

# 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

## TOGO

23 November 2004

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](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 01.30/2004; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: May to September 2004; Appeal coverage: 28.0%; Outstanding needs: CHF 271,299 (USD 226,000 or EUR 177,400).**

[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

**Appeal target: CHF 376,701 (USD 282,915 or EUR 242,485)**

#### Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

- **2005 Annual Appeal no. 05AA025: Nigeria sub-regional programmes (includes Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo)** – [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA025.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA025.pdf)

**Programme summary:** The Togolese Red Cross<sup>1</sup> continued to implement all planned HIV/AIDS and community-based health activities according to the Federation appeal throughout this reporting period. The Togolese Red Cross is actively involved in the planned nationwide insecticide-treated mosquito bednets (ITN) and measles vaccination campaign in collaboration with the MoH and other partners. The Togolese Red Cross aims to mobilise 4,500 volunteers for community mobilization which has commenced in preparation for the campaign. A number of international partners and Federation secretariat logistics and health and care personnel have visited Togo during this period to assist with the preparations.

Efforts to increase collaboration of HIV/AIDS activities with different stakeholders including religious groups continue. Community home-based carers (CHBC) and counsellors have reported receiving increasing numbers of widows and orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) as a result of HIV/AIDS. Support is given to the OVC and widows through monthly support group meetings to increase awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS within the group, most particularly amongst those at highest risk. Support is given for income generation activities (IGA) and referrals are made for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) as required to the Togolese Red Cross health centre for further psycho social and health support. The Togolese Red Cross trained 24 more Peer Educators in two Lomé-commune districts. A workshop was also held for volunteer blood donors in September.

The Togolese Red Cross, through the HIV coordinator, is hosting RANWAC.<sup>2</sup> The Togolese Red Cross National HIV Coordinator as representative of RANWAC is participating in the Federation working group for the care of care facilitators, the International HIV/AIDS conference in Bangkok, an AIDS competence workshop in Cameroon, and the Memory Action Project workshop in Zimbabwe.

<sup>1</sup> Togolese Red Cross – <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=170>

<sup>2</sup> RANWAC - Regional AIDS network for the 24 countries in the West and Central Africa region.

***For further information please contact:***

- *In Togo: Norbert Gagno Paniah, President, Togolese Red Cross, Lomé; Email [crtogol@tg.refer.org](mailto:crtogol@tg.refer.org); Phone 228.221.21.10 or 228.221.12.96; Fax 228.221.52.28*
- *In Nigeria: George Bennett, Federation Head of Nigeria Sub-Regional Office, Lagos; Email [ifrcng02@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcng02@ifrc.org); Phone 234.1.269.5228; Fax 234.1.269.5229*
- *In Geneva: Christophe GrosPierre, Federation Acting Regional Officer for West and Central Africa, Africa Dept.; Email [christophe.grosPierre@ifrc.org](mailto:christophe.grosPierre@ifrc.org); Phone 41.22.730.43.13; Fax 41.22.733.03.95*

*This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents).*

*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 in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

## **Operational Developments**

The Togolese Red Cross has continued to effectively develop and implement its HIV/AIDS programme through its strong volunteer network based on ARCHI 2010 whilst also planning and developing the activities required for the nationwide measles and malaria campaign in December 2004. Currently, HIV/AIDS and malaria epidemic remain the leading causes of morbidity in the country, with HIV/AIDS not only being regarded as a health problem but one with socio-economic and development repercussions.

To reduce child morbidity and mortality, the Togolese Red Cross in collaboration with the MoH and other partners has been actively involved in the malaria and measles vaccination campaign for all infants. The campaign involves social mobilisation for the measles vaccination, provision of vitamin A supplements, and administration of mebendazole (to reduce effects of hookworms) and provision of ITN.

## **Health and care**

Goal: The prevalence of HIV/AIDS/STI among the country's vulnerable population is reduced.

Objective: The Togolese Red Cross management and volunteer capacity is improved contributing to the reduction of the national HIV/AIDS/STI prevalence rate to below 6 per cent.

### **Expected Result 1:**

Knowledge on reproductive health and the prevention of HIV/AIDS/STI is reinforced.

### **Progress and impact:**

- § 24 Peer Educator Coordinators (PEC) participated in a reproductive health and HIV/AIDS/STI prevention workshop for volunteers from two districts in Lomé-commune. The workshop aimed at improving knowledge through information sharing, education and communication strategies concerning HIV/AIDS/STI for the most vulnerable. The workshop looked specifically at behaviour change, communication and anti-stigma and discrimination activities linked to HIV/AIDS and the role of the PEC.
- § The PEC identified and trained 96 Peer Educators (PE).
- § The PE planned and held one meeting each week reaching a total of 23,000 persons during this period.
- § The PLWHA are identified and referred to Togolese Red Cross and other partners as appropriate.

**Expected Result 2:**

The number of volunteer blood donors is increased

**Progress and impact:**

- § 20 health workers involved in the volunteer blood donor programme in Lomé participated in a workshop to reinforce the technical capacities regarding blood donors and encourage increased, motivated and sustained volunteer blood donation.
- § A committee is being established in every hospital to improve services and reinforce the collaboration between the Red Cross and the blood transfusion centres, parishes, neighbourhoods, local sections and clubs.
- § The National Blood Transfusion Centre (NBTC) was rehabilitated and renovated with the French Mission of Cooperation support.
- § The collaboration between the Togolese Red Cross and NBTC was revitalized through meetings with the Togolese Red Cross health team and the director and the assistants of the NBTC.
- § A workshop for more Togolese Red Cross volunteers regarding blood donor recruitment is being planned for the November and December 2004.

**Constraints**

- § Some volunteer blood donors are not satisfied with the motivation incentives provided which leads to an increased need for Togolese Red Cross volunteers to mobilise and recruit volunteer blood donors.
- § Community mobilisation for volunteers within the urban areas close to the transfusion centres is difficult.

**Expected Result 3:**

The number of persons taking voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) is increased.

**Progress and impact:**

- § The collaboration between the VCT centres and Togolese Red Cross is facilitating the promotion of voluntary counselling and testing. Discussions are in progress with the VCT centres regarding increase of services following financing from the Global fund.
- § In the central region Sokode: Meetings were organized to advise young people regarding the advantages of VCT).
- § 108 young men and women participated in a VCT. Of the 86 available results, 12 are positive.

**Constraints:**

- § Although the PEC and PEs encourage VCT, fear and visible stigmatisation reduce the number of attendants.
- § The rural populations have limited access to VCT centres.

**Expected Result 4:**

There is an increased HIV/AIDS awareness and proper usage of preventive methods.

**Progress and impact:**

- § A condom distribution system is functioning at all levels with support from the community mobilization agents, facilitators and members of the Mothers' clubs, district coaches for PEC/PE, and the SASC.
- § The PEC/PE organise demonstration meetings on correct use of the masculine and feminine condoms and sell the condoms after the demonstration meetings. The PEC/PE distributed a total of 108,000 units of male and 9,600 female condoms during this period and 2,720 female condoms for the demonstration meetings.
- § In the central region alone, the PEC/PEs held 887 male and 234 female condom demonstration meetings in various locations resulting in an increased understanding of the correct use of the condoms.

**Constraints:**

Time required assuring the cost recovery system works effectively.

**Expected Result 5:**

Care and support is given to PLWHA and their affected families including OVC.

**Progress and impact:**

- § The number of PLWHA visiting the Togolese Red Cross and becoming involved in the programme is increased.
- § Weekly visits of the counselors and bi-monthly support visits in several neighborhoods of Lomé reached an average of 41 widows and OVC. This increased the income generation activities and opportunities for the OVC to finish their schooling.
- § Three monthly meetings of the support group for widows of PLWHA were organized with an average participation of 60 widows in each meeting. The widows meet and share their experiences and concerns. Subjects such as taking medication correctly and nutrition are discussed. Particular focus is on the practical ways to live positively with HIV/AIDS.
- § The Togolese Red Cross continues its partnership with legislators to promote human rights especially the right of PLWHA. A workshop was held to contribute to the empowerment of women and legislators and sensitize them to the needs and social relevance of proposing and implementing new legislation regarding HIV/AIDS especially the issues of women's rights.
- § Widows are able to disclose and talk about their situations.
- § The CHBCs were reinforced on how to deal with opportunistic infections, including diseases of the skin, diarrhoea and fever which affect PLWHA.
- § The Togolese Red Cross Centre Catalunya offers further support; see following table.

**Table 1: Summary of activities of the TRC Clinic in Lomé:**

	Jan-April	May	June	July	August	Sept	2004 Total
New patients referred to the clinic, PLWHA	57	29	8	18	18	12	142
Revisits	76	45	41	39	41	24	266
Partners seen	17	9	4	7	3	0	40
Total number of patients coming for counselling	150	83	53	64	62	24	436
Post test HIV	114	27	16	36	15	8	216
Pregnant widows living with HIV/AIDS	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
PLWHA receiving treatment for opportunistic infections	127	50	46	42	59	24	348
Number of persons referred to hospital	6	0	4	1	0	2	13
Deaths	1	0	1	0	1	1	4

**Expected Result 5:**

Care and support is given to PLWHA and their affected families including the vulnerable children.

**Progress and impact:**

- § Promotion and protection of the rights of PLWHA.
- § The women are increasingly active and participative with and through their support group. They have initiated new members and are increasingly supporting OVC.
- § A credit was granted to 30 new members in October.

**Recommendations:**

There is a need to establish a system for replenishment of home-based care kits for care facilitators and for the motivation of the volunteers.

Integrated campaign for the distribution of measles vaccine, mebendazole, polio and ITN: A national operation for ITN distribution is currently on course. A total of 730,000 ITN will be distributed to children aged 9 months to 5 years in December 2004. A meeting on the campaign took place in May with representatives from CDC-Atlanta,<sup>3</sup> the Federation, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and WHO. The plan of action of the Togolese Red Cross involves social mobilization with 4,500 volunteers who are currently being trained. Togolese Red Cross is demonstrating its capacity as an active partner amongst the national and international partners with the Togolese Red Cross Health Coordinator leading the initiative. A delegate supported by Canadian Red Cross is now based in Togo supporting Togolese Red Cross with the campaign.

**Organizational Development**

**Expected Result:** The management of the HIV/AIDS program is assured, and partnerships with other actors is reinforced.

**Progress and Impact:**

The national HIV coordinator as the representative of RANWAC participated in a number of major events during this period whilst also developing the network for the region and assisting the global response to caring-for-carers within the Federation. Other events included the International HIV/AIDS conference in Bangkok in July with an estimated 19,000 participants. This highlighted the need for increased funding for HIV/AIDS and the activities of the civil society as well as women involvement in the Federation's anti-stigma/discrimination campaign - 'Pass-it-on – the Truth about HIV/AIDS'. The Federation Secretariat organized a workshop on « AIDS Competence » with UNAIDS/UNITAR. This is a tool which all national societies may use to reinforce their capacity and the management of HIV/AIDS programs.

The Togolese Red Cross HIV coordinator was supported to participate in the AIDS competence workshop in Douala, Cameroon with 27 participants, which allowed self-evaluation of competence in working in HIV/AIDS and exchange of knowledge and approaches through the UNAIDS, UNITAR, World Bank and other organisations. The aim is to emulate countries such as Thailand, Uganda and Brazil who successfully reduced the pandemic and also Senegal which has a comparatively low level of HIV/AIDS. This information has been shared with RANWAC members and will be followed at the next meeting.

The Swiss Red Cross supported the Togolese Red Cross HIV Coordinator to participate in a workshop on the MAP (Memory Action Project) in Zimbabwe in September. Plans are now in process for such a project in Togo and the information is being shared with other National Societies in the West and Central Africa region. This was also an opportunity to develop partnership and collaboration with the Southern Africa region that held the workshop for 26 persons from Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Togo.

The Togolese Red Cross HIV coordinator is actively involved in weekly meetings with the National AIDS Committee which provide a forum to discuss planned activities and collaborative efforts more including for World AIDS Day 2004. Togolese Red Cross participates in all meetings and national and local initiatives with UNAIDS and other agencies.

A collaboration framework is being finalised with GTZ, Plan Togo and International Plan.

- Contacts with CNLS (National Council for the fight against HIV/AIDS) continue with the University of Lomé.
- The Canadian Red Cross HIV Coordinator and the delegate participated in a workshop for U.S. Peace Corps volunteers.
- Several local NGOs requested equipment and human resources from the Togolese Red Cross for HIV/AIDS and community-based health activities.

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<sup>3</sup> CDC-Atlanta – U.S. Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, Atlanta, George, USA

**Progress and impacts:**

- § The volunteers from Lomé commune and Gulf were motivated.
- § Funding was obtained from regional directions of the GFAMT (Global Fund for Aids, Malaria and Tuberculosis) for Togolese Red Cross regional coordinators in the Kara, Savannah and central regions.

**Recommendations:**

Improve relations with the religious groups and develop new partnerships.

**Lessons learned:**

Increased opportunities for local partnerships require further volunteer mobilization, pledge of local funds and visibility of the Togolese Red Cross activities. The community mobilization can be facilitated through partnership support and volunteers' dedication to encourage the change of certain traditional harmful practices. Volunteer networking encourages solidarity and efficiency.

**Overall Recommendations:** Considering the objectives set by the Togolese Red Cross AIDS program to organize the activities and intensify impact in the field, it is necessary to:

- § Look for other funding sources especially at the local level within the country.
- § Reinforce the intermediary structures of the Togolese Red Cross related to ARCHI 2010 through increasing the union at all levels of governance.
- § Harmonize the coordination system of the HIV/AIDS programs of the regions through the regional coordinators.
- § Increase the number of counsellors and community home-based care facilitators for PLWHA.
- § Reinforce the volunteer motivation system for increased results.

**Conclusion and perspectives:**

There is a need for increased local and international longer term support for the Togolese Red Cross health and HIV/AIDS programmes. The AIDS competence framework initiated by UNAIDS/UNITAR should be implemented. The Togolese Red Cross community mobilisation efforts regarding HIV/AIDS is increasingly successful and includes response from support groups, communities, authorities, volunteers and partners. The religious groups should also be able to contribute enormously to support care facilitators and the PLWHA community. The Togolese Red Cross HIV/AIDS program continues to intensify the needs and increase visibility for effective support to PLWHA and OVC. The Togolese Red Cross is supporting and advocating for access to treatment whilst also considering social problems of the affected families.

*[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)*

APPEAL No. 01.30/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

01/12/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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## CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				376,701		28.0%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				105,402		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				105,402	CHF	28.0%

## KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
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	