

# OPERATIONS 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

## WEST AFRICA: POPULATION MOVEMENTS

4 February 2005

*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 181 countries.*

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 27/2004; Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 23 December 2004 to 31 January 2005;**  
**Appeal coverage: 0.0%;** [Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

#### Appeal history:

- Launched on 23 December 2004 for CHF 411,236 (USD 358,652 or EUR 266,587) to assist 14,000 beneficiaries for three months.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000.

**Outstanding needs: CHF 411,236 (USD 358,652 or EUR 266,587)**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: See list on final page of this Update**

#### Operational Summary:

Civil unrest in Côte d'Ivoire resurfaced in November 2004, resulting in 64 deaths and 2,000 injured. Approximately 10,000 western nationals left the country; many nationals from African countries also returned to their homes, mainly Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea. Unofficial reports from neighbouring National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies indicated that 15,000 had fled to Liberia and a further 10,000 to Burkina Faso.

The Regional Delegation issued three information bulletins<sup>1</sup>; CHF 100,000 was allocated from DREF to support the affected national societies to carry out assessment missions to the border areas. A planning and evaluation workshop was held 8-9 December. Each of the six national societies developed a three-month plan of action that addressed basic preparedness and response activities related to large population movements, each with a budget of CHF 20,000.

After cooperation agreements were signed early January 2005, CHF 5,000 was transferred to each of three national societies; the remaining three are still pending. This initial transfer allowed the national societies to initiate activities in line with their plan of action. However, further activities must remain on hold as this Appeal has not received any funding contributions beyond the initial DREF allocation.

<sup>1</sup> Information Bulletin no. 1/2004 - [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?rpts04/wa041111.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts04/wa041111.pdf)  
Information Bulletin no. 2/2004 - [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?rpts04/wa041112.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts04/wa041112.pdf)  
Information Bulletin no. 3/2004 - [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?rpts04/wa041207.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts04/wa041207.pdf)

## West Africa: Population Movements; Appeal no. 27/2004; Operations Update no. 1

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*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>*

## **Background**

Côte d'Ivoire was once one of the wealthiest countries in West Africa. For this reason, many people from other African states, mainly the poor Sahel countries, are living and working in Côte d'Ivoire, making up to one third of the country's population. Over the last two years Côte d'Ivoire has been experiencing civil unrest; this peaked again in November 2004, resulting in 64 deaths and nearly 2,000 injured. Anti-foreigner sentiments prompted 10,000 western nationals to leave the country. African nationals also started to leave for their home countries, mainly to Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea and Liberia. Official information on the situation within Côte d'Ivoire and on people crossing the borders to the neighbouring countries was scarce; however, reports from neighbouring National Red Cross Societies indicate that 15,000 have fled to Liberia and 10,000 to Burkina Faso during November 2004.

Though negotiations on solving the political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire are on-going, the situation seems unlikely to improve soon. General elections are planned to be held in October 2005. It is rather uncertain whether they will take place and their impact on political stability and on the humanitarian situation in Côte d'Ivoire and neighbouring countries.

Most international organizations working in Côte d'Ivoire relocated their staff or work under restricted conditions. This has resulted in unreliable information about the humanitarian situation in the country, internal displacements and violence against women and children, and the condition of the African nationals from neighbouring countries and their readiness to return home. Informal reports from National Red Cross Societies in the Sahel region indicate that they are already returning home.

The recent locust invasion - the worst in 15 years - and insufficient rains might lead to a major food crisis, even famine, in the coming months. UN organizations are already developing contingency plans to address these emerging needs. As a worst-case scenario, a breakout of open conflict or civil war might result in a spontaneous repatriation of up to 750,000 African nationals currently living and working in Côte d'Ivoire to their home of origin. A further 30,000 Côte d'Ivoire nationals might seek refuge in neighbouring countries, and the number of internally displaced might reach as high as 750,000. That is, a potential population movement of 1.5 million people might occur if conditions in Côte d'Ivoire do not improve considerably.

The International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement has a major role to play, both to prepare for and respond to this threat of a major humanitarian disaster in West Africa. Through its unique characteristics with a wide network of volunteers - even in the most remote villages - it can give updated and accurate information on the situation and needs of the most vulnerable and efficiently respond to the needs of the most vulnerable.

The prior experiences of 2002 and 2003 – civil unrest resulting in massive population movement – lead the Movement to take immediate action in November 2004 in assisting those affected and to prepare for mass population movements to the five neighbouring countries. The Regional Delegation in Dakar is the focal point and coordinating body for the concerned National Societies.

## **Operational developments**

The Regional Delegation for West and Central Africa in Dakar, Senegal, issued three information bulletins in November and December 2004. The Federation supported this initial effort with a DREF allocation of CHF 100,000. To date, this DREF funding has been used to support the following activities:

- In November: Deployment of 5 assessment and support Missions to the border areas of the 5 neighbouring countries (Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, Liberia) consisting of 2-3 national society staff/RDRT members and 1 IFRC staff to
  - gather information on the number and condition of refugees and returnees,
  - assess the existing capacity of the local branches and volunteers and needs for support,
  - to meet Government authorities, local and international organizations, and
  - to draft a contingency plan with the concerned national societies.
- On 8-9 December 2004: Organization of an Evaluation and Planning workshop in Dakar: sharing of assessment missions' outcomes and development of country-wise Plans of Actions for the period January to March 2005 with a budget of CHF 20,000 each.
- Re-establishment of the radio network in in Guinea to enable proper and reliable flow of information between the border areas and the HQ of the national society on population movements and internal conflicts.

The main components of the Plans of Action are recruitment of new volunteers and their training, re-fresher trainings for existing volunteers, replenishment of equipment to respond to a population influx and coordination mechanisms at local as well as national level.

As the DREF funding is insufficient to cover the plans of action budgets and the programme coordination and monitoring costs, the Federation launched this current Appeal on 23 December 2004 for CHF 411,236. The Appeal focused on four key components:

- Support for the 6 Plans of Action for the concerned Red Cross Societies (5 neighbouring countries and Côte d'Ivoire): recruitment of new volunteers and basic training, re-fresher training for existing volunteers, basic equipment and relief material, mechanisms for coordination with the Government, NGOs and international organizations;
- Support for 15,000 refugees, which had already arrived in Liberia by December 2004
- Support for about 700 internally displaced people in Burkina Faso, which were victims of a violent clash caused by population movements
- Support to the Regional Delegation for programme coordination and monitoring

To date, there has been no response to this Appeal. Awareness of the need to prepare for a potentially huge humanitarian disaster in West Africa related to the Côte d'Ivoire crises needs to be enhanced.

The implementation of the three-month plans of action has not yet started, but the national societies have already informed the beneficiaries on the programmes to be launched. They also liaise with other Movement partners (especially ICRC) to financially support the plans of action.

The delay in implementation is mainly due to the following reasons:

- Holiday closure and office construction work at the Regional Delegation office led to delays in the signing of cooperation agreements with the concerned national societies and the subsequent transfer of funds
- Lack of human resources at the regional delegation level to settle bureaucratic work related to the six programmes at the Regional Delegation (Cooperation agreements, reporting formats, transfer of funds etc.).
- Communication problems with some of the concerned national societies due to holiday season as well as dysfunctional e-mail and phone systems

**Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact**

In the Evaluation and Planning meeting in Dakar in December 2004, the national societies decided that the Appeal should have the three following objectives:

- To strengthen the capacities of the volunteers and branches at border areas in each concerned country to prepare for a response to population movements;
- To provide basic assistance for the refugees already arrived in Liberia; and,
- To provide basic assistance to victims of an internal conflict in Burkina Faso related to the population movements.

Each plan of action is budgeted for CHF 20,000. An initial transfer was done in January 2005 from DREF funding. Since funding specific to this Appeal has not been received, the concerned national societies are unable to fully implement their three-month plans. Urgent support is also needed for the Regional Delegation to coordinate and monitor the activities properly and without delay and thereby to comply with its mandate as coordinating body and service center for the national societies.

**Objective 1: Red Cross branches and volunteers in border areas are prepared to respond to population movements.**

**Progress/Achievements:**

Cooperation agreements were signed between the Regional Delegation and the 6 national societies and transfer of a first rate (CHF 5,000) has been done to Mali, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire in the last week of January is still due for the national societies of Guinea, Ghana and Liberia. None of the national societies did start with the direct implementation of the programme. However, the following activities were carried out:

- Regular participation in coordination meetings in the respective countries organized by UN and/or other organizations; the Plan of Actions were shared and coordination and cooperation mechanisms are discussed.
- Explanation of the programme to the beneficiaries (volunteers and local branches at border areas) and preparations for implementation (training manuals, procurement preparations etc.)

**Impact:**

The impact of the activities so far is that the national societies are encouraged and motivated to carry out preparedness activities and feel being supported by the Regional Delegation. The feed-back by the national societies' evaluation and planning workshop held in Dakar in December is very positive, mainly because it was carried out in a transparent and participatory manner (bottom-up approach and feeling of ownership for the programmes).

**Constraints:**

Transfer of funds has not yet been carried out for Guinea, Ghana and Liberia as the national societies did not yet communicate the details of the bank account for the programme to the Regional Delegation. Delays in signing of the agreement and communication problems due to holiday season, shortage of human resources at the Regional Delegation and dysfunctional or non-existence of e-mail access by some national societies were the main reasons for delay.

**Objective 2: Liberia: the vulnerability of Ivorian refugees and Liberian host communities will be reduced by providing first aid, tracing services, improved access to safe water & sanitation facilities, and an increased awareness on the spread and prevention of water & sanitation-related illnesses and HIV/AIDS.**

**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

Due to lack of funding, no activities were implemented during this reporting period.

**Impact:**

See above

**Constraints:**

No funds.

## **West Africa: Population Movements; Appeal no. 27/2004; Operations Update no. 1**

**Objective 3: The Burkinabe Red Cross Society is supported to assist over 600 women and children affected by internal violence in the province of Po.**

### **Progress/Achievements**

Due to lack of funding, no activities were implemented during this reporting period.

### **Impact:**

See above

### **Constraints:**

No funds.

### **Federation Coordination**

The activities in each country are coordinated by the respective National Red Cross Society, which is linking to the respective Regional Office, Country Delegation and the Regional Delegation. The overall coordination of this Appeal is being carried out by the Regional Delegation for West and Central Africa in Dakar

Each National Society is closely in contact with other humanitarian organizations and Government institutions relevant for population movements either through participation in coordination meetings and informal exchange on a regular basis.

Especially in Côte d'Ivoire, the Regional Office of the Federation is closely coordinating its activities with the ICRC and PNS. In Dakar, the Regional Delegation is part of consultation group in Dakar under the auspices of OCHA and participates in pertinent inter-agency coordination meetings.

### **National Society Capacity Building**

The operational activities enhance the capacities of the six National Societies concerned through

- the above mentioned assessment missions to the border areas,
- the evaluation and planning workshop held in Dakar in December and
- implementation of the Plans of Action

The activities focus on

- recruitment of volunteers and their training,
- re-fresher training of existing volunteers and
- provision of equipment to local RC Branches.

Simple narrative reporting formats have been developed by the Regional Delegation to monitor the programme. Through bi-weekly reports, the skills on reporting and monitoring of the national societies are strengthened.

Cross-border exchange visits are planned to monitor the programmes, and a workshop will be held at the end of the operation (three months), further enhancing capacities of the national societies.

### **Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

The concerned national societies are participating in coordination meetings organized by the UN and other organizations and sharing their Plans of Action. The Regional Office in Abidjan and the Regional Delegation are in close and permanent contact with other Movement partners active in the region and share their activities and plans related to population movements in inter-agency meetings.

## West Africa: Population Movements; Appeal no. 27/2004; Operations Update no. 1

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the following Federation Annual Appeals:*

- Côte d'Ivoire, 2005 Appeal no. 05AA019 - [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA019.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA019.pdf)
- Guinea, 2005 Appeal no. 05AA021 - [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA021.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA021.pdf)
- Liberia, 2005 Appeal no. 05AA022 - [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA022.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA022.pdf)
- Nigeria sub-regional programmes (includes Benin, **Ghana**, Nigeria and Togo), 2005 Appeal no. 05AA025 - [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA025.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA025.pdf)
- Burkina Faso, 2005 Appeal no. 05AA026 - [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA026.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA026.pdf)
- Mali, 2005 Appeal no. 05AA029 - [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA029.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA029.pdf)
- West and Central Africa regional programmes, 2005 Appeal no. 05AA039 – [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA039.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_Appeals.pl?annual05/05AA039.pdf)

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

# West Africa - Population movement

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 27/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

08/02/2005

### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	411,236		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>
			<b>0.0%</b>
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH	0	CHF	0.0%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	