

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

CHF 1,918,000

Programme No. 01.07/2000

National Context

The conflict which erupted in September 1998 has resulted in the displacement of an estimated 350,000 people, and has had a dramatic impact on the humanitarian situation, affecting the health of hundreds of thousands of people who no longer have access to regular food sources or medical services. The inherent instability in the region, the militia culture, and the poor prospects for economic growth are expected to continue to impact food availability and the already deteriorating health care system for the foreseeable future. The continuous fighting in the Republic of Congo has also had a serious impact on the capacity of the Congolese Red Cross (CRC).

Country Assistance Strategy

In view of the conflict, the security situation, and the resulting impact on the National Society, the Federation has formulated a provisional development plan which was completed in August 1999, identifying three primary objectives: rebuilding and rehabilitation of headquarters premises; reinforcement of operational and structural capacities; and resource management and development. The Federation will reinforce the National Societies' operational capacity in community health.

Programme Objectives

Disaster Response

In accordance with the Seville Agreement, the CRC is playing a critical role in disaster response and relief operations, co-ordinated by the ICRC as lead agency in the Congo.

Disaster Preparedness

The Federation will assist in strengthening the operational capacity of the National Society with regard to human resources in the five local branches so that the CRC can rely on a pool of 500 volunteers to participate actively and effectively in ICRC disaster prevention and relief operations in the event of a disaster. This covers communication and disseminating the principles of the Red Cross Movement, population surveys, distributions, temporary shelter management and disaster prevention.

Health

The Federation will reinforce the National Society's operational capacity with regard to human resources in the five local branches so that the CRC can rely on a group of 500 volunteers to perform specific tasks relating to community health to provide assistance to 61,000 beneficiaries each month. This comprises health education,

assistance to victims of sexual abuse, hygiene and sanitation and first aid. UNFPA will play a leading role in training sessions related to assistance for victims of sexual abuse.

Humanitarian Values

Working in collaboration with the ICRC as lead agency, Federation support will be focused on assisting the National Society with tracing and family reunions, a dissemination programme with government officials, local organisations, and the media, training sessions on promotion of humanitarian values with CRC staff, branches, and volunteers.

Capacity Building

The Federation will focus on building the National Society's operational capacity with regard to resource management and development in the five local branches by guaranteeing the training and retraining of 50 trainers, and training and coordination support of the volunteer base. Efforts will also be made to reorganize the regional and local branches and draw up intermediate regional development plans by holding general assemblies in regional and local branches where security conditions permit, but primarily in the regions of Pool, Bouenza, Loukomou, Niari and Kouilou. Local branch headquarters will be reopened by undertaking the necessary repairs in Dolisie, Nkayi and Kinkala. The local branches will also be assisted to develop a minimum of autonomy by setting up an income generating microproject at each of the five local branch headquarters.