

# 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

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

22 July 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. 01.44/2004; Programme Update no. 1; Period covered: January to June 2004;**  
**Appeal coverage: 11.6%; Outstanding needs: CHF 399,355 (USD 315,820 or EUR 261,187).**

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

**Appeal target: CHF 451,902 (USD 339,392 or EUR 290,892)**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:** Republic of Congo: Ebola Outbreak, Emergency Appeal 24/2003<sup>1</sup>

#### Programme summary:

Amid the recent civil chaos in the Republic of Congo, the Congolese Red Cross<sup>2</sup> responded effectively to the Ebola crisis that hit some parts of the country. As a result of their involvement in the Ebola response operation, which brought the Ebola epidemic under control, the national society's capacities especially at the branch levels has largely improved. The political and economical situation in the Republic of Congo is relatively calm all over the country.

The national society has kept close collaboration with other agencies; the Federation, the ICRC and the partner national societies provided essential support to the Congolese Red Cross management and governance to improve their operational capacity building in terms of human, material and financial resources, good governance and acquisition of the characteristics of a well-functioning national society. If the funding situation improves, the national society will be supported by the Federation delegation in evaluating the humanitarian challenges confronting it in 2004 and beyond.

#### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In the Republic of Congo: Dany Gambicky, Director General, Congolese Red Cross, Brazzaville; Email [croixrouge\\_congobzv@yahoo.fr](mailto:croixrouge_congobzv@yahoo.fr); Phone 242.68.82.49
- In the Republic of Congo: Momodou Lamin Fye, Federation Head of the Congo Delegation, Brazzaville; Email [hod.kinshasdel@wireless.ifrc.org](mailto:hod.kinshasdel@wireless.ifrc.org) or [modoufye@hotmail.com](mailto:modoufye@hotmail.com); Phone 243.81.88.45.582 or 242.28.50.07
- In Geneva: Mark Willis, Federation Regional Officer for West and Central Africa, Africa Dept.; Email [mark.willis@ifrc.org](mailto:mark.willis@ifrc.org); Phone 41.22.730.42.60; 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).*

<sup>1</sup> Emergency Appeal - [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?03/2403.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?03/2403.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Congolese Red Cross - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=184>

*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct<sup>3</sup> and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response<sup>4</sup> 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 political and economical situation in the Republic of Congo is relatively calm all over the country. This has allowed the Government to host in Brazzaville the sixth International Conference of the Ministers of Youth and Sports and the first International Congress of Central African countries on trypanosomiasis and celebrate the World Woman Day under the theme of 'Woman and HIV/AIDS in Congo'. The security in the Pool district, the hideout of rebels called the 'Ninjas' of pastor Ntoumi, was still volatile and efforts by the government to officially receive the rebel leader in Brazzaville were not successful.

During the two outbreaks of Ebola hemorrhagic fever in Mbomo and Kellé in the West Cuvette Region, the Congolese Red Cross strengthened its cooperation and visibility with the Ministry of Health, WHO, MSF and other local NGOs. It should be noted that as a result of its involvement in the Ebola response operation, which brought the Ebola epidemic under control, the national society capacity especially at the branch levels has largely improved.

The Federation, the ICRC and the partner national societies provided essential support to the Congolese Red Cross management and governance to improve their operational capacity building in terms of human, material and financial resources and good governance and acquisition of the characteristics of a well-functioning national society. For the first half of 2004, emphasis was laid on financial autonomy through income-generating projects and an effective management system, the strengthening of partnerships with all internal and external actors and the formulation of a strategic development plan for the national society.

If the funding situation improves, the national society, with support from the Federation delegation, will evaluate the humanitarian challenges confronting it in 2004 and beyond. Particular attention will be paid to strengthening the national society's capacities in disaster management through vulnerability and capacity assessment, risk mapping, contingency planning and implementation of community-based disaster management, the reduction of the prevalence of major diseases such as HIV/AIDS/STD<sup>5</sup>, Ebola and malaria, water and sanitation community health structures and promoting gender and development.

---

<sup>3</sup> Code of Conduct - <http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/conduct/>

<sup>4</sup> Humanitarian Charter - <http://www.sphereproject.org/>

<sup>5</sup> STD – Sexually-transmitted disease; alternatively, STI – sexually-transmitted infection

## Health and care

**Goal:** A reduction is achieved in the disease-related vulnerability of people living in the areas targeted by the programme.

**Objective:** With the support of the Ministry of Health and other partners, the Congolese Red Cross improves access to community health services in the areas of the country targeted by the project.

**Project:** HIV/AIDS/STD in Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, Dolisie and Owando.

**Expected result:** HIV transmission is reduced among high-risk groups, namely young people, soldiers, sex workers and long-haul drivers, and care for AIDS sufferers is improved.

### Progress/Achievements

- The two chatting centres in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire continue to receive young people and provide them with reliable information about HIV/AIDS/STD.
- The Congolese Red Cross health personnel have been dispatched in the most equipped health centres in Brazzaville for a given period to acquire knowledge about HIV/AIDS/STD.
- Condoms were distributed in military and police barracks.
- Community-based First Aid (CBFA) was extended throughout Brazzaville; 24 Red Cross volunteers carried out grassroots awareness and information, education and communication (IEC) campaigns on 29 March 2004 targeting the seven district representatives. CBFA session was launched targeting 170 Red Cross volunteers from the seven districts in Brazzaville.
- A total of 250 Red Cross volunteers donated blood on the eve of World Red Cross Day (8 May 2004).

**Project:** ARCHI 2010<sup>6</sup> (fight against Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever).

**Expected result:** Social mobilization activities to combat Ebola hemorrhagic fever are carried out in the four districts exposed to the infection.

### Progress

- The Federation and the Congolese Red Cross conducted joint missions in the Cuvette-Ouest department to train, sensitize and mobilize the population on the Ebola Virus Haemorrhagic Fever. The missions were facilitated by the Federation coordinator and a West Africa Disaster Response Team member, dispatched by the Central Africa sub-regional office to support the effort of the national society to stem the epidemic.
- A total of 25 local and district coaches and the Director of the department were trained on the Ebola epidemic management. The UNICEF health and nutrition administrator also participated in the training as a facilitator. The themes covered were; monitoring, planning, reporting, volunteers' management and motivation.
- A total of 49 anti-Ebola clubs have also been established in the 35 villages and equipped with information materials. Each club has 10 members. The aim of the clubs is to monitor the epidemic development and report any suspicious contacts, sensitize the population against the epidemic, and report the presence of dead primates in the forest to the authorities (among other duties).
- Local authorities have banned the sale of primates' meat.
- A total of 54 volunteers' networks have been set up in 35 localities; each network is comprised of between two and 10 persons and is managed by individual coaches.
- In close collaboration with the WHO and the Ministry of Health, the national society volunteers visited affected families for moral support and provided them with food items.
- A total of 86 families were assisted to set up community-based micro-projects to change the community's eating habits.
- Contact with UNICEF has been maintained for possible collaboration with the Red Cross.
- Distribution of 15,000 leaflets, 5,000 posters, 700 aprons and 700 T-shirts occurred during the sensitization sessions in the affected areas.

---

<sup>6</sup> ARCHI – <http://www.ifrc.org/what/health/archi/>

## **Republic of Congo; Appeal no. 01.44/2004; Programme Update no. 1**

- Home visits were carried out. Activities were carried out in conjunction with a measles vaccination campaign.
- A total of 396 Community Health Volunteers have been trained.
- A project to support the families of victims of the Ebola epidemic in the Cuvette Ouest department will be financed by the Spanish Red Cross. The project targets the training of families in the management of income-generating micro-projects to help them avoid eating primates' meat.
- The British Red Cross programme officer for West and Central Africa visited the Congolese Red Cross (27-28 April) to discuss with the Federation Health Delegate and the national society on the ongoing Ebola epidemic in the Cuvette Ouest department.
- The project also received the support of a West Africa Disaster Response Team from the Togolese Red Cross and dispatched by the Central Africa sub-regional office.

### **Impact**

- The Ebola epidemic was controlled following the intervention of the Red Cross and other partners.
- The populations in the four districts of the Cuvette-Ouest department now avoid eating primates' meat; they are also involved with income-generating micro-project initiatives with the support of the Congolese Red Cross/Federation.
- The visibility and credibility of the Red Cross is increased. The Red Cross volunteers are respected following the sensitization campaigns held to differentiate between the Red Cross and the pink cross.
- The districts committees of the Red Cross in the four districts are equipped with information, education and communication materials.
- The Red Cross volunteers and the members of the communities trained in communication techniques sensitize and socially mobilize the population against the Ebola epidemic. The collaboration between the Red Cross and the community has become very close.
- The Congolese Government trusts the Congolese Red Cross following the involvement of its volunteers in the fight against the epidemic. The Red Cross is now also a closer partner of other organizations such as WHO and UNICEF.
- Young people in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire benefited from condom distribution.

### **Constraints**

- Lack of funds to carry out most activities of the HIV/AIDS/STD project.
- The volunteers continue to complain about the lack of financial motivation.
- The bumpy and slippery road from Brazzaville to Mbomo and Kellé in the Cuvette-Ouest department is risky, mostly in the rainy season. It takes days to get there. With logistics support in the form of a four wheel drive land cruiser and financial contributions coming from the British Red Cross in July, these constraints will be minimised.
- The security situation in the interior of the country is volatile. This has hindered the Red Cross to implement some of its projects.

## **Disaster Management**

**Goal: A reduction is achieved in the disaster-related vulnerability of people living in the target districts in the Republic of Congo.**

**Objective: The national society disaster management capacities are improved to provide rapid and effective response in emergencies.**

**Expected result: Risk mapping and disaster preparedness activities are carried out in Brazzaville, Central and West Cuvette.**

### **Progress**

- The national society with the support of the Federation finalized discussions with the GIS mapping office to embark upon a hazard mapping exercise in Brazzaville, Central and West Cuvette.
- Reinforcement of the logistics base with the acquisition of new vehicle from the British Red Cross for the Cuvette Ouest department.
- Disaster preparedness emergency stocks were purchased and pre-positioned in Kellé and Brazzaville through the support of the British Red Cross; these stocks will be available for any potential outbreak of Ebola (see Project: ARCHI 2010 above).
- With the support of the Spanish Red Cross, the Congolese Red Cross repaired their canoe to be used in emergencies in Brazzaville and neighbouring villages along the River Congo.
- Two volunteers of the Congolese Red Cross participated in a water and sanitation workshop in Limbe, Cameroon, organized by the Central Africa sub-regional office as part of the Central African Disaster Response Team (ERDAC).

### **Impact**

- The canoe is ready to serve in case of emergency evacuations by river and as a source of income for the Congolese Red Cross.
- The national society headquarters in Brazzaville and the district committee of Kellé are equipped with emergency response material to fight any other possible Ebola epidemic outbreak.
- Logistics has improved, enabling field evaluation in the affected villages of the district of the Cuvette Ouest department.

### **Constraints**

- Lack of funds to finance the activities of the project.
- Communication between the Cuvette Ouest Department districts and the headquarters is difficult for regular reports on the Ebola epidemic.
- Access to the Cuvette Ouest Department is costly and time consuming due the bad state of the road.

## **Humanitarian Values**

**Goal: Respect for human dignity and more effective solidarity with the vulnerable are assured through the promotion of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.**

**Objective: The level of discrimination against pygmies, PLWHA<sup>7</sup>, the disabled and rape victims is reduced in the target areas (Pointe-Noire and the regions of Pool and Lékoumou).**

### **Progress/Achievements:**

- The new Congolese Red Cross sections created within the communities in Brazzaville have resulted in the enlargement of the national society's volunteer base and increased its capacity to identify and address vulnerabilities.
- The national society's weekly broadcast on the National Radio Station addresses HIV/AIDS, discrimination, and stigmatisation issues. A particular emphasis is put on the respect of the Pygmy community and the victims of rape.
- The national society's bimonthly news bulletin has been published two times during this reporting period (March - April and April - May). The June - July issue is under publication.
- The Congolese Red Cross celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 22 February 2004 and World Red Cross Day on 8 May 2004 in Owando in the Cuvette Centrale Department. The Governance and the Management as well as an important number of the Red Cross volunteers participated in the celebration.

### **Impact**

- The Congolese Red Cross radio campaigns to promote more respect for the pygmy population, the marginalized women victims of rape and the people living with HIV/AIDS have resulted in positive public attitude toward these categories of people. The positive feedback received from the listeners is an encouraging sign of the impact of programme on the quality of the broadcast.
- The national society audience who read the news contained in the bulletin is more aware of Red Cross activities and projects.

### **Constraints**

- Lack of funds to finance the project activities.
- Insufficient computers to facilitate the publication of the bulletins.
- Lack of a recorder to report for both the radio broadcast and the bulletin.
- Lack of a camera for reporting and taking photos for the bulletin.

---

<sup>7</sup> PLWHA – persons living with HIV/AIDS

## Organizational Development

**Goal:** The Congolese Red Cross progresses towards becoming a well-functioning national society.

**Objective:** The Congolese Red Cross is technically self-sufficient and capable of meeting its major challenges through its volunteer network.

**Project:** Good Governance and Management

**Expected result:** The Congolese Red Cross is focused, responds and functions well. The capacities of the national and targeted departmental structures are improved.

### Progress

- With funding from the Swedish Red Cross, the Federation delegation supported the national society to improve its reporting, financial and administrative management.
- The national society's five-year Strategic Plan was developed with support by the Federation delegation (January 2004).
- With the support of the Swedish Red Cross, a workshop was organized from 31 March to 09 April 2004 at the headquarters to review the Strategic Plan, following comments made by the Federation and other partners.
- The Congolese Red Cross, through its governance and management representatives, was involved with the Red Cross of DRC<sup>8</sup> partnership meeting (CAS process) that took place 19-22 April in Kinshasa.
- The Congolese Red Cross was involved in the Congo Initiative Programme evaluation that was conducted by an independent evaluator.
- The exchange of experiences between the Secretary General of the Red Cross of DRC and the Director General of the Congolese Red Cross on national societies' management has strengthened the relations between the two national societies.
- Separation and complementarity of governance and management at the national level is improved, mostly between the Executive Committee and the Directorate.
- With the support of the Swedish Red Cross, a diagnostic assessment to improve their human resources and financial management systems of the Congolese Red Cross in Brazzaville (Directorate General and urban committee) was carried out by the Federation delegation. The results of the assessment have been analyzed for corrective measures to be taken and implemented in the near future. Owando and Pointe-Noire urban committees will be the next to undergo a diagnostic assessment before coming up with global solutions.
- The Chairman of the Congolese Red Cross finance commission visited the Federation delegation and the Red Cross of DRC in Kinshasa to exchange experiences and improve financial management of the Congolese Red Cross.
- The national society had several working sessions with the Head of the Delegation, the Finance and Administration Delegate and the Health Delegate to discuss management-related issues.
- Four departmental assemblies were held from 21 June to 3 July 2004 in Cuvette Centrale, Cuvette Ouest, Plateaux and Pool, aiming at restructuring the management of the departmental boards (Councils).

### Project: Financial Resource Development

**Expected result:** By the end of 2004, the national society's own financial resources are sufficient to cover 50% of activities carried out to assist the vulnerable (missions to evaluate emergency situations) and 80% of expenses.

### Progress

- The Red Cross health centre in Mpoumako, 153 km away from Brazzaville, has been equipped with medical material and medicines with the support of the Spanish Red Cross and the Ministry of Humanitarian Action of the Republic of Congo. This health centre is an income generating micro-project. The national society will use the fund generated by the centre to finance other micro-projects. The centre will serve 2,306 inhabitants and those of the outlying villages.

---

<sup>8</sup> DRC – Democratic Republic of the Congo

## **Republic of Congo; Appeal no. 01.44/2004; Programme Update no. 1**

- The national society restaurant located in the headquarter premises in Brazzaville generates funds that contribute to the running of the Directorate General.
- Information campaigns on the Congolese Red Cross for new memberships to join the Red Cross. The sale of membership cards is a source of income for the national society.
- With the support of the Spanish Red Cross, the national society has a whaling boat that plies between Brazzaville and the neighbouring localities along the River Congo.
- With the support of the Swedish Red Cross, a diagnostic assessment to improve the national society's financial resources has been carried out. Training is being prepared by the Federation Finance and Administrative Delegate to improve the national society financial management.

### **Impact**

- The national society through its income generating micro-projects is able to finance its operations and other micro-projects. With these, the national society is progressively becoming self-sufficient.
- There is improved partnership between the national society and other components of the Movement: British Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross, ICRC and the Federation).
- The new governance and management teams work closely and have the respect of the Red Cross community.
- With the installation of the new structured departmental committees in the Pool, Cuvette Ouest, Cuvette Central and Plateaux, their capacities have been reinforced with the election of qualified and dynamic persons.
- Communication between the headquarters and these committees (above) is improved.

### **Constraints**

- The end of mission of the Federation Organisational Development Delegate last year hampered the national society in the implementation of local structures. The Federation delegation will be recruiting an OD/Finance liaison person to support the national society in its capacity building.
- Lack of funds to finance the OD project activities.
- Instability in the country, mainly in the interior.

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

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
-------	----------	----------	------	-----------	------	---------

**CASH**

						<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>451,902</b>		<b>11.6%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				18,847		
SWEDISH - GOVT		150,000	SEK	25,275	06.04.04	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - RC		50,000	SEK	8,425	06.04.04	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				52,547	CHF	11.6%

**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	