

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

RWANDA

15 December 2003

Appeal no.01.08/2003 Appeal target: CHF 1,944,726 (USD 1,320,046 or EUR 1,321,081)

Programme Update No. 2;

Period covered: July to November 2003.

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 180 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 45.9%; [Click here to see the attached contribution List](#) or refer to the Federation's website for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,051,460 (USD 841,800 or EUR 674,000)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [East Africa Sub-Regional Programmes: Annual Appeal no. 01.08/2004](#)

Programme Summary: The Federation supports the **Rwanda Red Cross Society** through the East Africa Sub-Regional office in three appeal programme components namely; Health and Care (HC), Disaster Management (DM) and Organisational Development (OD) and Support to Coordination. It also administers a British Red Cross supported programme in Birenga by a Country Service Agreement; the programme is not a part of the annual appeal and will be reported separately. The Federation advisory service provided by the regional delegation will also be reported separately in the regional delegation half-yearly report.

Planned activities for Health and Care, Disaster Management, Organisational Development and Promotion of Humanitarian Values identified as priorities in the national society's strategic development plan are all under funded. This prompted a drastic revision of the budget and plans leading to reduction of activities and less implementation; the revisions have been adhered to in the last half year.

Rwanda Red Cross has worked with partners to develop a Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) and agreed upon a standard Memorandum of Understanding (MoU); the two documents were signed by nine sister societies (Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Germany, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland) and the Federation during the International Conference in Geneva.

Operational developments

The Rwanda Red Cross held its partnership meeting in September 2003 when the draft CAS 2003-2006 was discussed and final comments incorporated. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was also discussed and agreed upon by all partners; this is an important step for the national society in its effort towards achieving the characteristics of a well functioning society since the MoU provides a standard reporting and audit framework for cooperation. The provisions in the MoU include a recharge programme fee that assists the national society to cover its core costs.

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During the last half of the year, Rwanda saw the endorsement of a new constitution and conducted the first multiparty parliamentary elections after a nine years ban on multiparty politics. The government system was so preoccupied with the preparations for the elections that other issues such as preparations for the International Conference, the passing of a national disaster preparedness policy and other cooperation mechanisms with the Rwandan Red Cross took second priority.

Health and care

Goal: Rwanda Red Cross contributes significantly to the reduction of major health threats in Rwanda in close cooperation with the authorities and local and international NGO partners in the Public Health Sector.

Objective: The Federation support has strengthened the Rwanda Red Cross health programme delivery.

Progress

Community Based First Aid (CBFA)

The national society continued with the supervision and support to the Community Based First Aid (CBFA). The Health department is providing ongoing coaching and feed-back to the branches while mosquito nets, roofing materials, bicycles, educational materials, first aid kits, t-shirts and other materials have been distributed to branches. Support has been given to projects in Rulindo and Rusumo which sell mosquito nets. Thirty young volunteers have been trained in malaria prevention in Nyamirambo. Training materials on malaria prevention and identification of major illnesses have been provided to 12 communities namely; Butamwa, Nyamirambo, Kayumbu, Ntongwe, Kanombe, Kamembe, Impala, Bugarama, Bugarura, Ruhengeri, Mutombo and Gisenyi. Educational materials on malaria prevention as well as prevention and treatment of diarrhoea have been availed to 12 local committees in five provinces.

The health department ran a joint malaria micro-project with the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Rusoma district till the end of 2003. The project, which included a training component for volunteers, received additional funding of in the second half of 2003.

The Rwanda Red Cross has been invited by the Ministry of Health to develop a national programme document against blindness, drawing from the national society's pilot programme in Ruhengeri. The MoH statistics ranks the problem eighth among the major causes of morbidity in Rwanda. Orientation workshops have been done at headquarter level while information campaigns and training of volunteers will be carried out in two selected pilot branches.

The Federation facilitated a visit by a team from the Danish Red Cross. As a result, long term development cooperation in the area of health with focus on CBFA is expected to be developed in 2004. Discussions have been initiated with the German Red Cross for bilateral support for malaria prevention in the districts of Gikonko and Nyamure.

HIV/AIDS

The programme aims to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS in communities by sensitization, peer education and assistance to persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).

Rwanda Red Cross cooperates with both religious and public partners in the health centers in Kivumu, Cyanika, Kirehe and Mubungain, where it provides services and drugs to PLWHA without discrimination. A prominent issue for society has also been to advocate with local authorities to secure access to care and free medicine for PLWHA. It has supported associations of PLWHA and carried out anti stigma campaigns in the communities around the health centers; stigma reduction campaigns are a routine activity at the Red Cross branches nationwide.

A bilateral delegate from the Belgium Red Cross has supported the society in its visits to associations for PLWHA; support has also been given in developing the best strategies in the reduction of stigma and

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discrimination. The Rwanda Red Cross health department and the Belgium Red Cross have embarked on a 4 year European Union supported programme in Gitarama and Umutara; a coordinator has already been recruited for the programme.

Rwanda Red Cross participated at the International Conference on AIDS and STI held in Kenya in September. It also made a presentation of its programme with PLWHA during the International Conference in Geneva which elicited a lively debate.

Impact

The activities implemented by the health department of the Rwanda Red Cross through an effective health volunteer network have greatly benefited the vulnerable communities; the focus on malaria prevention, which is the main killer in Rwanda, has benefited a huge number of people.

Cooperation with health centres and the anti-stigma campaign against PLWHAs have contributed to more infected persons getting the correct treatment. Successful cooperation with the Ministry of Health has earned the national society an invitation as a partner in developing a national programme for blindness.

Constraints

Consistent refresher training of volunteers is a challenge to the national society. Coaching and support mechanism for volunteers working in physiologically disturbing situations needs to be upgraded.

Disaster Management

Goal: The disaster risks in Rwanda are successfully reduced through joint disaster preparedness measures in the public sector, and the Rwanda Red Cross plays a key role in mitigation and management of national disasters.

Objective: The Federation provides technical support and assistance to strengthen the capacity of Rwanda Red Cross in Disaster Preparedness and Response, as well as to increase awareness and capacity of vulnerable communities.

Progress

Twenty volunteers were trained in vulnerability capacity analysis in Nyakizu district through a six day training seminar; these volunteers are actively assisting communities in identifying their problems and priorities in relation to food insecurity. The society produces a monthly bulletin on food insecurity from data collected by volunteers and disseminates it to partners, government authorities and other organizations involved in food security. This gives the volunteers significant visibility in their respective communities. The on-going monitoring not only reduces risk of food insecurity but it also helps in promoting awareness of the important role of the Red Cross volunteers in providing assistance to the community.

A two week training of a national disaster response team was carried out in July 2003 and attended by 22 participants including the five regional branch coordinators, two headquarter staff, 15 volunteers from the 12 national provinces and 10 volunteers from Bugarama. Through this training facilitated by the regional disaster preparedness department, the national society established a multidisciplinary and multi-sectored team capable of carrying out assessments and producing appeals.

Communication has improved following the installation of internet at headquarters and rehabilitation of the radio system in Kibungo and Gikongoro. This facilitates sharing of information and allows rapid response in cases of emergency situations. For instance, Umutara province experienced heavy rains in which several houses were damaged or swept away by rainwater. The Rwanda Red Cross undertook an assessment of the situation from which it launched an internal appeal to partners already operating in Rwanda to assist the victims. Among the things distributed are iron sheets to both schools and families. The national society thus demonstrated its capacity for prompt response during emergency situations.

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During the period, the Rwanda Red cross received technical support from the regional disaster preparedness department during their quarterly mission; this included monitoring and follow up on the DFID funding towards disaster preparedness and advise in the preparation of food a security programme.

Impact

The disaster preparedness department been significantly strengthened during the period; the national society now has a network of volunteers and a national disaster response team in place. The department also demonstrated its ability conduct assessments and respond efficiently to disasters.

Constraints

The election period for Rwanda, in August and September, was very busy for the national society which deployed standby teams at the various political meetings and campaigns, before and on the election day. This delayed the implementation of the field activities scheduled at that time. The reporting capacity of the branches needs to be developed to improve the both quality and timeliness of field reports.

Organizational Development

Goal: To build a well functioning society that upholds the fundamental principles and values of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and provides quality services to the most vulnerable in Rwanda, in accordance with Strategy 2010¹.

Objective: The Federation provides technical support and assistance to strengthen the capacity of Rwanda Red Cross in branch development and decentralization, good governance and volunteer management, and operational management and coordination.

Progress

The priorities being focussed on are branch development and decentralization, good governance and volunteer management and management and coordination.

The third draft of the decentralization policy has been completed after pre-testing and piloting in branches and is ready for presentation and adoption by the Board. The final version of the volunteer policy is also awaiting endorsement by the Board; some of the provisions and recommendations in the policy are already partly being implemented. Development of new membership cards and central registration is in progress. Cards have been printed and distributed to the branches to re-register members for better management.

Cooperation with the disaster management department has resulted in additional recruitment of volunteers to the national disaster response team. Management and training of volunteers for the provision of First Aid during the elections were carried out in cooperation with the health and disaster management departments.

The Rwanda Red Cross delegation to the International Conference was headed by the President of the national society assisted by the Secretary General. The governance and the management had successfully prepared the government delegation through a series of meetings prior to the Conference with assistance from the Federation and the ICRC.

The office of the national branch coordinator was the focal point in making the preparations for the partnership meeting held in September 2003. The department was a leading force in developing plans of action and budgets for 2004, initiating workshops at branch level and coordinating the entire process which resulted in timely production of work plans and budgets that were presented during the partnership meeting. The office has consolidated the monthly meetings with branch coordinators to secure a cohesive approach and to provide assistance from the headquarters where required.

¹ Strategy 2010 is the International Federation's guiding framework for the decade 2000 to 2010. This overall strategy identifies the following four CORE areas as the cornerstones upon which the International Federation will continue to build its collective expertise and reputation: humanitarian values; disaster preparedness; disaster response; and health and care in the community. Refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/who/strategy.asp>

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Impact

The OD department has shown its ability to integrate its priorities with the technical programmes; the recruitment and management of volunteers is now directly linked to technical areas.

Constraints

The national branch coordinator left to pursue further studies in August delaying completion of the volunteer management and decentralization policies. Interviews for a replacement have been conducted.

Federation Coordination

Goal: To build capacity and empower Rwanda Red Cross Society to achieve its mandate through better partnerships.

Objective: Rwanda Red Cross' integrated capacity building planning and implementation skills are ensured by the Federation through participatory facilitation

Progress

The Sub-Regional Office for East Africa based in Uganda was created in January 2003 and covers Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. It is headed by one delegate supported by a local national senior officer specialised in financial development assistance to the societies.

As with Kenya and Uganda, the Head of the Sub region for East Africa provides coaching to the senior management of the national society and advises on the use of technical expertise in support of programmes. The senior officer for the East Africa Sub-Region spends one week a month assisting the finance department of the Rwanda Red Cross in developing sound financial management structures and adequate planning and reporting skills. The society has been through an enormous re-building period and many initiatives have been undertaken by the finance department. Time has come to consolidate these initiatives and integrate them in the routine and regular activities of the society.

With assistance from the Federation, Rwanda Red Cross developed a CAS through a participatory approach involving all partners. The CAS was endorsed during the society's partnership meeting in September 2003 and the document was later signed by eight sister societies and the Federation at a ceremony during the International Conference in Geneva in December 2003.

Regular coordination meetings between the Rwanda Red Cross, the ICRC, bilateral partners in Rwanda and the Head of the Sub-Regional Office for East Africa as the Federation representative have started. The objective of the meeting is to achieve a coordinated and complementary assistance to the Rwanda Red Cross. The meetings have played a critical role in developing better communication between partners and assisting in the CAS process.

Impact

The Rwanda Red Cross has seen the development of better coordination and team work with its partners. It has improved its ability to plan, raise funds, manage and report for relief and development programs.

Development of the CAS has contributed to better coordination of programmes and assurance that they are within the framework of the national society development plan. The CAS process has also provided a better coordination mechanism and information flow between the stakeholders.

Constraints

Rwanda Red Cross faces challenges in consolidating all the efforts undertaken since the new management took over. There have been many expansions of activities to re-build the society and the next phase will be to complete and consolidate the many positive initiatives.

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The Head of the Sub-Regional Office for East Africa is covering three countries and the amount of time available for each national society is not always sufficient.

International Representation

Goal: The Federation has a high profile as a key humanitarian actor and advocate in the region with the added advantage of a network of national societies able to deliver services at community level.

Objective: The Federation is an effective and reliable partner in support of Rwanda Red Cross Society and in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable.

Progress

Quarterly senior management meeting between the Secretaries General from the national societies of Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda facilitated by the Head of the Sub regional Office has contributed to increased cooperation across borders. The meetings address common issues and concerns, harmonise efforts where possible and draw upon each other's experiences. The meetings are planned to coincide with the quarterly RC-NET (Red Cross Network for East Africa) meetings to make them cost effective. The Lake Victoria Project Task Force decided to incorporate their quarterly meeting into the already existing structures in the region.

At the initiative of the Sub regional Office for East Africa, quarterly meetings for the Finance directors from the three countries has also been actualized. The group has developed a standard financial reporting format and is in the process of developing standards formats for core cost budgets.

Impact

The senior management meetings between the Secretaries General of the Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya Red Cross Societies are generating a constructive dynamic in the region. The development of a Sub-Regional working group for improving financial management has proven successful.

Constraints

Having to support three countries does not leave much time to the Federation Head of the Sub-Region to work on international representation, thereby leaving some potential opportunities not fully developed.

For further information please contact:

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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 (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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

<Contributions List below - Click here to return to title page>

APPEAL No. 01.08/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

07/01/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,944,726		45.9%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				27,937		
BRITISH - RC		20,000	GBP	42,960	03.03.03	RRCS RUNNING COSTS, DELEGATION
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				68,000	24.02.03	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - RC		20,000	GBP	42,280	29.05.03	HIV/AIDS
BRITISH - RC				21,194	10.07.03	DP PROGRAMME
CYPRUS - RC				344	24/01/2003	
DANISH - RC				89,946	01.08.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		3,500	USD	4,751	30/01/2003	PARTNERSHIP MEETING
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		2,000,000	NOK	377,500	27.02.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & HIV/AIDS
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,000,000	NOK	189,750	31.07.03	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		3,500	USD	4,949	15.09.03	RWANDA RC PARTNERSHIP MEETING
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				869,611	CHF	44.7%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			23,655		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				23,655	CHF	1.2%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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