

# Appeal 2004



## GABON

### Appeal no. 01.46/2004

*The International Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. The Federation is the world's largest humanitarian organization, and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. All international assistance to support vulnerable communities seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, according to the SPHERE Project.*

*This document reflects a range of programmes and activities to be implemented in 2004, and the related funding requirements. These are based upon the broader, multi-year framework of the Federation's Project Planning Process (PPP). The PPP products are either available through hyperlinks in the text<sup>1</sup>, or can be requested through the respective regional department. For further information concerning programmes or operations in this or other countries or regions, please also access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

*Click on programme title or figures to go to the text or budget*

	2004 in CHF
<b>Strengthening the National Society</b>	
Health and Care	151,588
Disaster Management	137,278
Organizational Development	126,288
<b>Total</b>	<b>415,153<sup>2</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> Identified by blue in the text.

<sup>2</sup> USD 311,793 or EUR 267,237.

## National Context

Gabon is situated on the Gulf of Guinea, straddling the Equator. It has a surface area of 267,667 km<sup>2</sup> and borders Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea to the North, the Republic of Congo to the South and East and the Atlantic Ocean to the West, with an 800 km-long coastline.

Although Gabon is classed as a medium-to-high income country, World Bank reports show that almost 20% of the inhabitants of Libreville and Port-Gentil live below the poverty line.

The country is experiencing a massive rural exodus, with a high percentage of young people flocking to the cities, further exacerbating the already difficult unemployment problem. Added to this is the increase in number of street children in the urban centres. Most of Gabon's population, an estimated 1.3 million people, live in urban areas mainly in Libreville and its suburbs.



Although Gabon is yet have an official population policy with well-defined, appraisable objectives, the government has signed an agreement with the UNFPA in 1998 to implement a population policy covering family planning and other basic issues.

The country's social services are increasingly hard pressed to carry out their functions because of the economic crisis occasioned by falling oil prices, the U.S. dollar exchange fluctuations and the 1994 FCFA devaluation among others.

Large numbers of migrant workers, attracted by the standard of living and job opportunities during the period of growth (1980-1985), have come to Gabon from countries such as France, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Benin, Senegal, Nigeria and Congo.

### Socio-economic indicators at a glance

Demographic	Population <sup>1</sup>	1,264,369
	Births per year	44,000
	Population aged 0 to 4 years	454,000
	Population aged 5 to 17 years	190,000
Economic	GDP per capita <sup>2</sup>	USD 3,400
Social	Urban population <sup>4</sup>	60%
	Access to sanitation in rural areas	4%
Education	Male literacy rate <sup>5</sup>	74%
	Female literacy rate <sup>5</sup>	53%
	Primary school enrolment rate	83%

Sources: 1 - 1999 General Population Census; 2 - Directorate General for Economy; 3 - UNDP Annual Report 1999; 4 - UNDP Annual Report 1999; 5 - Ministry of Education (1995).

## Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities

### Movement<sup>3</sup> Context:

Although no Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) exists presently with the Gabonese Red Cross Society, it is possible that the national society will be in a position to begin drawing up a Strategic Plan by the end of 2004. The institutional crisis of the Gabonese Red Cross resulted in the termination of partner national societies' support in 2002: ICRC, French Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and German Red Cross. Nonetheless, the Federation will continue to provide support to the Gabonese Red Cross in 2004 through several means, including its capacity building and health/disaster management programmes.

### National Society Strategy/Programme Priorities:

The recommendations made at the [Gabonese Red Cross Society](#) Extraordinary General Assembly frame a three-pronged strategy focusing on organizational development, community health and disaster management.

The Gabonese Red Cross has established a capacity-building programme, which sets the following organizational development objectives for the years to come: proficiency in good governance and management at all levels; creation of a clear, precise legal base, definition/implementation of an effective human resources management policy, recruitment of qualified staff and volunteers, development of self-assessment tools for officers and staff, framing of a strategic resource development and mobilization plan, local branch programme/project preparation and implementation, resource mobilization, development of administrative/financial management tools and a resource management policy.

In the area of community health, the national society will define its own health policy by developing the ARCHI<sup>4</sup> 2010 concept to strengthen the vulnerable population's capacities as well as raise public and leadership awareness on major health problems.

In disaster management, the national society aims to prompt the government to define and implement an emergency disaster response strategy by implementing its own policy through its local branches. These priority activities will initially be carried out by a number of pilot branches in 2004 and then extended to other branches in 2005.

## Strengthening the National Society

### Health and Care

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#### Background and achievements/lessons to date

Health care in Gabon no longer meets the needs of the general population. General lack of planning and management has begun to take its toll. Gabon nationals have lost faith in their health system. While health workers are uninspired, the authorities and international organizations are highly concerned about the efficiency of a sector on which almost 5% of the State budget is spent.

Several surveys have been undertaken to identify problems relating to deficient health care training; lack of trained personnel, unequal distribution of health structures and workers and the high cost of medical care. To redress this situation, the Ministry of Health (MOH) drew up a National Health Plan of Action and a National Health Development Plan covering the period 1998-2000; MOH received technical and financial support from WHO, the European Union and Coopération Française.

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<sup>3</sup> 'Movement' refers to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

<sup>4</sup> ARCHI – African Red Cross and Red Crescent Health Initiative 2010 builds on its strength: a Red Cross and Red Crescent presence in each of 53 countries in Africa and, in all, more than 2 million volunteers. The overall goal of ARCHI 2010 is to make a major difference in the health of vulnerable people in Africa. Refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/what/health/archi/>

**Gabon has the following epidemiological profile:**

Infant mortality rate	Under fives mortality rate	Life expectancy at birth	Maternal mortality rate
88 per 1000 live births	130 per 1000	55 years	500 per 100,000 live births

Although the major causes of mortality are reproductive and infectious diseases, parasitic diseases, for instance malaria and infections remain the main causes of morbidity for under-fives. Maternal mortality and morbidity are mainly caused by haemorrhages, infectious complications, abortions and STD<sup>5</sup>. Urban pathologies include trauma, work accidents, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer.

Culture and tradition have an enormous influence on behaviour, as the Ebola outbreaks showed. Geographical, ethnical, traditional and educational factors all play a role in influencing behaviour. Such factors must therefore be taken into account when framing health policies, as success will depend on adherence to these principles.

Access to potable water is still a problem for a large part of the Gabonese population. This represents a serious health hazard, as it results in a high incidence of water-related diseases. Nationwide, an estimated 66% of the population have access to potable water. In rural areas, the percentage falls to 30%. An extensive water programme being carried out in the villages is hard pressed to reduce these disparities, largely because the technologies involved are not adapted to the culture of the beneficiaries.

The absence of stakeholders concerted planning in the organization of rubbish collection and disposal means that only some parts of the cities of Libreville and Port-Gentil, benefit from organized rubbish management. In rural areas as in the capital's slums, rubbish is dumped behind dwellings or buried in pits, creating a prime breeding ground for disease.

According to the UNAIDS 2000 Report on the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic, an estimated 2,000 people, 19-49 years of age, died of AIDS. Almost 60% of HIV-positive cases are only diagnosed when they become full-blown. Ignorance or mistaken perceptions about HIV/AIDS and its effects result in sexual behaviour that fuels the spread of the epidemic. This includes:

- Unprotected sex. Only 1/6 of those surveyed said that they used condoms; the average age of first sexual intercourse is estimated to be 13 years while adolescent pregnancies are frequent.
- High incidence of sexual promiscuity and multiple partners;
- Poverty which generally increases the female-male dependency, limiting their freedom of choice in matters of protection and procreation.

This situation highlights the need to implement integrated projects to educate the general population in community health issues.

**Goal: People living in the provinces of Libreville, Port-Gentil and Franceville are less vulnerable to major health problems.**

**Objective: People in the provinces of Libreville, Port-Gentil and Franceville adopt the attitudes and behaviour necessary for them to deal with the major health problems affecting them.**

**Expected Results:**

- Community leaders in the target provinces gain an insight into ARCHI as a capacity-building approach that can be used to raise awareness and deal with major health problems.
- Local branch volunteers and staff in target provinces become proficient in Information Education Communication (IEC) methods and techniques.
- Vulnerable groups in the target provinces are informed about how to prevent and deal with major health problems.

*<Click here to access the PPP document for Health and Care (in French)>*

<sup>5</sup> STD – Sexually-transmitted disease(s)

## **Disaster Management**

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### **Background and achievements/lessons to date**

Gabon faces various risks which include epidemics, floods, road traffic accidents and disasters linked with the oil industry. In this area, the Red Cross has a major role to play as the foremost community-based relief organization. Its specific mandate should permit the subsequent organization of disaster prevention and response forces to cover these risks. At the national level, all disaster response operations involve the setting up of a crisis cell led by the head of the government, the Prime Minister.

Liaison among the various parties involved is still provided by the relevant ministries: Ministry of Health (epidemics), Ministry of Defence (air crashes, refugees), Ministry of Social Affairs (climatic disasters, the homeless), Fire Department (fires, climatic disasters). National committees are also set up to deal with alerts and crises. However, these bodies operate only as long as the crisis lasts and are scarcely ever mobilized beyond the immediate post-disaster phase. At best, an evaluation is made of the actions carried out by the actors involved in the operation.

The implementation of truly effective inter-agency cooperation is absolutely essential. This is the only way of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of action taken by the parties involved in dealing with the disasters that threaten the community. At the Gabonese Red Cross, relief activities have too often fallen victim to a reductive vision, with the following consequences:

- regrettable waste of trained volunteers;
- reduction in branch activity;
- lack of national society visibility.

If local branches could count on professionally qualified, versatile volunteers, the national society would be in a position to help communities in the area of disaster preparedness and response, while at the same time strengthening the capacities of its branches.

**Goal: Communities in the provinces of Libreville, Port-Gentil, Franceville and Lambaréné become less vulnerable to the threat and impact of disasters.**

**Objective: The disaster management capacities of the general population, local national society branches and community leaders are improved in the four target provinces.**

### **Expected Results:**

- Twenty community members from the target provinces become proficient in the skills required to assess their communities' potential risks.
- Eight hundred members of the target communities understand the importance of disaster preparedness and response and are better prepared to deal with emergencies.
- An emergency disaster response committee is set up in each community.
- A risk map is available in each community.
- Six Headquarters officers and eight local branch leaders in the target provinces become proficient in methods and techniques for disaster preparedness and response programme planning, implementation and evaluation.
- Eighty local branch volunteers from the target provinces acquire disaster preparedness and response skills.
- Local branches in the target provinces have the basic equipment necessary for disaster response operations.
- Administrative officers responsible for disaster management at the provincial level understand the importance of disaster preparedness and response and take part in relief operations in coordination with specialized institutions.
- Provincial administrative authorities become proficient in the methods and techniques used to assess the risks to which their communities may be exposed.
- A cooperation agreement is signed, specifying the roles and responsibilities of each party.

[<Click here to access the PPP document for Disaster Management \(in French\)>](#)

## Organizational Development

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### Background and achievements/lessons to date

The Gabonese Red Cross initiated a phase of internal restructuring following the Extraordinary General Assembly held in December 2001. A consensus was reached at the assembly on the need to implement a governance system based on the separation of governance and management, achieve financial transparency, ensure the integrity of national society officers and improve the national society's visibility and image.

The national society's members are keen to refocus the Gabonese Red Cross on its primary vocation as a relief organization serving the community, particularly the most vulnerable sectors of the population. Lack of technical expertise is also a factor that has largely contributed to the branch demobilization and discouragement, resulting in failings at this level.

In spite of this situation, the Gabonese Red Cross has registered significant achievements in exceptional situations, such as the Ebola epidemics, the influx of refugees during humanitarian crises, caused by sub-regional political tension, and wars (Rwandan and Congolese refugees) and the health campaign (polio vaccination). These successful operations entailed effective cooperation with its partners: multi-lateral cooperation and the Federation support (Ebola operation), bi-lateral cooperation (outpatient treatment centre – in Libreville, with the French Red Cross), public authorities support (polio vaccination campaign) and inter-agency coordination (refugees). In these circumstances, the Gabonese Red Cross showed an impressive cohesion of purpose at all times in the programme implementation.

In spite of these gains, there is a need to strengthen the results and impact of the Gabonese Red Cross-initiated operations in some areas such as hygiene and sanitation activities, HIV/AIDS combat, promotion of the impregnated mosquito nets and humanitarian values. Aware of its weaknesses, the national society is now committed to bringing about organizational changes to achieve a truly efficient managerial structure. For the period 2003-2004, the Gabonese Red Cross plans to build on its achievements and multiply the success of other national societies, taking into account the weaknesses mentioned above, its strengths and lessons learned to date.

**Goal: The performance of target local branches is improved in at least one of the core areas established in Strategy 2010.** <sup>6</sup>

### Expected Results:

- Members of the governing board and local branch committees in the targeted provinces implement good governance and management principles.
- At least 50% of requirements for professionally qualified permanent staff and volunteers are met.
- A Strategic Plan is in place
- The project management skills of target local branches are improved.
- Projects are prepared and implemented in the core areas established in Strategy 2010 by target local branches.
- At least 5% of the core costs are met.

[<Click here to access the PPP document for Organizational Development \(in French\)>](#)

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<sup>6</sup> Strategy 2010 is the International Federation's guiding framework for the decade 2000 to 2010. This overall strategy identifies the following four CORE areas as the cornerstones upon which the International Federation will continue to build its collective expertise and reputation: humanitarian values; disaster preparedness; disaster response; and health and care in the community. Refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/who/strategy.asp>

**Gabon ; Annual Appeal no. 01.46/2004**

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

- *Agaya Christian, President Gabon Red Cross Society, Libreville; Email [agayachr@ifrance.com](mailto:agayachr@ifrance.com);  
Phone 241 03 64 10*
- *Moulaye Camara, Federation Representative in Gabon, Libreville; Email [ifrcga01@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcga01@ifrc.org); Phone  
241 29 34 74/ 74 79 79; Fax 241 74 79 00*
- *Terry Carney, Federation Regional Officer, Geneva; Email [terry.carney@ifrc.org](mailto:terry.carney@ifrc.org) ; Phone 41 22  
730 42 98 ; Fax 41 22 733 03 95*

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# BUDGET 2004

## PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.46/2004

Name: Gabon

PROGRAMME:

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clothing & textiles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seeds & plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	5,593	11,520	0	0	0	0	17,112
Teaching materials	18,267	0	0	0	0	0	18,267
Utensils & tools	5,718	0	0	0	0	0	5,718
Other relief supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>SUPPLIES</b>	<b>29,578</b>	<b>11,520</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41,097</b>
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0	10,000
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAPITAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,000</b>
Warehouse & Distribution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport & Vehicules	6,773	6,773	0	9,157	0	0	22,703
<b>TRANSPORT &amp; STORAGE</b>	<b>6,773</b>	<b>6,773</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,157</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22,703</b>
Programme Support	9,853	8,923	0	8,209	0	0	26,985
<b>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</b>	<b>9,853</b>	<b>8,923</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,209</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,985</b>
Personnel-delegates	50,400	50,400	0	50,400	0	0	151,200
Personnel-national staff	11,172	3,740	0	900	0	0	15,812
Consultants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	<b>61,572</b>	<b>54,140</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51,300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>167,012</b>
W/shops & Training	22,216	30,360	0	23,390	0	0	75,965
<b>WORKSHOPS &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>22,216</b>	<b>30,360</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,390</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75,965</b>
Travel & related expenses	4,032	7,075	0	4,032	0	0	15,139
Information	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other General costs	12,564	13,487	0	30,200	0	0	56,251
<b>GENERAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>16,596</b>	<b>20,562</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34,232</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>71,390</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>151,588</b>	<b>137,278</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>126,288</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>415,153</b>