

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

AFRICA - MEASLES AND POLIO REDUCTION

12 August 2003

Appeal No. 01.46/2003; Appeal Target: CHF 4,210,000

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January – July, 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: 56.3% See attached Contributions List for details or the Federation's website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap014603.pdf

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,841,571

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: See www.ifrc.org under "where we work."

Programme Summary: Donations for the efforts were not realized until May placing operational challenges in the planning and implementation of campaign-related activities. Key donor support has been provided by the Swedish Red Cross, the American Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross as well as British Petroleum. For the remainder of 2003, 17 polio and measles campaigns are planned in 14 countries and ongoing support will be provided to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) Board seat.

The context

The intent of this appeal is to support increased participation of national societies in community mobilization for immunization services, and a gradual transition from accelerated disease control initiatives in selected countries towards supporting sustainable routine immunization programmes, through the participation of National Societies and the International Federation as partners in the work of GAVI.

At the end of 2002, the number of countries with polio transmission reached the lowest levels ever (7) with an overall reduction in the number of cases by more than 99% since 1988. However, the number of cases increased from 483 to 1,461 with 85% of the cases concentrated in 9 states/provinces of the world indicating a need for a stronger response in these areas. For measles, the efforts of the partnership to reduce measles mortality is beginning to show results on the Africa continent. By the end of 2003, it is estimated that more than 145 million children will have been vaccinated preventing an estimated 140,000 measles-related deaths over 3 years. By the end of 2004, it is estimated that the number of measles-related deaths will decrease by more than 60%.

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, represented by its President Dr. Muctaru Jallo, was selected by the GAVI Board to be the non-governmental organization (NGO) representative for a two-year term. The American Red Cross and the Geneva-based Secretariat of the International Federation have provided administrative and technical support to allow the International Federation to serve as the bridge between the NGO community and the GAVI Board.

Latest events

During 2003, the donations provided by the Swedish Red Cross, the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and British Petroleum supported National Society efforts for polio and measles in Bangladesh, Nigeria, Egypt, Senegal, Rwanda, Angola and Zambia. Planning and initial implementation has been initiated in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Niger, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo and Uganda. Working closely with partners including the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization, UNICEF and others at the international, regional and national level, the International Federation has made great progress as a reliable partner in the public health efforts.

India and Nigeria remain the highest priorities for action with 60% of the world's remaining polio cases found in Uttar Pradesh, India. The National Society has initiated a planning process with other partners to participate in efforts during the upcoming campaigns in the last quarter of 2003. At the request of the Ministry of Health, the Nigerian Red Cross will be providing extended social mobilization to highly vulnerable northern states in Nigeria during August and September with a particular focus on Kano.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

POLIO

Nigeria

Two sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDS) were conducted in the eight states of Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina and Yobe. A total of 203 Local Government Areas (LGAs) with 2,466 districts were part of the effort. As part of the LGA Social Mobilization Committee, the NRCS assisted in the mobilization of 13.5 million children in the first round and 10.5 million children in the second round. The total number of volunteers mobilized for the two rounds was 2,563.

There are still misconceptions about the vaccine in the community such as the fear that it is for family planning as well as other political and religious beliefs. Most of the resistance (5,210 children in the two rounds) was overcome by advocacy, sensitization and home visiting with detailed explanations of the vaccination campaign in conjunction with village heads. There was a focus on reaching traditional, religious and other key community leaders with approximately 5,500 leaders reached in each round.

Bangladesh

During a 5-day period in May, approximately 1,800 Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) volunteers fanned out across the nation (600 in Dhaka city) targeting strategic points such as train stations, bus stations and key crossroads searching for the most vulnerable children. Volunteers worked in teams of ten with each member carrying their own cold box with the polio vaccines for on-the-spot vaccinations. In many cases, families that missed the NID in their village due to travel appreciated the BDRCS volunteers for providing mobile vaccination points.

Egypt

The Egyptian Red Crescent responded to a call from the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) to mobilize volunteers to assist in house-to-house campaigns. Volunteers worked closely with the MoHP personnel to register children, record results and provide oral vaccination. During the months of March and May, the National Society mobilized 500 volunteers in support of this effort.

India

Although the activities were not funded through this appeal but lay the groundwork for future efforts, the India Red Cross provided volunteer support to the June campaign in Gujarat. One hundred forty-two volunteers reached 18,468 children.

MEASLES

Senegal

The campaign in Senegal was supported outside the Measles Partnership but in conjunction with UNICEF. The National Society mobilized more than 70 volunteers to conduct social mobilization activities in Thies district, advise mothers or guardians of children to be vaccinated and help organize vaccination post logistics with the result of 9,198 children being vaccinated against measles. The Senegalese Red Cross Society also mobilized 235 volunteers for the same activities in Dakar, Kaolack, Kolda, Djourbel, Louga, and Ziguinchor reaching a total of 257,490 children.

Rwanda

As in the case of Senegal, the campaign was conducted outside the Measles Partnership but in conjunction with UNICEF. In the month of February, the Rwanda Red Cross participated in the measles campaign as a result of their collaboration and planning with the in-country partners over the previous months. The volunteers registered children, organized the vaccination posts, administered Vitamin A, sensitized the parents and located those children missed during the vaccination effort including hard-to-reach children (street kids). High coverage was achieved through the utilization of 2,456 volunteers with coverage exceeding 95% for more than 3 million children.

Angola

The campaign in Angola was also conducted outside the Measles Partnership but in conjunction with UNICEF. During the three phases of the National Vaccination Campaign against measles (April 21-May 19) over 1,459 volunteers from Angola Red Cross (CVA) worked in 18 provinces and more than 78 municipalities in social mobilization, supervision, vaccination and vitamin A administration. As a result of the coordination meetings in-country, it was decided that the ARC support the campaign activities at national level with the presence of the volunteers in more than 78 of the 165 municipalities.

The initial phase focused on schools and children in urban settings. The CVA mobilized volunteers to support the vaccination at school yards and provide social mobilization in the communities surrounding the health posts. Over 20 vaccinators were among CVA volunteers. During the second phase, the campaign took place at the health posts in the urban areas. Twenty-one CVA health posts in nine provinces were used as vaccination posts where 23,270 children were vaccinated. During this phase, 42 vaccinators and 82 Vitamin A administrators were among the CVA staff. The final phase of the campaign consisted of mobile teams with more than 1,300 CVA volunteers in 18 provinces. A total of 94,235 children were vaccinated during this phase.

Zambia

The Zambia Red Cross Society supported the Central Board of Health with social mobilization in June through the District Health Management Teams (DHMT) in 8 districts (Chiengi, Kabwe, Kapiri-mposhi, Kafue, Mufulira, Mansa, Mporokoso and Kaputa). The Zambia Red Cross and Regional Delegation actively participated with other partners (WHO, UNICEF, Netmark, Population Services International, Right to Play and many others) in the planning and implementation of the effort.

In addition to the measles vaccination, Vitamin A and mebendazole (deworming medication) were administered to all children under 5 years of age. Malaria insecticide treated nets (ITNs) were distributed to children under 5 and pregnant women (target of 90,000) in 5 districts. The Zambia Red Cross mobilised 1,648 volunteers at the community level (4 per vaccination post) with supervision by 116 coaches and 8 district focal persons. More than 1,200,000 children were pre-registered prior to the campaign.

Preliminary data shows the campaign was very successful. Measles vaccination coverage exceeded 108%, Vitamin A administration 109%, mebendazole distribution 108% and ITN distribution at 124%. In addition to providing 20% of the overall support to the campaign in terms of funding and beneficiaries reached, the comments from many of the other partners involved in the effort were very positive for the Federation's Harare Regional Delegation and national society participation.

Outstanding needs

For the remainder of 2003, additional donations will be needed to cover the minimal appeal components to allow national societies to fully support the national efforts with community social mobilization. Expanded efforts in the Nigeria and India polio campaigns as well as the development of plans for measles campaigns in Ethiopia and the Congos, where the expected target populations exceed 16 million children, will require additional resources very soon for successful planning and implementation.

Contributions

See annex 1 for details.

For further information please contact: Nick Farrel; ARCHI Manager, Africa Department; Tel: 41-22 730-4365; Fax: 41-22 733-0395; Nick.Farrell@ifrc.org

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>

Africa - measles and polio

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.46/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

12.08.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					4'210'000		TOTAL COVERAGE	
							56.3%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				192'110				
AMERICAN - RC		500'000	USD	679'750	05.05.03			
BRITISH - PRIVATE DONOR				158	06.06.03			
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA		882'915	CAD	833'913	04.02.03	MEASLES & MALARIA REDUCTION		
CCI COIN CO. INTERNATIONAL		15'373	EUR	22'498	20.02.03			
SWEDISH - RC		4'000'000	SEK	640'000	18.04.03	ERITREA, ANGOLA, NIGERIA		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2'368'429		CHF		56.3%

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	