

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

BURKINA FASO

31 May 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

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.32/2004; Programme Update no. 1; Period covered: January to May 2004;
Appeal coverage: 20.1%; Outstanding needs: CHF 523,570 (USD 414,052 or EUR 342,426).
(Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List (also available on the website).

Appeal target: CHF 655,579 (USD 492,361 or EUR 422,001).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

- [Sahel Sub-regional programmes Appeal no. 01.39/2004](#)
- [Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal: Heavy Rains and Floods, Emergency Appeal no. 20/2003.](#)

Programme summary: During this reporting period, the [Burkinabe Red Cross Society](#) was active in the national polio vaccination days to help stave off the crippling disease which continues to emanate from neighboring Nigeria and threatens Burkina Faso which has been polio free for some years now. The national society called a long-awaited "round table" partners meeting during which it briefed partners on its restructuring process, its finances, and its plans to review its programs and develop a strategic develop plan this year. Work is now well underway in this process which will lead to a cooperation agreement strategy (CAS). Work also continued on the national society's financial management and resource development programme which aims to enhance the national society's ability to manage and report on funds and to diversify its funding base.

The Organizational Development budget has been revised upward to take into account newly defined plans made with the Burkinabe Red Cross since the arrival of the Regional Organizational Development Officer in February 2004. The Appeal budget will be revised from CHF 655,579 to CHF 706,731 to reflect this revision.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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

As part of the CAS process, the Burkinabe Red Cross was supported to organize a “round table” partners meeting at the end of February which sought to update partners on progress in the national society's restructuring process, present programme progress, discuss the national society's vision and goals, and seek support for its strategic planning process vis-à-vis presenting programmes for funding consideration. Attended by the Federation Head of the Sub-Regional office, the Regional Development Delegate and the Finance Delegate, the Danish Red Cross, ICRC and the Burkinabe Red Cross staff and governance, the meeting provided a good opportunity to dialogue, stimulate debate, and clarify expectations of how the strategic planning and CAS processes would be approached. Support was pledged by the Danish Red Cross for the planning process, to which it hoped other partner national societies (PNS) would also contribute and participate as part of an active CAS process.

The President and National Director of the Burkinabe Red Cross participated in the West and Central Africa partners meeting from 1 to 3 March in Ghana. The forum was a good opportunity to catch up on progress within the other sub-regions, exchange views and plans with PNS present, and share knowledge on the best health, disaster preparedness and organization development practices in the region.

An apparent decline in the number of circumcision operations carried out on young women in Burkina Faso masks a growing trend to circumcise younger and younger girls, according to a new survey by the WHO and the Burkina Faso-based National Committee against the Practice of Circumcision (CNLPE). The survey found that 70.2% of circumcisions in Burkina Faso were carried out on young girls under the age of seven years; these are for the authorities to detect. The operation is often carried out with an unspecialized razor blade and can lead to major health problems, infections and pregnancy complications in later life. Under pressure from human rights organizations and women's groups, the government of Burkina Faso passed a law in 1996, prohibiting the practice of female circumcision, also known as female genital mutilation (FGM). There is great concern about the clandestine change made in the practice and a need to apply new strategies to eradicate the phenomenon, according to experts. FGM has traditionally been carried out across much of Muslim West Africa, though it is not an Islamic practice. It has no basis in the Koran; many parents who pay to have the operation carried out on their daughters mistakenly believe it is. Campaigners against female circumcision point out that it is not carried out in Saudi Arabia or Iran, two of the world's most staunchly Muslim countries.¹ Burkinabe Red Cross is attempting to participate in efforts to offer alternatives to circumcisers and girls who find themselves threatened by this practice, although the programme has not yet been funded.

Regarding the country's efforts to fight desertification and build food security, an initiative called cloud seeding - the practice of firing salt-based chemicals into pregnant clouds to force them to shed rain - has proven a great success in Burkina Faso and may soon be extended to neighbouring countries, according to the inter-state Committee Against Drought in the Sahel (CILSS). The government of Burkina Faso has estimated that cash earnings from agriculture have increased by 10 to 15% since it began the cloud seeding programme eight years ago. The additional rainfall created has helped to fill reservoirs, allowing irrigated cultivation to continue during the dry season in many areas that were previously only able to grow one crop a year during the rainy season. Production has therefore increased and imports, particularly of cereals, have dropped. In some parts of Burkina Faso, fresh tomatoes are now available all year round as a result of the artificially induced rain.²

¹ IRIN 20 May 2004

² IRIN 19 May 2004

Health and care

Goal: To contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality resulting from communicable diseases and cultural practices in Burkina Faso.

Objective: Mortality and morbidity linked to endemic diseases, childhood illnesses, and harmful traditional practices are reduced through promotion of appropriate health behaviour at the community level in targeted rural zones.

Achievements :

Community health practices related to vaccination preventable childhood illnesses and meningitis change positively through sensitization, training, and alphabetization.

Burkina Faso, following the example of its West African neighbors, fully subscribed to the global poliomyelitis eradication program. Thus, since 1996, the country has undertaken nine National Vaccination Day campaigns. Progress has been noticeable, because from 1998 to 2002, no cases of severe poliovirus were identified and Burkina Faso was thus on the road to being certified as polio-free. Unfortunately, the current context, characterized by viral circulation in the surrounding countries and movements of populations and repatriates due to sub regional conflicts has increased the risk of importation of the polio virus, mortgaging the certification process through the year 2005, by the discovery of seven cases of severe poliovirus in Burkina Faso. The Burkinabe Red Cross took part in all the preparatory phases of execution of the most recent National Vaccination Day s. The first passage was conducted 23-26 February 26; the second passage was conducted 26-29 March 2004.

During the first passage, three health districts, namely: Diébougou, Kombissiri and Ouargaye benefited from the support of 357 volunteers of the Red Cross in the door-to-door sensitization campaign, in order to administer the polio vaccine to children aged 0 to 59 months. In the second round, 800 Burkinabe Red Cross volunteers crossed villages and farms with local health agents in four health districts: Diébougou, Kombissiri, Ouargaye and Sapouy, respecting the door-to-door strategy marking vaccinated children's fingers in gentian purple ink and chalking visited houses.

For additional detail on volunteers and vaccinations , please refer to the table annexed at the end of this Update.

Vehicles and material from Burkinabe Red Cross headquarters (motor bikes, bicycles, loud-speakers contributed by American Red Cross in the 2001 measles vaccination campaign were once again used). Burkinabe Red Cross volunteers worked closely with all administrative, religious and other notable figures, plus community development agents who took part in the operation.

Impact:

- Increase of the vaccination coverage rate through door to door sensitization of families by volunteers coming from the local communities; in a focal group survey families indicated their satisfaction with the ease of the door-to-door method for them to obtain the vaccinations for their children.
- Visibility of the Red Cross was increased in four districts
- Recruitment of new members through the campaign

Constraints /Recommendations:

- Insufficient training of actors in some cases
- Insufficient and worn out logistic material
- Lack of harmonization of indemnities provided to Red Cross volunteers versus those mobilized by the Ministry of Health (MoH)
- Reluctance of certain families to vaccinate their children
- Lack of transportation means disadvantaging most of the distant areas; after nine national vaccination day campaigns some families still feel apprehensive about vaccinations' benefits.
- Ignorance of the principles of the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement by some volunteers
- Sign agreements with the MoH and district health authorities to better integrate volunteers into local health programs.

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- Harmonize the indemnities provided to volunteers
- Re-enforce logistic supplies for conducting campaigns
- Earlier planning for Burkinabe Red Cross participation
- On-going sensitization efforts versus those conducted only during national vaccination days

The Burkina Red Cross successfully organizes and manages a community health programme.

- Due to the inadequate level of funds received thus far to cover all three projects under the Health and Care sector of this Appeal, the national society prioritized its polio vaccination social mobilization activities (see end of the document).

Female genital mutilation (excision) is reduced in three provinces (Ganzourgou, Kourwéogo, and Ouhritenga).

- Due to the inadequate level of funds received thus far to cover all three projects under the Health and Care sector of this Appeal, the national society prioritized its polio vaccination social mobilization activities (see end of the document).

Disaster Management Goal: The Burkinabe Red Cross branches and headquarters are able to respond adequately to emergencies.

Objective: The Burkinabe Red Cross capacity to address root causes of food insecurity and to intervene during emergencies to assist those in need is strengthened.

Expected Results :

- Household food security is improved in selected communities through:
 - Technical and material support to cereal production and gardening and irrigation schemes
 - Sale of cereals at RC run “not for profit” boutiques
- The Burkinabe Red Cross emergency response capacity improves through:
 - Training of 60 trainers and 1200 first-aid volunteers each year for the next four years
 - Equipping of 320 brigades of 15 first-aid volunteers each with basic materials (stretchers, Red Cross pinafores, first aid kits)
 - Regular support to branches through monitoring and guidance
 - Acquisition of communication/transport means

Constraints

- Due to lack of funding, these projects were not implemented.

Organizational Development

Goal: Better assistance to the most vulnerable is furnished through improved programme planning, management, and resource mobilization capacities of the Burkinabe Red Cross.

Objective: The Burkinabe Red Cross has completed a comprehensive Strategic Development Plan leading to a systematic development of the national society capacity.

Progress/achievements:

Financial management systems and procedures are improved and revenues from resource development activities are increased and diversified at headquarters and branch level:

The Burkinabe Red Cross moves closer towards realising the characteristics of a well-functioning national society through:

- **Development of a three- to five-year strategic development plan (based on national society capacity assessment and evaluation of previous plan results) in co-ordination with other stakeholders .**

A mission was carried out by the Regional Development Officer at the end of February to discuss with the national society the Federation support within organizational development; a process was proposed to the national society to achieve this objective. It was agreed to run an evaluation of the programs conducted by the national society during the last four years, leading to a strategic planning workshop as well as a workshop to write new projects for the future.

The evaluation has been carried out by the national society with the technical and financial support of the Federation and the Danish Red Cross. Report of this evaluation is available through the regional office. Through the evaluation, the national society identified its weaknesses as regards program and project planning. The next stage of the process is the strategic planning workshop whose preparations are rather advanced with the development of the terms of reference shared with all the interested partners. This workshop will be held during June.

- **Completion of a Co-operation Agreement Strategy (CAS) process**

The planning process is the starting point of a longer one which will lead to a formal CAS signed by all national society partners. There is already a very good communication with ICRC and Danish Red Cross for this purpose. Both were part of the partnership meeting organized by the national society in February with the technical assistance of the Federation sub-regional office. They will be part of the strategic planning workshop to be held in June. Efforts will be made to integrate Spanish Red Cross and Belgian Red Cross into the process, as well as other partners.

- **Convening a partners meeting to formally present and confirm the Co-operation Agreement Strategy (CAS).**

This will be the final stage of the process and will be achieved probably in the beginning of next year.

- **The Burkinabe Red Cross installs professional accounting software and trains the staff on its use.**

Preliminary contacts have been established with the local representative of the SAGE SAARI software; the national society's Finance Manager attended a presentation meeting on SAGE in order to have an initial grasp of this tool. Meanwhile, the finance staff is continuing to work with SYSCOM management systems until it can be replaced by SAGE. The new Finance Manager's Assistant has been specifically trained on data entry and his job description has been reviewed during a meeting with the Federation Regional Delegate; one of the issues raised was to see how to improve the networking among finance staff workstations. The installation of SAGE software systems is expected to provide such an opportunity.

- **The Burkinabe Red Cross undergoes external audits of its accounts that will enable it to better manage resources, identify weaknesses, and address them.**

The national society would like to have a certified balance sheet of the 2003 accounts including all the valued assets of the national society; in fact the issue of assessing all the equipment has been regularly raised over last years at the headquarters as well as the provincial committees. The terms of reference for quotes have been drafted and submitted for approval to the finance committee.

- **Members and managers of ten branches, clearly understand the separation of governance and management functions**

A new organizational chart with direct reporting lines between the National Director and the staff of the provincial committees' income generating units has been developed and presented to the steering committee. This accountability line heralds a recovery of the management procedures of the eleven provincial committees with income generating units. The aim is to decentralize the principles of sound management to such units since the consolidation of these units is likely the focus of the next restructuring step of the national society.

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- **Ten branch level pharmacies possess the tools and capabilities to manage stocks.**

One of the first tasks of the national society's National Director has been to review each individual job description together with all staff members. This review led to increase income generating units' staff awareness regarding management with monthly narrative and financial reports introduced. Such process is planned to be duplicated at branch level.

- **Resource development activities are co-ordinated according to plans approved by the Burkinabe Red Cross resource development committee.**

Terms of reference for the resource development committee have been drafted and should be finalized by May 2004, when the CBF supported program, focused on income generation, will be nearing completion.

- **The Burkinabe Red Cross improves its public relations and marketing strategy through a positive public image and its revenue sources are diversified.**
- **Ten branch staff are trained in resource mobilization activities and the Burkinabe Red Cross national resource mobilization committee develops standard project description formats.**
- **Revenues generated by ten branches increase significantly through income generating activities.**

The achievement of these results is contingent upon the completion of the activities above.

Impact:

- The activities supported through the Federation's CBF program provide an ideal stepping stone to structuring activities for finance and resource development:
- Cafeteria: a volunteer from the national society has been made responsible, and is using simplified tools to run the activities pending training on expenditure and receipts book-keeping and stock management.
- Training centre and dress-making centre: the products already available at the training centre are on exhibition and for sale at the dress-making centre. A tailor and two girls from the training centre have been proposed to run this centre. Three schools have been contacted and the recruitment of a graduate dressmaker with skills in mixed dress-making is underway and will be finalized soon.
- Laboratory: the reopening of the child maternity section required some changes and fittings, which means additional costs supported by the CBF program. Three sections were opened: prenatal consultation - baby weighing- family consultations. The Ministry of Health provided four midwives and the chief doctor of the health district approved the principle of providing a doctor.
- The approach adopted within this process consists of coaching the national society with the participation of all interested partners helps the national society better understand what is expected from it and ways to undertake its activities more effectively. However the process will have impact only if all the subsequent stages are attained which will enable the national society to establish a new organisational culture for improving its services to vulnerable persons.
- With regard to partnership, the need for a better coordination was felt among the partners present at the round table meeting in February and for a lead role to be taken by the Federation in helping the national societies' development in a spirit of effective collaboration and this in the spirit of the [Seville Agreement](#).

Constraints:

- Pharmaceutical store: as the previous supply system to provide the structure with specialties is not viable anymore, the national society will now apply for a waiver from the MoH. Contacts have been initiated with the general office in charge of pharmacies at the MoH. Once approved, the store shall be promoted into a pharmacy, with the related challenge of recruiting a manager.
- The national society is willing and open to its strategic development and CAS process, but due to on-going activities and staffing constraints, the pace at which it can pursue these objectives is slower than desired by some. In addition, Burkinabe Red Cross is joined by four other national societies in the region who are undergoing similar processes which imposes a rather heavy workload on the Federation sub-regional office. It would not be superfluous to resort to additional human resources to face this workload and to meet the challenge in all national societies committed in the process.

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

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Regions	Sanitary Districts	Target population	Vaccinated children first phase		Vaccinated children second phase		Number of volunteers						Total volunteers
							First phase			Second phase			
							Volunteers.	Coach	Supervisors	Volunteers.	Coach	Supervisors	
South West	Diébougou	22,579	29,390	Rate 117%	26,950	Rate 119%	114	4	1	190	8	2	319
South Centre	Kombissiri	42,935	48,665	113%	49,733	116%	114	4	1	190	8	2	319
Est. Centre	Ouargaye	52,534	59,076	112%	60,265	115%	114	4	1	190	8	2	319
West Centre	Sapouy	31,089	-	-	36,952	119%	-	-	-	190	8	2	200

APPEAL No. 01.32/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

30/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				655,580		20.1%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				69,158		
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				50,000	29.01.04	HEALTH
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				12,852	29.01.04	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				132,010	CHF	20.1%

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	