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

CAMEROON

17 February 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. 01.40/2004; Programme Update no. 2; Period covered: April to September 2004; Appeal coverage: 36.8%; Outstanding needs: CHF 264,893 (USD 222,800 or EUR 171,000).
Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.

Appeal target: CHF 418.917 (USD 314,620 or EUR 269,660)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Central Africa sub-regional programmes, 2005 Annual Appeal no. 05AA038 (includes Cameroon, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, São Tomé and Principe, and Central Africa sub-regional office) – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA038.pdf

Programme summary:
The Cameroon Red Cross Society [1] volunteers demonstrated their capacity through their activities to benefit vulnerable people: the fight against epidemics (cholera), the fight against AIDS, and the setting up of disaster response teams nationwide.

During this period, the Cameroon Red Cross pursued its partnership with the Department of Civil Protection (DPC), and with Federation support, provided rapid and efficient response to the cholera epidemic in parts of Cameroon. The National Society's Henry Dunant Health Center continued its activities with technical support from the French Red Cross. While sensitization was intensified to encourage sex workers to visit the Health Center, the Swedish Red Cross, and volunteers animated educative talks for the benefit of this target group.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *In Cameroon: Mbako Nicolas, Secretary General, Cameroon Red Cross Society, Yaoundé; Email cr@camnat.com; Phone 237. 222.41.77 or 237.222.41.60.12; Mobile 237.993.63.20; Fax 237.231.596*
- *In Cameroon: Daniel Sayi, Federation Acting Head of Central Africa Sub-Regional Office, Yaoundé; Email ifrccm06@ifrc.org; Phone 237.221.74.37; Fax 237.221.74.39*
- *In Geneva: Christophe Grospierre, Federation Acting Regional Officer for West and Central Africa, Africa Dept.; Email 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

[1] Cameroon Red Cross Society - http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=41

Operational Developments

The key humanitarian issue during this reporting period has been an epidemic of cholera throughout Cameroon. The epidemic has spread rapidly in the urban and rural areas of Douala, Foumbot, Yaoundé, and Kousseri. This situation caused the Cameroon Red Cross to mobilize its volunteers to work towards the eradication of the epidemic. This epidemic and the Cameroon Red Cross response have been reported through the issuance of three Information Bulletins titled Cameroon: Cholera Epidemic:

- Information Bulletin 1 dated 3 March 2004 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts04/camcholib0104.pdf
- Information Bulletin 1 dated 18 May 2004 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts04/cm040518.pdf
- Information Bulletin 1 dated 14 September 2004 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts04/cm040914.pdf

The government of Equatorial Guinea expelled thousands of Cameroonians. Although not a critical situation, the resulting, unexpected arrival of these deported people at the Cameroon borders required the mobilization of the national community. The Cameroon Red Cross supported their arrival and assisted the most vulnerable.

Health and Care

The Cameroon Red Cross reinforced its commitment to ARCHI 2010 by joining the Cameroon Ministry of Public Health by supporting the national Health Development Plan activities. This is also supported by WHO, UNICEF, and other cooperation agencies. Cameroon Red Cross deployed its volunteer network to carry-out activities in connection with the fight against HIV/AIDS, the eradication of the polio virus, the anti-measles campaign, and the fight against other epidemics.

Fight against Epidemics
Goal: The vulnerabilities of Cameroonians to health hazards are reduced.

Objective: The targeted populations have adopted behaviours that are less risky for their health and are increasingly using the quality health services offered them by Cameroon Red Cross.

- From 3 - 9 May 2004, Cameroon Red Cross deployed its volunteers in all the areas where the cholera epidemic originated (Littoral, South, Centre, West, South-West), to sensitise the populations about prevention methods. The volunteers reached 80,000 people, and a resulting improvement in behaviour will continue.
- From 7 - 9 May 2004, a joint Cameroon Red Cross/Federation mission evaluated the cholera situation in the West Province to determine the vulnerabilities of the exposed population and to assess the local Red Cross branch volunteer network capacity to respond.
- As part of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day activities, ten first-aid volunteers carried out sanitation activities in two Yaoundé Central Prison cells to improve on the living conditions of about 1,000 detainees, mostly minors and women.
- During five working days, patients, mostly refugees, visited the Cameroon Red Cross Health and Social Welfare Centre for treatment and for educational talks on hygiene and sanitation. From May to June, over 320 patients consulted at these clinics, 98 pregnant women were vaccinated against Tetanus. In addition, 54 children, mostly CAR refugees aged 0-5 years, were vaccinated.
- From 16 to 18 June, an employee of the Cameroon Red Cross Health Centre participated in a seminar in Kribi for the evaluation of the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI).
- The Red Cross Club of the Catholic University for Central Africa in Yaoundé conducted an immunisation campaign in their two campuses of Nkolbisson (18 to 19 May) and Ekounou (24 to 25 May), in collaboration with the Cameroon Red Cross Health and Social Welfare Centre. This operation was intended to prevent pandemics and epidemics, especially the resurgence of tuberculosis. This resulted in 250 students being vaccinated: 50 for yellow fever, 110 against Tetanus, and 90 against Tuberculosis.
- On 1 June 2004, the national Health Department of Cameroon Red Cross participated in a meeting to prepare the World Blood Donation Day in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health.

Impact

Red Cross actions have considerably reduced the vulnerabilities of Cameroonians, and the national society has demonstrated its worth as an auxiliary to government.

HIV/AIDS
Goal: The spread of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis in less privileged populations is reduced.

Objective: The targeted populations have adopted less risky sexual behaviours, and are increasingly using the prevention, screening, and treatment facilities put at their disposal by Cameroon Red Cross.

Achievements

- On 5 May 2004, Cameroon Red Cross gave a HIV/AIDS educative talk session to about 40 people. The theatre group of Cameroon Red Cross, which sensitizes the populations in public places like schools and work places, performed well. This theatre group also performed during World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day events in Cameroon (8 May). In their plays, they focused on the relevance of undergoing an AIDS screening test, and encouraged people to change their sexual behaviours vis-à-vis the test.
- The Cameroon Red Cross AIDS Department distributed anti-HIV/AIDS kits in ten barber shops and hairdressing salons of Yaoundé on 6 May. These kits consisted of razor blades, combs, brushes, disinfectants, needles and scissors. The operation was intended to sensitize barbers, hairdressers, and their clients to the fight against HIV/AIDS, especially the risk of contamination by soiled or infected objects. In May 2004, 24 barber shops and hairdressing salons were visited by Red Cross volunteers, and over 2,500 people were educated. This activity was further pursued in June, and over 30 barber shops and hairdressing salons have been visited. Cameroon Red Cross intends to replicate this activity in other provinces of Cameroon.

Impact

- An increasing number of people are informed about the dangers of HIV/AIDS, and understand the need to undergo the voluntary screening test.
- A considerable number of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH) are working in close collaboration with Cameroon Red Cross to fight against the pandemic.
- Over 80% of the barbers and hairdressers in Yaoundé have been mobilized in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Disaster Management

The Federation Strategy for Change aims at giving more responsibility to regions and facilitating good collaboration between local, regional, and international structures of the Federation. To consolidate this policy in the area of disaster management, continuous retraining sessions and exercises need to be organized. This will contribute to improving the level of preparedness and capacity of the Red Cross to regularly assess the structures, mechanisms, and procedures for the deployment of efficient teams that can bring pertinent, calculated, and timely responses to disasters.

Goal: The vulnerability of the populations of Cameroon to disasters is reduced.

Objective: The technical know-how of the National Disaster Response Team in the domains of Water and Sanitation (WATSAN), Epidemic Management, and Food Security (FS) is reinforced. Concrete measures are taken to facilitate the deployment of ERDAC, FACT, and ERU[2] teams in Cameroon, and the capacities of the local branches in high risk areas to respond to disasters are reinforced.

Achievements

- Specific to training in water, sanitation, and the promotion of hygiene in an emergency situation, five Cameroon Red Cross executives of the thirty-member NDRT (National Disaster Response Team) participated in a regional training seminar for ERDAC members in Limbe (30 April-10 May 2004).
- From 3 to 9 May 2004, Cameroon Red Cross volunteers were deployed in all the areas hit by the cholera epidemic (Littoral, South, Centre, West, South-West) to sensitize the populations to the prevention and fight against epidemics as a whole, and more specifically against cholera.
- In Douala, over 9,000 people were sensitised against cholera, and the number of cases dropped from 200 to 29. In addition, 1,500 houses were disinfected.

[2] ERDAC - Equipe de Réponse aux Désastres en Afrique Centrale (equivalent to RDRT - Regional Disaster Response Team) ; FACT – Field Assessment and Coordination Team ; ERU – Emergency Response Unit

- In Foumbot, 150 volunteers were retrained in communication for behavioural change (CBC), and on how to implement sanitation activities in a given area. Sixty five water points were treated and 300 stagnant water points were drained. In June, the number of cholera cases dropped from 50 to 3.
- In Mbouda, the heads of the Red Cross local committee mobilized 200 volunteers to go all over the 16 villages that make up that division to sensitise the populations to the need of respecting hygiene rules, and to discourage people vehemently from performing autopsy in a traditional-like manner. It should be noted that the first case of cholera appeared in that locality as a result of such a practice.
- In Kousseri, the Logone and Chari divisional committee of the Red Cross mobilised 60 volunteers and divided them into five teams. Currently, almost everybody in that locality has been sensitised to the hygiene rules to be respected to avoid cholera infections.

Impact

- The Federation initiative to create ERDAC was timely; it allowed each national society to set-up its own national disaster response unit.
- Through the management of the cholera epidemic, the affected communities understood the need to support the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Constraints

Despite commendable efforts made by Cameroon Red Cross volunteers, the people of Foumbot are still hesitant to abandon their habits; there are no efforts to maintain the latrines and water points that had been treated by Red Cross volunteers.

Promotion of Humanitarian Values

Goal: The discrimination against certain specific groups of people is eradicated.

Objective: The populations of Cameroon, the government, and employers know and understand the Federation's position and take part in the fight against all sorts of discrimination, with special emphasis on stigma against HIV positive people.

Achievements

- In Cameroon, the youth are the main promoters of humanitarian values: they carry-out activities to combat stigma against PLWHA, and to strengthen the culture of peace.
- A two-phase seminar was organized in April 2004 to present the humanitarian ideal, and especially the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the newly elected members of Governance of Cameroon Red Cross. In addition, participants were lectured on the missions of a governance committee.
- In April 2004, the Cameroon Red Cross tracing department disseminated 48 messages (13 incoming, 33 outgoing, and 2 research applications). This initiative was intended to bring family members who had been separated by armed conflicts and other reasons together again.
- The volunteers of all Cameroon Red Cross local branches participated in activities to mark the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May) everywhere in the country, in order to attract more volunteers to the Movement. This resulted in increased demand for first-aid training.
- A delegation of humanitarian journalists visited Foumbot from 8 to 9 June 2004 to report on the cholera epidemic. These visitors were above to witness the mobilization of the government and NGOs, especially Cameroon Red Cross (as an auxiliary to the government). The "BBC Africa" French desk broadcast a special 'magazine' on that event; local newspapers as well reported on and described the humanitarian situation in Foumbot.

Impact

The general public is aware that the people in the affected areas lack potable water, and that they are determined to eradicate cholera.

Organizational Development

Goal: The performances of Cameroon Red Cross in key areas of the ARCHI 2010 strategy are reinforced.

Objective: The financial capacities of Cameroon Red Cross to cover its basic costs and execute programmes are reinforced.

Achievements

- Thanks to the training of Cameroon Red Cross executives and leaders, the programmes and projects registered in the strategic plan are well developed and executed. This has enabled the NS to render pertinent services to vulnerable people. From 1-7 April 2004, 60 people were trained in first-aid activities to build the operational capacities of the Sanaga maritime (Littoral Province) divisional committee in the care of road accident victims.
- From 12 to 24 April 2004, 60 first-aid workers and 15 monitors were trained to build the operational capacities of the Noun (West Province) divisional committee. The main objective of this initiative was to have ready-to-intervene teams everywhere in that locality.
- From 22 to 23 April 2004, 15 communication officers from divisional committees in the North-West and West provinces took part in a seminar organised by the national Info-Diffusion Department of Cameroon Red Cross, with the support of the ICRC. The six-man team of trainers treated the following topics:
    - The relevance of communication in a divisional committee;
    - The communication policy of Cameroon Red Cross;
    - The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
    - Reporting techniques;
    - Fund raising techniques;
        - Information diffusion channels;
        - The writing of a press article, a press release, and a memorandum;
        - Interview techniques;
        - The functioning of a Cameroon Red Cross communicators' network.

That training was intended to encourage the 15 communicators to produce monthly activity reports.

Impact

The targeted Infomation/Reporting officers of divisional and local committees now have good mastery of their role as information managers of the Red Cross.

Constraints

Reports and other information get to the headquarters very late.

Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.

Cameroon

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.40/2004 **PLEDGES RECEIVED** 15/02/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT

CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ---------->				**418,917**		**36.8%**
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				64,940		
IMPERIAL COLLEGE		23,000	GBP	53,084	11.05.04	FILLES LIBRES/SIDA
BRITISH - GOVT		15,000,000	XAF	36,000	11.05.04	FILLES LIBRES/SIDA
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				154,024	CHF	36.8%

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	