

ANNUAL REPORT



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 REGION

May, 2001

This Annual Report is intended for reporting on the Federation's Annual Appeals only.

Appeal No. 01.06/2000

Appeal Target: CHF 2,543,000

The Context

The International Federation's regional delegation (RD) for Central Africa covered the National Societies in: Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was subsequently added. Extreme poverty due to political instability and deterioration of economic, environmental and health conditions heightened vulnerability of several sectors of the population in all these countries, particularly children, women, the sick and the elderly.

There were many population movements as a result of persistent armed conflict. The displaced persons and refugees live in difficult conditions, thus increasing their vulnerability. In the DRC alone, displaced persons are estimated to number two million. This is without counting the Angolan refugees in the provinces of Bas-Congo, Bandundu and Katanga (the UN High Commissioner for Refugees takes care of only 350,000 persons).

The DRC, Congo, Gabon and Cameroon provide shelter to refugees from neighbouring countries. The political situation in the CAR is worrisome as 17,000 state employees demanded 31 months of unpaid salaries in November. Rebellion is still rife in the north of Chad where violent fighting at the end of December spilled over into the territory of Libya.

Frequent floods, drought, epidemics, malaria and increased prevalence of HIV/AIDS are additional causes of increased vulnerability in the region.

In light of this situation, the National RC Societies in the region (except for the DRC) defined their priorities following a self-evaluation process they each conducted in 1999. These priorities, listed in the table below, take into account the four core areas of the Federation's *Strategy 2010*.

	<i>RC Congo</i>	<i>RC CAR</i>	<i>RC Cameroon</i>	<i>RC Gabon</i>	<i>RC Equ. Guinea</i>	<i>RC Sao T & P</i>	<i>RC Chad</i>
Disaster relief	X	X	X	X			X
DPP*	X	X	X				
Health	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

PHV**	X	X		X	X	X	X
ID***	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Disaster preparedness & prevention; ** Promotion of Humanitarian Values; *Institutional Development*

The priorities defined by the national societies (NS) are the needs that determined the regional assistance strategy (RAS) of the regional delegation for Central Africa. This assistance is part of the process of close co-operation, consultation and mutual assistance set up since 1997 and the regional co-operation which was reactivated in 1998. The overall objectives of the RAS include:

- strengthening capacities of the national societies through advice and guidance in the institutional area (statutes, organization and management, good governance), by support for energizing and supervising human resources and by helping develop and diversify financial resources;
- support for the national societies in setting up programmes for the most vulnerable population, in particular in the areas of community health and promotion of humanitarian values.
- technical and material assistance for disaster preparedness and prevention and in emergency response.

Objectives, Achievements and Constraints

Disaster Response

Objective 1: to strengthen the regional relief co-ordination and operational management and improve regional relief and need assessment capacities, as well as monitoring and reporting.

Achievements

Meningitis epidemic

Cameroon, Chad and the Central African Republic were affected by a meningitis epidemic during the first six months of the year. The national societies of these countries were in the front line of the combat. In response to a Federation appeal, the Red Cross of Chad and the Central African Red Cross received 200,000 doses of vaccine and 3,000 vials of Chloramphenicol each. The Federation transferred CHF 170,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Red Cross volunteers took a major part in the fight against this epidemic. The remaining vaccines were kept for a possible new outbreak as meningitis reappears each year during the dry season.

Floods

Contrary to previous years, Cameroon was struck by floods in the city of Douala. The Federation launched an emergency Appeal which enabled 15,000 vulnerable persons to be assisted and transferred CHF 40,000 from the DREF. The local committee received sanitation supplies to help the population of Douala in its sanitation programme. Training for young people prepared the population to assume responsibility for itself.

Support for elderly persons and young orphans

In December the Swedish Red Cross donated used clothing and shoes to the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross for about 30,000 vulnerable persons (elderly, single mothers and orphan boys and girls).

Objective 2: to eradicate polio in the Central African region.

Achievements

Following an agreement between the Federation's secretary general and the World Health Organization (WHO), the Red Cross Societies of Chad, Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo officially became committed to the polio eradication programmes in their countries.

Five hundred volunteers from Chad were mobilized during the national vaccination campaign in November. The Congolese Red Cross mobilized 495 volunteers during the two national vaccination days in the last quarter. It is not known to what extent volunteers in the Democratic Republic of Congo were mobilized but, according to the health authorities, the success of these days is partly due to the involvement of Red Cross volunteers. The Federation provided the National Societies of Chad and Congo with logistics support and supplies to increase awareness. These operations enhanced the image of the NS in their countries.

Disaster Preparedness

Objective 1: to help prevent epidemics in the high-risk zones.

Achievements

The following first aid supplies were purchased and positioned at the regional delegation in Yaoundé : three type-A cholera kits; three type-B cholera kits; two WHO medical emergency kits; and one water and sanitation kit.

Health and Care

Objective 1: to develop the regional network and supervise health resource persons at the national societies.

Achievements

At the beginning of March 2000, a meeting was organized at the regional delegation for the health leaders at the NS. Once the health programme had been studied, training was given in project design and how to draft a monitoring report and a final report.

Visits were organized in seven countries in the region to better present the African Red Cross and Red Crescent Health Initiative (ARCHI) 2010.

Objective 2: to train volunteers in combating epidemics and disasters.

Achievements

The programme in 2000 focussed on combating epidemics. An epidemic surveillance network was set up. The 72 trainers who received refresher training at the beginning of the year (24 in Chad, 18 in the CAR, and 30 in Cameroon) in turn trained those persons who will be called on to facilitate networks in peripheral regions. By the end of the year, each national society had trained an average of 100 facilitators for the epidemic surveillance network

Community-based first aid (CBFA) training was provided only in Chad and the Central African Republic to 30 first aid volunteers in each national society. Also, the first aid manual was translated into Chad Arabic and 5,000 copies were printed.

Constraints

Training was not possible in the other NS as there was a funding shortage.

Objective 3: to reduce the number of cases of malaria.

Achievements

Training of trainer workshops were organized in six of the region's eight NS. An average of 20 trainers per country trained volunteers at the intermediate and peripheral levels. In total, 150 volunteers in each of these six countries were thus trained in the programme to fight malaria and in the technique to impregnate mosquito nets.

Objective 4: to help prevent the spread of AIDS and raise awareness of it and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Achievements:

AIDS has become a major cause of mortality and morbidity in six of the eight countries in the region. The national RC societies in the region carried out the following activities to increase the awareness of young people to the disease:

Seven NS received a public address system for their play groups, for public performances. Each play group made at least one performance per week for an average of 300 persons. The public showed a keen interest in the shows and discussions. Some business heads asked the play group to perform for their staff. In Chad, two businesses made the request and in Cameroon and Congo, five businesses requested a performance by the play group from the NS. The performances helped to increase 3,500 workers' awareness of AIDS.

The regional delegation, with the help of a cartoonist from Cameroon, prepared a cartoon in French, as a teaching aid. A total of 20,000 copies were printed and distributed in the schools of countries in the region. Also, a leaflet on how the disease is transmitted was put out in French, English, Spanish, Chad Arabic and Portuguese and copies were distributed at the play groups' awareness sessions.

The NS took part in the national AIDS days alongside the Ministries of Health. More than 100 young people from the eight NS in the region held a camp at Kribi, Cameroon, in September, where they exchanged their experiences and took stock of the fight against AIDS. The President of the Federation was visiting the region and also took part in this event.

Regional co-ordination of the fight against AIDS and for a "culture of peace" was organized in March 2000. As a result, experiences are pooled in the region, recent information on AIDS is gathered and made available to all of the NS via the liaison bulletin.

Constraints

There was no funding for travel by the play groups to the interior of the country as planned. Performances were primarily held in the capitals.

Humanitarian Values

Objective 1: to support the creation of youth clubs and play groups to enhance young people's awareness of the importance of the ideals of peace and friendship, international humanitarian law (IHL) and the principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Achievements

A gathering of young people from the Central African Red Cross was organized in September. Stock was taken of the programmes carried out by young people including the fight against AIDS and the "culture of peace" initiative. Some 100 young people from eight NS in the region participated in this youth camp.

The regional delegation's RAS also supported the creation of Red Cross clubs in schools and universities. The Cameroon Red Cross set up five such clubs while the Central African Red Cross set up 20.

Constraints

Activities planned specifically for women and development could not be carried out as a result of a shortage of funding. As mentioned, play group performances by the youth were mainly held in the capital cities.

Institutional and Resource Development

Objective 1: to strengthen the operational capacities of the region's national societies, primarily in the area of human resources (training and recruitment of permanent technical personal) and material resources (communications system and logistics).

Achievements

The Congolese Red Cross benefited from the support of the regional delegation to finance an accountant for one year. The society was quite satisfied with the accountant's work but found that one year was not enough time for it to assume responsibility for this post on its own.

Some national societies made efforts to respect their basic texts and/or to adapt them to the requirements of good governance, i.e., separation of powers and responsibilities, renewing bodies. In this regard the Cameroon Red Cross held its 19th General Assembly in Bafoussam, from 12-14 April 2000. It was the first time it was held outside the capital, Yaoundé. Discussion focused on: the importance of the departmental committees and the responsibility of the President in this respect; the role of national society members in the protection of the Red Cross emblem and instruction in IHL; and the national society's development plan to avoid navigating without instruments, and how it fits in with the *Strategy 2010*.

The Central African Red Cross held an extraordinary General Assembly from 4-6 May 2000. New statutes and rules of procedure were adopted. A new President was elected. Note should be taken that the statutes adopted by the society did not include the main observations from the ICRC/Federation Joint Commission.

At the beginning of August, the Gabonese Red Cross had a new secretary general.

The Red Cross of the DRC finally held an extraordinary General Assembly from 5-11 November 2000 (the first since 1978). It adopted new statutes and rules of procedure and elected a new President. The former Management Committee was completely renewed. Despite the war situation, all the provincial and district committees, even in the "occupied territories" attended this General Assembly, thanks to the ICRC delegation in Kinshasa. The new Management Committee team is working to implement the recommendations from the event, including recruitment of a new secretary general and deputy, holding provincial assemblies, application of the new management procedures and programme elaboration.

The administrative and financial restructuring process undertaken with the national societies since 1998 as part of the Tripartite Project was completed. The job descriptions of the different departments and technical services, the profile of their heads and the management procedures are now available. Forty staff members received a preliminary initiation to the implementation of financial and administrative procedures. The process was followed by Price Waterhouse Coopers. The regional delegation provided technical support for the preparation and holding of the General Assembly as well as for the preparation of provincial assemblies in eastern Kasai and Equateur.

In order to strengthen skills, eight leaders from the NS of Cameroon, Congo and Burundi and the Federation's delegation in Kinshasa (DRC) took part in the regional BTC co-organized by the regional delegations in Abidjan and Yaoundé, held in Abidjan in June 2000. Six of the eight participants were successful.

Objective 2: to energize the regional committees by training and setting up programmes and services for the most vulnerable populations.

Achievements

This objective was achieved primarily through support missions to the NS. Note should be taken of the follow-up of activities by the Doula departmental committee of the Cameroon Red Cross, following floods in this city.

Objective 3: to provide management training.

Achievements

The finance/administration delegate made three support missions to the National Societies of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe and the Democratic Republic of Congo. A meeting was also held in Yaoundé in November to set up the regional financial unit (RFU). The heads of the financial departments in DRC, Congo, Burundi and Cameroon took part.

Constraints

The NS have difficulty in respecting deadlines in providing vouchers for working advances. The narrative reports are still not ready and vouchers were produced very late.

Objective 4: to help diversity sources of income.

Achievements

To help the NS define a resource development policy, the regional delegation for Central Africa mandated a society in Cameroon "REAGIR AC" to assess the situation in four countries: Cameroon, Congo, Central African Republic and Sao Tome and Principe. This mission, between April and June 2000, identified the profile of each national society and the expectations of the public in each country. Recommendations were made both to improve the image of each society and to help them take better advantage of opportunities in the surroundings.

The regional delegation furthermore gave advice and funding to the Cameroon RC to carry out an initiative to manufacture 10,000 New Year's cards. The management committee will make a financial evaluation of this operation. The profits should be used partly to finance some activities of a RC local committee in Yaoundé and to put dust bins in some schools in the city of Yaoundé. This experience will be shared with the other NS during the regional meetings to encourage them to undertake similar initiatives.

General constraints

The regional development delegate was the acting head of delegation from November 1999 to June 2000 and thus had very little time to devote to the national societies with regard to institutional and resource development. The new delegate arrived at the RD only at the beginning of October 2000.

Regional Cooperation

Objective 1: to promote the participation of national societies in the elaboration, execution and evaluation of regional action plans.

Achievements

The finance delegate made a mission to the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross from 12-22 May to review accounting procedures and to help the society work out the budget for the ICRC/Federation/NS joint meeting.

The joint meeting was held from 1-5 July at Sao Tome. The Red Cross in the DRC, recently included in the scope of the regional delegation, participated and presented the situation in that country. The French and Spanish Red Cross Societies, which work bilaterally in the region, were represented. The French Red Cross, the main partner of the RC of Chad, presented its work in the region. Also, the results of the marketing/communication study in the four above-mentioned countries were presented.

Objective 2: to develop regional programmes.

Achievements

The Sao Tome meeting also served as a framework to work out the 2001 regional programmes. The regional co-operation framework was specified and two meetings a year decided:

- in June: strategic planning for development, DP, relief, health and promotion of humanitarian values; identification of the roles and responsibilities of the operating and participating national societies, ICRC, country delegations and the regional delegation. The Presidents and secretaries general take part in this meeting under the aegis of the President for Co-ordination, elected for one year.
- in January: setting up the activities in the national societies and financial commitments of the donor societies for the programmes and operations planned. The secretaries general take part in this meeting under the aegis of the President for Co-ordination.

In preparation for the fifth PanAfrican Conference held in Ouagadougou in September, the Congolese Red Cross and the Red Cross of Chad elaborated input on voluntary service and food security, respectively.

Objective 3: to facilitate communication between the national societies and the regional delegation for Central Africa;

Achievements

The regional radio communication and pactor network began to take shape in December with the installation of the antenna at the RD. The ICRC's contribution comprised provision and installation of radios, maintenance of the national societies' equipment and technical co-operation between the telecom delegates. The head of delegation went on mission to Sao Tome, Gabon, Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to ensure support for the delegates' work.

Conclusions

The annual report for 2000 highlights four main concerns:

1. The year 2000 was one of transition for the RD in Yaoundé. The team changed with the arrival of a new head of delegation in June and a new development delegate in October. It was necessary to set up a new co-operation framework so that the national societies increase their involvement in the preparation of the regional strategy and take ownership of it.
2. The second concern this year was the orientation of resources mobilized. It was felt to be of greatest importance that the NS strengthen their community health capacities, especially in the fight against the spread of AIDS, epidemics and malaria, so that they play a lead role in assisting the vulnerable populations through their programmes. The aim sought was to have a real regional health strategy so that each society becomes an essential actor in this fight.

3. If the RD is to achieve its objectives in 2001, its operational capacity will have to be increased with two further delegates: an *ARCHI 2010* coaching delegate and a delegate for the promotion of humanitarian values.

The chronic shortage of funds paralyzes the support the regional delegation for Central Africa was mandated to provide and which the Federation and its partners must provide this region. A strategy to have access to a broader range of partners is an urgent necessity and already existing partnerships in the region with the UN agencies, such as UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR and World Food Programme, the European Commission and the Embassies must be strengthened. It is crucial to make known the importance of the regional delegation's support strategy and to provide funding for it.

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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Annual Financial Reports 2000

- Explanatory Note -

1. Consolidated Response to the Appeal

- This report provides a global picture on the funding situation of a specific appeal at a specific time.
- The cash column indicates all cash contributions channelled through the Federation, together with the balance carried forward from the previous year. Financial statements in support of the reported income are available upon request.
- The in-kind contributions (goods and services provided in response to the appeal objectives) are registered in a stand-alone system, based on the information provided by the respective donor. The values of these donations are based on information received from donors, and will be reported as such in the income and expenditure part of the consolidated report.
- Direct cash or in kind contributions made to Operating National Societies or in kind donations made to the Federation Delegations in response to the appeal are recorded as in-kind contributions in the report.

2. Balance of Funds - Cash Only

This report is a summary cash statement, providing the information on the balance carried forward from the previous year, cash income (including reallocations), cash expenditure (including reallocations - ref. part III of the consolidated report), and the closing balance at the end of the year.

3. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditures

This section of the report provides a comparative analysis of the total expenditures (cash and in-kind) versus the last approved budget of the appeal.

- The cash column reports on all expenditures booked against the Federation projects and cost centres . It relates only to the use of cash contributions received by the Secretariat for the specific appeal. Financial statements in support of the reported expenditure are available upon request.
- The in-kind columns (goods/services and personnel) report on the in-kind contributions donated in response to appeals, as per the information received from donors. This information is shown both as contribution and as expenditure against the specific appeal, and is consolidated, together with the cash expenses, against the appeal budget. As financial information is not always available from PNS, and for consistency reasons, a flat rate is applied for the calculation of personnel costs.
- The consumption rate represents the level of total expenditures (cash and in-kind) compared to the total income available (opening balance, cash and in-kind contributions),

4. Pledges vs. Contributions

Attached to this financial report is the list of pledges against the respective appeal.

- The comparative analysis of the list of pledges and the list of actual contributions provides a clear insight into any outstanding pledges in response to the appeal.
- Any differences in values between the two reports are due to fluctuations in exchange rates at the time of booking and the time of reception of the contribution.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES					
				Interim report	
				Annual report	X
				Final report	
Appeal No & title: 01.06/2000 Central Africa regional					
Period: year 2000					
Project(s): P62160, P62900, P62901, P62902, P62911, P62913					
Currency: CHF					
I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL					
FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL
	Contributions	Reallocations	Goods/Services	Personnel	INCOME
Appeal budget	2'543'308				
less					
Cash brought forward	240'924				
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	2'302'384				
Contributions from Donors					
British RC (DNGB)	261'750				261'750
Danish Govt. via RC (DGND)	62'312				62'312
Danish RC (DNDC)	21'557				21'557
Norwegian RC (DNNO)	18'920				18'920
Swedish Govt. via RC (DGN)	328'707				328'707
Swedish RC (DNSE)	116'578				116'578
USA PRM (DGUS00)	116'919				116'919
DREF		6'500			6'500
German Govt. via RC (DGNDE)		10'137			10'137
Norwegian RC (DNNO)		15'900			15'900
Spanish Govt. via RC (DGNES)		59'007			59'007
Swiss Govt (DGCH)		15'000			15'000
Spain			120'246		120'246
SWEDISH - RC				11'447	11'447
TOTAL	926'743	106'544	120'246	11'447	1'164'979
Coverage	40.3%	4.6%	5.2%	0.5%	50.6%
II - Balance of funds					
				Opening balance	240'924
				CASH INCOME Rcv'd	1'033'286
				CASH EXPENDITURE	-1'281'353

				CASH BALANCE	-7'142

Central Africa						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.06/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED				22.05.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'543'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 51.4%
Balance carried forward from 1999				240'924		
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		38'000	USD	64'163	14.07.00	
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		28'000	USD	49'602	18.09.00	
BRITISH - RC		30'000	GBP	77'700	02.03.2000	DELEGATION CORE COSTS
BRITISH - RC		30'000	GBP	77'700	02.03.2000	REG. DEV. PROGRAMME COSTS
BRITISH - RC		20'000	GBP	51'800	02.03.2000	HEALTH PROGRAMME
BRITISH - RC		20'000	GBP	50'400	16.08.00	CULTURE OF PEACE
DANISH - RC				21'557	14.02.2000	SALARY FORMER HEALTH DEL.
DANISH - GOVT/RC		300'000	DKK	62'580	14.06.00	30% OF DKK 1'000'000
NORWEGIAN - RC		100'000	NOK	18'920	23.08.00	HEALTH PROGRAMME
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		600'000	SEK	112'980	29.05.00	DELEGATION COSTS
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		250'000	SEK	47'075	29.05.00	INSTITUTIONAL DEV.
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		400'000	SEK	75'320	29.05.00	REG. HEALTH DELEGATE
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		250'000	SEK	47'075	29.05.00	HEALTH PROGRAMME
SWEDISH - RC		250'000	SEK	47'075	29.05.00	SALARY REG. ID DELEGATE
SWEDISH - RC		3'250	SEK	572	29.11.00	
SWEDISH - GOVT		130'000	SEK	22'893	19.12.00	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		605'000	SEK	106'541	15.12.00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'174'877	CHF	46.2%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Spain	Delegate(s)			120'246		
SWEDISH - RC		65'000	SEK	11'447	29.11.00	13 MT USED CLOTHES & SHOES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				131'693	CHF	5.2%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
P62160, P62900, P62901, P62902, P62911, P62913						