the project goals.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High/Medium/ Low	Recommended Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active participation in various humanitarian coordination meetings - Côte d'Ivoire • Staffing constraints in the regional 	<p>H</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will be continually encouraged in order to ensure that the NS maintains and benefits from relevant partnerships and networks. • Relevant staff hiring and

<p>office following the office relocation As well as inadequate staffing in some national societies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low funding levels for the WCRR and National Society programmes 	<p>M</p> <p>H</p>	<p>inductions conducted to ensure that new staff embark on the jobs with ease. Resource mobilisation for staff costs to be prioritized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust fundraising and profiling of the regional office and national societies through improved programming to be pursued.
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Lessons learned and looking ahead

The main focus will be on strengthening the regional technical team. A strengthened team will ensure that National Capacity building, resource mobilisation and programme support initiatives, planned in the year are implemented and followed up on with the respective National Societies.

Consultations are underway with National Societies in order to mobilise their interests and commitment to structure their programme work around the business lines approach as outlined in the strategy 2020. The consultations inform projects that are worth scaling up and the NS will engage with intensive work to reinforce and attract more partnerships.

Financial situation

[Click here to go directly to the financial report](#)

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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