

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

MANO RIVER SUB-REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

26 January 2004

Appeal No. 01.29/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 318,690 (USD 218,670 or EUR 216,676)

Programme Update No. 2

Period covered: August - December 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 181 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 74.2%; See attached [Contributions List](#) for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 82,159 (USD 65,780 / EUR 52,666)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

- [Côte d'Ivoire Annual Appeal no. 01.22/2004](#)
- [Guinea-Bissau Annual Appeal no. 01.23/2004](#)
- [Guinea: Annual Appeal no. 01.24/2004](#)
- [Liberia: Annual Appeal no. 01.25/2004](#)
- [Sierra Leone Annual Appeal no. 01.26/2004](#)
- [Manor River Sub-Regional Programmes Annual Appeal no. 01.27/2004](#)

Programme Summary: The Mano River Sub-Regional Office was the last sub-regional office to be created by the Federation. The office was able to assist national societies in the region in 2003 in spite of problems of armed conflict and insecurity in Côte d'Ivoire which affected the entire region. Other countries in the sub-region were either coming out of armed conflict or experiencing one. While some of the planned activities could not be carried out, activities in health and organizational development were implemented.

Operational developments

The Mano River Sub-Regional Office was formed due to the close social and economic structures of the countries in the sub-region: Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea (Conakry), Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Cross-border conflicts have affected this region tremendously leading to death, mutilation and displacement of millions of people. Violence in Liberia started in 1989 while that of Sierra Leone began in 1991. The two countries were at war for more than 10 years and this sabotaged the development process. The two countries have now regained peace and are going through rehabilitation. Guinea (Conakry) and Guinea-Bissau had their own conflicts in 2001 while Côte d'Ivoire experienced armed conflict in 2002. The conflict aggravated in 2003 and threatened to destabilize the entire region. A government of national reconciliation was set up following the signing of two peace accords and on 4 July, the warring factions officially ended the war.

Mano River sub-regional programmes; Appeal no. 01.29/2003; Programme Update no 2.

The reconciliation process experienced initial difficulties, which led to withdrawal by the opposition. Members of the opposition have come back to the government for reconciliation and the process of demobilization, disarmament and reinsertion (DDR) begins in January with assistance from the UN. It is hoped that the situation will return to normal like in Sierra Leone where DDR was very successful, and where former rebels and child soldiers were successfully rehabilitated back into the society.

Mano River sub-region is therefore the most volatile in West Africa with all countries in the region being affected by conflict, constant population movement and insecurity. The number of refugees and child soldiers increased while internally displaced persons (IDP) tripled. Liberians have resumed their normal life despite a few skirmishes in some villages. The consensus president, now leading a provisional government, plans to hold general elections in 2005.

With over 500,000 Liberians, Sierra Leoneans and Ivoirians sheltered in different camps, Guinea-Conakry remains home to one of the world's largest refugee populations. According to IRIN¹, Guinea's president was sworn in for another seven year term during the December 2003 elections which were boycotted by opposition parties who complained of fraudulent practices.

Guinea-Bissau experienced years of internal conflict. As the country was preparing for national presidential elections in 2003, a *coup d'état* struck in September. A new civilian administration and an interim Prime Minister were sworn in on 28 October; it will still take time to re-establish all infrastructures and activities.

Another kind of 'war' emerging from the vast population movement as a result of regional conflict is the steady increase in sexually transmitted infections (STI) and HIV/AIDS prevalence. National societies in the region are scaling up the capacity building of volunteers to enable them respond to the challenges posed by these diseases.

Organizational development

Goal: To decrease vulnerability of people living in West Africa through improved service delivery by their national societies.

Objective: To assist the Abidjan Region national societies in moving closer towards the characteristics of a well functioning national society, by promoting development and capacity building throughout all programmes and activities of the West African national societies, as well as promoting effective co-ordination of bilateral and multilateral support and co-operation programmes).

Expected Results

1. The capacity of targeted national societies in the Abidjan Region is strengthened through the professional guidance and technical assistance of a Regional Development Officer who will ensure that:

- Targeted national societies are assisted in conducting appropriate evaluations (SWOT, VCA², and self-evaluation).
- Targeted national societies are assisted to develop their five-year strategic plan.
- National societies have been assisted in increasing branch capacity through community-based programming involving and developing their networks of volunteers, members and community participation.
- National societies have improved management and recruitment of volunteers.
- National societies have improved management of human resources.
- National societies have been assisted in implementing the 'Youth Strategy'.

¹ IRIN – Integrated Regional Information Network, under UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

² SWOT – Strengths, weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats; VCA – Vulnerability Capacity Assessment

Mano River sub-regional programmes; Appeal no. 01.29/2003; Programme Update no 2.

Progress/achievements

Planned activities were not all carried out due to armed conflict in Côte d'Ivoire. With technical support from the Sub-Regional Office, the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire modified and adapted its strategic plan in November 2003. The cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) could not be implemented due to lack of material and financial resources.

Constraints

- Lack of financial resources, because funds were shared among the offices, upon the relocation of the Regional Delegation;
- Inaccessibility to some towns in rebel zones;
- The rigors of the [Seville Agreement](#) could not allow some of the activities to be carried out.

Recommendation

Following training on fundamental principles organized by the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire, the national societies requested the formation of regional committees to enable each national society to strengthen its capacity. There is need to organize in the next two years a regional workshop on the concept of [ARCHI 2010](#), to enable the realization of GAPU (early warning and response groups) and for the establishment of a volunteer management policy for the Mano River sub-region.

Guinea-Bissau

Upon arrival in June 2003, the Head of Sub-Regional Office observed that the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau was the most neglected in the Mano River Sub-Regional Office. As a result, in August 2003, the Sub-Regional Office requested funding from the Federation Capacity Building Fund (CBF) to revamp the national society. In September 2003, the Secretary General of the Togolese Red Cross performed an assessment and found that the national society needed to:

- Revise its statutes
- Have a strategic plan defining the national society's scope and mid-term goals
- Implement a basic programme
- Hold a national council meeting to review documents for submission to the General Assembly;
- Hold a General Assembly before the end of January 2004.

An action plan was developed for implementing these recommendations; in October 2003, these activities were carried out in collaboration with the ICRC delegation in Dakar and Bissau. Consequently,

- The statutes have been revised
- The national society has a strategic master plan
- A basic programme is being implemented in health and care
- A national council meeting was held to review the documents to be submitted for the General Assembly
- The General Assembly has been held.

Impact

- The national society is being revived and is ready and able to collaborate with the Federation.
- The national society has become a well-functioning national society.

Constraint

- The major difficulty had been the lack of financial resources due to reallocation of some funds.

Recommendation

With governance and management in place, the national society is in a position to resume activities in 2004. There is need for training in good governance, the principle of humanitarian values, finance, administration, logistics and reporting to enable it develop reliable management procedures.

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Field Management

Goal: The Regional Delegation, regional offices and country delegations in West and Central Africa are:

- **Strengthening national socie ties to deliver services and advocate on behalf of vulnerable people**
- **Ensuring effective representation and advocacy**
- **Building Coordination, co-operation and strategic partnerships**

Objective: Abidjan office is providing an optimal level of service to national societies in the region by managing common Federation resources, representing the Federation, co-coordinating and communicating with national socie ties, supporting national socie ties in responding to disasters as they occur and in managing multilateral programmes for which the Secretariat has responsibility.

Expected Results

1. The Office in Abidjan is managing a Federation presence in the region which is the first port of call for support in disaster response, organizational development and programme development, is initiating dialogue and review towards optimal support of national societies and is helping build new business opportunities in favor of the seven national societies in the region.

- Administration, accounting and financial management in the Abidjan office is performed efficiently
- Abidjan office is producing timely, donor-oriented reports including Emergency Appeals, Operations Updates, and Annual Reports for the region.

Within the last six months, the Mano river health coordinator assisted the national societies in the region carry out several activities. On 24-26 August, the regional office provided financial and technical assistance in organizing a meeting of Red Cross /Red Crescent AIDS Network for Youth - West Africa (RANY-WA) in Grand Bassam, Abidjan. HIV/AIDS Programme Officers from 13 out the 16 national societies of West Africa, such as the Republic of Benin, Ghana, Togo, Mauritania, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Guinea (Conakry) and Guinea-Bissau attended this regional meeting. The objective of the workshop was to inject new life into the network. Participants shared experiences of their national societies in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Additionally, a team to oversee the coordination of the network activities was set up. This coordination team, which is to be managed by the Togolese Red Cross, will be assisted by the national societies of Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana and Sierra Leone.

A side event of this regional workshop was the official signing of a joint document of collaboration between the Federation and the UNAIDS inter-country team for West and Central Africa, in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry in charge of fight against HIV/AIDS in Côte d'Ivoire, the UNDP and the ICRC.

The UNAIDS Inter-country Team for West and Central Africa invited regional health from the 6-7, December 2003, to a forum on sex hawking, mobility and its relation to the spread of HIV/AIDS; during which terms of reference for the development of a common plan of action on sex trade in West Africa was developed in relation to its response to HIV/AIDS. Twelve ECOWAS³ countries participated in the meeting including members of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, NGOs and sex workers.

Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire

Support from the Federation, contributed to improved access to health and care for persons in Western Côte d'Ivoire living in poor sanitation and health conditions due to war. This effort led to the rehabilitation and reactivation of ten health posts in Bloléquin and Toulepleu in July. The national society also sponsored twenty community health workers to refresher courses and equipped the health posts with hygiene and medical materials.

HIV/AIDS

In August 2003, the regional office provided substantial financial assistance for the national society's HIV/AIDS programme to enable it help curb the spread of HIV/AIDS in Côte d'Ivoire. Additionally, 20 project supervisors

³ ECOWAS – Economic Community for West Africa States

Mano River sub-regional programmes; Appeal no. 01.29/2003; Programme Update no 2.

from Korhogo, Yamoussoukro, Aboisso and Gagnoa participated in training sessions centred on scaling up sensitization activities undertaken by peer educators for sex workers and psycho-social care for PLWHA⁴ in partnership with an association of PLWHA, named *Lumière Action*.

Fight against preventable diseases

To minimize the impact of vaccine-preventable diseases, the national society supported the Ministry of Health in social mobilization during the immunization campaign against measles in three health districts of Zuenoula, Bouaflé and Sinfra.

Constraints

- Cumbersome administrative procedures in disbursing funds to the national societies
- Poor access to financial supporting documents
- Frequent changes in the implementation schedule by the Ministry of Health
- Difficulties in providing timely reports and supporting documents by the national societies
- Insufficient integration of the HIV/AIDS programme into organs involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS both at local and international levels.

Red Cross Society of Guinea

HIV/AIDS

The regional health coordinator gave technical assistance to the national society on 15-23 August 2003 to build the capacity of the national society to enable it contribute to mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS in Guinea. The national society drew a strategic action plan for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and care of victims.

Measles social mobilization

The Sub-Regional Office supported 200 volunteers from the national society who participated in social mobilization during the national campaign on immunization against measles from 9 to 15 November 2003 in Boke department comprising ten districts. A delegation from American Red Cross witnessed the work done by volunteers in Boke.

Impact: Below is a table showing the percentile vaccine coverage in the various sub-prefectures involved in the project:

Sub-prefecture	Target population	Number of children	Persons vaccinated	Coverage rate	Volunteers	Supervisors
BOKE						
Boké centre	25,750	16,333	25,899	100.58%	30	1
Malapouya	4,518	4,189	3,852	85.26%	6	0
Kanfarandé	10,559	9,655	10,645	100.81%	14	0
Kolaboui	21,719	15,932	19,991	92.04%	26	0
Sangarédi	21,596	17,241	21,855	101.20%	26	1
Kamsar	43,641	25,088	48,371	110.84%	60	1
Tanènè	10,139	9,457	10,028	98.91%	12	0
Sansalé	3,414	4,973	3,405	99.74%	4	0
Dabis	8,785	8,080	8,458	96.28%	10	0
Bintimodia	12,389	9,927	9,980	80.56%	12	0
Total	162,510	120,875	162,484	99.98%	200	3

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⁴ PLWHA – persons living with HIV/AIDS

Constraints:

- Frequent postponement of immunization campaigns by the Ministry of Health due to logistic problems;
- Poor communication between the national society and the Federation on the procedure for the management of allocated funds;
- Delay in the effective take-off of the project due to non-availability of funds;
- Prolonged lateness in the production of materials for social mobilization.

Sierra Leone Red Cross Society

The Sub-Regional Office provided technical assistance to the national society during its social mobilization for national immunization campaigns from 30 November to 6 December 2003. In Makeni, the massive turnout of the population for the vaccination is a direct outcome of the successful mobilization activities undertaken by the national society.

Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau

The major activity for this national society has been the development of a HIV/AIDS project, which has been included in the 2004 Appeal.

Liberian Red Cross Society

The role of the Abidjan Office had been that of support to the health programme, as part of the 2004 Appeal since there is a Federation representative in the region.

Finance

A Finance Monitoring Officer assisted the Guinea (Conakry) Delegation in finance management, particularly the implementation of the Federation's new operational budget approval procedure.

Finance department gave technical support to the following activities:

- HIV/AIDS project run by the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire in Gagnoa, Aboisso, Yamoussokro and Korhogo;
- Dakar Regional Delegation for the PPP⁵ workshop in Togo;
- The Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire youth camp in Jacqueville, and evaluation missions for training committee and measles vaccination;
- Liberia Delegation assessment mission by Federation representative and Head of Office for the region;
- Second phase of community health activities in Western Côte d'Ivoire;
- Regional logistics, reporting and telecom for various missions in the region;
- Representatives from the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire to the sub-regional working group meeting in Dakar;
- Mission of health coordinator to Sierra Leone on Measles campaign.
- Yaounde office for the transit of a programme coordinator;
- The Secretariat for the participation of health coordinator to Tunisia for the Panafrican health meeting;
- Federation staff on transit or on various missions.

⁵ PPP – Federation Project Planning Process

Mano River sub-regional programmes; Appeal no. 01.29/2003; Programme Update no 2.

Reporting

The Regional Reporting Office, based in Abidjan, provided technical assistance to the Mano River Sub-Regional Office in:

- Developing a CBF proposal for Guinea-Bissau;
- Contributing to several appeal planning meetings;
- Participating in developing and editing the 2004 Annual Appeal;
- Providing reporting coaching and assistance to other national societies in the region;
- Editing Programme Updates in 2003.

Telecom

Telecom provided support through the following activities:

- Mission to Dakar for the installation of local area network (LAN) and generator;
- Daily maintenance of computers at Mano River Sub-Regional Office
- Restoration of internet connection and reconfiguration of LAN for Guinea (Conakry) delegation;
- Training of Guinea (Conakry) radio operator;
- Liberia Telecom needs assessment mission after the national society's offices were vandalized.

Coordination

For better integration into the humanitarian world, the Mano River Sub-Regional Office participates in all inter-agency sectoral forums of the UN. The office participates in the Movement's tripartite meetings as well as in weekly bipartite meetings with ICRC. It also maintains regular e-mail and telephone contacts as well as exchange visits with other national societies in the region. The regional office benefited from a workshop on PPP. This was organized by the Regional Delegation, and implemented for Anglophone and Francophone national societies in the region in August 2003. Consequently national societies in the region, particularly Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire and the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau were able to coordinate their 2004 Annual Appeal writing process.

Impact

- Activities of the Red Cross are being marketed more vigorously among the international community than before.
- National societies in the region are receiving professional assistance in project planning and development from the regional office.
- Capacity building of national societies is being stepped up through training and standards have improved.
- Some national societies have already begun restructuring their various departments.
- Skills in reporting, Telecom and finance are being beefed up.
- Mobilization of resource persons in the region with the aim of assisting other national societies has started motivating the national societies to networking.

Constraints

- Activities slowed down due to armed conflict in Côte d'Ivoire and late budget approvals.
- A lot of time is consumed in justifying working advances.

Conclusion

The various national societies in the Mano River Sub-Regional Office have undertaken several activities. While some were involved in community health-care, fight against HIV/AIDS and campaigns for immunization against measles, others worked to design and develop projects within the framework of the 2003 Appeal. Regional officers concentrated a large part of their activities on building technical capacities in reporting, health, finance and telecom in the national societies, a measure that guarantees excellent programme implementation.

Mano River sub-regional programmes; Appeal no. 01.29/2003; Programme Update no 2.

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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>

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Mano river sub-regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.29/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/01/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				318,691		74.2%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		26,667	USD	36,267	29.04.03	
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD (04)				90,000	24.02.03	DEVELOPMENT OFFICE ABDIJAN
BRITISH - RC		10,000	GBP	22,600	04.11.03	REGIONAL FINANCE DELEGATE
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		59,748	EUR	87,665	07.02.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				236,532	CHF	74.2%

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	