

PROGRAMME 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

CENTRAL AFRICA

21 December, 2001

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.07/2001

Appeal Target CHF 2,988,612 While the appeal budget has deliberately been maintained at the original level during the latter part of the year, in view of the level of contributions the regional delegation has de facto been implementing programmes within what is considered to be a more realistic operational budget.

Programme Update No. 2; Period covered: July - September, 2001; last Programme Update (no. 1) issued 25 October, 2001

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 58%

Related Appeals: 14/01; West and Central Africa: Meningitis

Outstanding needs: The regional delegation has been implementing programmes against a reduced operational budget. CHF 80,000 is needed for the remainder of the year for Programme Coordination, and donors are also encouraged to provide timely support to the Federation’s 2002-2003 Annual Appeal for Central Africa (no. 01.05/2002).

Update/Summary: With the limited resources available the regional delegation has stepped up its support to national societies, strengthening capacities in the areas of organization, management, coaching, volunteer management and increasing volunteer loyalty so as to more effectively implement the African Red Cross and Red Crescent Health Initiative (ARCHI) 2010. The volunteers in all the countries participated in community activities to combat AIDS and eradicate polio. In Chad and north Cameroon they also helped contain the cholera epidemic.

The partnership meeting in June confirmed the interest of the principal donors in supporting the programmes. The team, currently strengthened by regional human resources, should enable the Federation to achieve part of the intended objectives. Those health programmes that have received little support however cannot be fully carried out, particularly to combat against HIV/AIDS where only the DRC will receive support.

Context and operational development

The social and political situation in the region remained precarious, though Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tome and Principe are enjoying a degree of stability. Tensions and conflicts in the DRC, the Central African Republic, Congo and Chad have increased the number of vulnerable persons and caused a general deterioration in the overall humanitarian environment.

In light of its financial resources, the Regional Delegation geared its programmes to the following areas:

- Strengthening national society capacities (statutes, organization, management, governance).
- Managing and mobilizing volunteers to increase the awareness of, and educate the communities in, how to respond to epidemics and the frequent natural disasters.
- Creating a regional emergency disaster response team (epidemics, floods, volcanic eruptions and population movements).

Organizational Development

Objective 1 To strengthen human resources and management in the eight national societies.

Activities achieved

- *Central African Red Cross*: Support consisted mainly in following up the national society activities in light of the conclusions of the mission to Bangui from 9 to 13 May. The coordination commission - three persons appointed in mid-June by the Central African Red Cross management committee in place of the secretary general - is continuing the restructuring tasks. The August progress report indicates a focus on administrative management, reviving local partnerships and identifying an agricultural project for a prefectural branch, as part of branch development. The national society worked closer with the Ministry of Health thanks to the services of first aiders following the aborted coup d'état.
- *Gabonese Red Cross*: Preparations for the General Assembly began early in the year. The reports have been finalized and the statutes revised for the GA held on 3 and 4 October. Technical support consisted in providing an outline for the elaboration of the activity report (technical services), the moral report (National Bureau) and an aide-mémoire for the general preparations of the GA.
- *Congolese Red Cross*: a mission was undertaken to Brazzaville from 3 to 11 July 2001, at the request of the Congolese Red Cross, to: give technical support to revise the national society statutes; to help work out a process to hold the General Assembly, planned for December 2001; to analyze the different programmes for 2001 with the national society and, if need be, to adjust them. The following results were noted: a draft of the revised statutes is available at the national society; an aide-mémoire on how to prepare the GA has been worked out; the project/programme documents were analyzed, leading to a refocusing.

Objective 2 To give the national societies management training by setting up effective logistics and financial procedures.

Activities achieved

- *Gabonese Red Cross* (ongoing for the past year): financial support for the post of accountant for one year. The draft contract/programme mentioned in the last report has been finalized, running from 1 September 2001 to 31 August 2002 and includes additional training in office automation and accounting in a school in Libreville for the accountant secretary, in parallel with her professional activities.
- *Red Cross of Chad*: Follow-up to the March 2001 training in financial management. The DRAC head accountant undertook a follow-up mission to the Red Cross of Chad from 12 to 18 September. The objective of this mission was to verify the financial management procedures set up by the national society and how they are applied concretely to managing funds allocated by the Federation for the cholera operation. The conclusions are as follows: the accounting staff is competent, very positive and open to desired improvements; they are well equipped in computers but the accounting service does not have an accounting software. This is prejudicial to the smooth functioning of the service and to better execution of the management procedures in place; there is some confusion in the roles and responsibilities of the president and the secretary general of the national society, as regards accounting management. To strengthen what was acquired at the March 2001 training and the management procedures, the following documents were established with immediate effect: budget follow-up form; project-report form; finance-request form; logistics procedures.
- *Central African Red Cross*: assistance was provided to assemble a teaching tool kit for the training workshop. This workshop, organized for 20 members of 10 prefectural branches, 24 members of 8 district

branches in Bangui and headquarters staff, is in follow-up to the regional workshop DRAC organized in March 2001 for accountants and financial officers (or treasurers general) from the eight national societies. The idea now is to initiate the persons responsible for the local branches in better management of their small projects, as a tool for branch development and for greater volunteer loyalty. Training took place at the end of August in Bangui, with financial support from DRAC.

Objective 3 To strengthen national society resource development capacities and improve their fund raising and self reliance.

Activities achieved

Very little was accomplished this quarter strictly within the programme (e.g. hiring a consultant to study possibilities in the 4 national societies and working out marketing strategies). As financing became available late in the year, priority was given to small projects in the context of branch development and greater volunteer loyalty. This action is an extension of objective 2 above, by putting into practice what was acquired in management training. Two national societies (the Red Cross of the Central African Republic and of Congo) submitted micro-projects which are under study with the ARCHI 2010 regional delegate.

- *Central African Red Cross:* The Central African Red Cross, with the prefectural branch in Damara (75 km from Bangui) launched a pilot farming project which is being finalized. Fifteen volunteers will be involved in this maize and groundnut production project.
- *Congolese Red Cross:* The Congolese Red Cross also identified a farming project in the local branch of Mfilou, in the district of Brazzaville. Mfilou, with a population of nearly 250,000, is one of the zones most affected by the conflicts in Congo. The national society has already prepared the draft for this project which is undergoing a feasibility analysis to decide what support DRAC could provide.

Objective 4 To facilitate cooperation between the national societies in the sub-region to share their experiences and skills.

Activities achieved

Together with the ARCHI 2010 regional delegate, the Congolese Red Cross youth officer and a student (president of the Red Cross club at SOA II University in Yaounde), to prepare a preliminary draft for a regional Red Cross Youth gathering.

The topic chosen was: "Red Cross Youth and volunteerism: past and future". We wanted to situate this workshop seminar in the framework of International Year of Voluntary Service and to use this occasion to discuss ARCHI 2010 and the Ouagadougou Declaration. We received two proposals.

Organization, in Kinshasa, of a consultation meeting on volunteerism in central Africa, for November 2001, in cooperation with the development delegate for Africa.

Objective 5 To support the national societies in preparing plans to improve projects.

Activities achieved

- *Congolese Red Cross:* As part of preparing Appeal 2002-2003, financial support was provided for the organization of a workshop to show leaders and persons responsible for local branches in Brazzaville how to plan (logical framework) and to have them take ownership of the approach used by the Federation to prepare the Appeal.

Disaster Response & Preparedness

Objective To strengthen the national societies disaster response and preparedness capacities.

Activities achieved

- An emergency stock for floods was built up in the CAR.
- The two Congos benefited from the expertise of the Regional Delegation in the context of the disaster preparedness and prevention strategy.
- A regional disaster response strategy was prepared using regional skills (regional emergency unit).
- The Red Cross of Chad was involved in food security. It will receive support for farming (farming techniques and seed). An agronomist will be taken on for this activity.

Health

Despite the combined efforts of governments and the national societies, the health situation remains precarious in the sub-region. With the arrival of the ARCHI delegate the Federation managed to strengthen the national societies' capacity to mobilize and manage volunteers more effectively. The ARCHI programme shored up the health programme which was drastically short of funding. Volunteers also played a bigger role in the HIV/AIDS programmes, epidemics (cholera, meningitis) and floods (CAR, Chad, DRC and Cameroon) during the reporting period.

Objective 1 Reduce mortality and morbidity due to malaria and create an income-generation activity with impregnated mosquito nets in 20 local branches in each national society.

Activities achieved

- Promotion of impregnated mosquito nets: this activity works well and generates some finances for the health department of the Cameroon Red Cross.
- Increasing the awareness of 25,000 persons in Ndjamen and 4000 outside the capital of how to prevent malaria in Chad. The volunteers have trained these persons to recognize mosquito breeding grounds.

Objective 2 Increase knowledge of 50% of young people in schools concerning STD/AIDS, with a reduction in HIV in the long term among the young people.

Activities achieved:

- Creation of theatre troupes in the national societies. The Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Sao Tome, Congo and the DRC Red Cross societies have been very active, giving 2 to 3 performances per week each attended by about 300 persons.
- Training of trainers of peer educators: This training took place in Cameroon and Chad where the persons trained in turn facilitated training where they went on holiday.
- Organization of discussion centres: The discussion centre at the Red Cross in Yaounde was very active with 3,000 young people attending discussions or videos on HIV/AIDS. The discussion centre at the Red Cross of Chad organized 5 talks followed by discussion on AIDS for 800 young people from 10 to 20 August.
- Elaboration of the document on STD/AIDS: Funding to print the documents prepared by the National Societies of Chad, the CAR and Sao Tome has not yet been found.

Objective 3 Alleviate the suffering of 500 persons living with AIDS in each country through home care.

- Have the Central African Red Cross work out a plan of action to cooperate with RECAPEV (Central African Network of Persons Living With AIDS).
- Support of the Cameroon Red Cross for the Association of persons with AIDS so as to step up their activities among young people.

Objective 4 Reduce the number of victims of epidemics, improve response, in times of disaster, to diseases covered by EPI; participation in vaccination campaigns.

National vaccination days were very successful, but there is still a long way to go to eradicate polio. National Society volunteers were up front in Congo Brazzaville where 1,000 of them worked for a total of five days with the Ministry of Health in July, August and September 2001. In the DRC 75,000 volunteers were mobilized for this operation. The Federation delegations in these two countries provided strategic support.

Three hundred volunteers in Chad took part in the campaign to combat the meningitis epidemic. They increased the population's awareness and taught them how to chlorinate water. They also organized a major sanitation campaign to break the chain of cholera transmission.

Objective 5 Improve and protect existing water sources and the environment.

The Red Cross of Chad chlorinated 2,500 wells in the city of N'Djamena and in the villages where cholera has been reported.

African Red cross and Red Crescent Health Initiative (ARCHI) 2010

Activities achieved this quarter

Branch development:

- Drafting projects to develop branches in the CAR and Congo Brazzaville
- Support to the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea to train team leaders in water and sanitation

Strengthening capacities: financial support for the posts of national ARCHI/DPP coach in Cameroon, the DRC and Chad.

ARCHI coaching:

- In Cameroon, elaboration of volunteer management policies prioritizing AIDS and malaria. The volunteers organized in the districts and secondary schools carry out awareness sessions to promote the use of condoms and impregnated mosquito nets.
- In Chad, two priorities mobilize the volunteers: food security and prevention of epidemics. The 1,500 volunteers mobilized to combat epidemics are being organized.
The national societies in France and Switzerland also help organize the volunteers in community-health activities.

Regional Cooperation

The political and social situation in the sub-region prevents the national societies to develop at a regular pace. In keeping with the Kampala Declaration and the recommendations of Ouagadougou to evaluate and assist the national societies in the region, the delegation and the national societies defined a framework for collaboration, consultation and mutual assistance in central Africa.

Objective 1 Reinvigorate the regional resources.

The secretary general of the Cameroon Red Cross attended the French Red Cross BTC at Modane with a view to strengthening the national society's capacities.

Objective 2 Facilitate the sharing of information and experience.

The national society participated in a daily radio broadcast to gather information and put it to use. The DRAC telecommunications delegate attended a two-week training course in Geneva and gave feedback to three Cameroon Red Cross volunteers.

Objective 3 Strengthen regional cooperation.

- Contribution of the Belgian Red Cross to the implementation of a project for social and economic rehabilitation of street children in Yaounde: the project is being discussed by the Cameroon Red Cross and the Belgian Red Cross. The Regional Delegation plays a consulting role.
- Contribution of the French Red Cross, along with the Regional Delegation, to the renewal (election of the bureau) of all the provincial branches and the organization of the General Assembly in Gabon. The French Red Cross is also present with the Red Cross of Chad in the implementation of its water and sanitation project (construction of latrines and drilling in the schools of N'Djamena). The French Red Cross made available a model for an HIV/AIDS programme to the national societies of Gabon and the two Congos, to combat AIDS.

- Contribution of the Swiss and German Red Cross Societies to the implementation of a water and sanitation project in Equatorial Guinea.
- Contribution of the Spanish, German and French Red Cross Societies to the implementation of a plan to develop the branches and to prepare the Gabonese Red Cross General Assembly.

Outstanding needs

The regional delegation has been implementing programmes against a reduced operational budget, and while there are no outstanding needs on this appeal donors are encouraged to focus their support on the Federation's 2002-2003 Annual Appeal for Central Africa (no. 01.05/2002).

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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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Central Africa Regional Programmes						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.07/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				17.12.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'988'612		TOTAL COVERAGE 58.0%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AMERICAN - GOVT		90'000	USD	154'188	14.05.2001	
BRITISH - RC		35'000	GBP	84'350	05.02.01	REG. DELEGATION CORE COSTS
BRITISH - RC		20'000	GBP	48'200	05.02.01	REG. HEALTH PROGRAMME
BRITISH - RC		20'000	GBP	48'200	05.02.01	REG. CULTURE OF PEACE
DANISH - RC				72'750	01.07.2001	DELEGATE
NORWEGIAN - RC		100'000	NOK	18'830	10.05.2001	REGIONAL DELEGATION
NORWEGIAN - GOVT		675'000	NOK	126'080	10.12.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, COMMUNITY BASED HEALTH, INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - RC		200'000	SEK	34'740	28.02.01	COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - RC		200'000	SEK	34'740	28.02.01	HEALTH & CARE
SWEDISH - RC		200'000	SEK	34'740	28.02.01	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		500'000	SEK	84'950	21.05.2001	INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCE DEV.
SWEDISH - GOVT		450'000	SEK	76'455	21.05.2001	REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DELEGATE
SWEDISH - GOVT		300'000	SEK	50'970	21.05.2001	COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'600'000	SEK	271'840	21.05.2001	HEALTH, DEVELOPMENT, ARCHI, HIV/ AIDS, HUMANITARIAN VALUES
SWEDISH - GOVT		300'000	SEK	46'620	21.05.2001	REGIONAL COOPERATION
SWITZERLAND GVT				275'000	12.07.2001	ID PROGRAMME
SWITZERLAND GVT				160'000	12.07.2001	COORD / MGT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'622'653	CHF	54.3%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Spain	Delegate(s)			2'793		
Denmark	Delegate(s)			48'295		
Sweden	Delegate(s)			59'959		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				111'047	CHF	3.7%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
P62900, P62911, P62913						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
P62160, P62301, P62900, P62901, P62902, P62911, P62913						