

# 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

## CENTRAL AFRICA SUB-REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

26 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. 01.48/2004; Programme Update no. 2; Period covered: April to September 2004; Appeal coverage: 191.9%; Outstanding needs: NONE.**

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

**Appeal target: CHF 519,982 (USD 390,523 or EUR 334,716).**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Central Africa sub-regional programmes, 2005 Appeal 05AA038 – [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA038.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA038.pdf)**

Programme summary: Some of the main problems facing the sub-regional National Societies are inadequate funding and absence of an efficient internal and external policy for fund raising. These have been compounded by the lack of close historical ties with international cooperative countries and the language barrier which inhibits the establishment of fruitful contacts with Anglophone donors. Over 80 per cent of the Central Africa populations are French speakers. This explains low yields of fund raisers. The National Societies are thus unable to fully execute their annual action plans and abandon a number of activities which has led to the reduced Federation support.

However, efforts have also been made to promote the action of these National Societies at the international level. The pilot project on the fight against HIV/AIDS/STI for the benefit of sex workers in Cameroon has produced real opportunities for local partnership.

Similarly, the Swedish Red Cross and the British Government (DFID) have both helped the Federation Central Africa Sub-Regional Office pursue its major health and disaster management activities.

The sub-regional national societies have been receiving the sub-regional office support within the last two years based on the following areas:

- Multiplication of the successes of the 2010 strategy;
- Local partnerships development and image/credibility improvement;
- Regional resources development and regional cooperation.

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## Central Africa sub-regional programmes; Appeal no. 01.48/2004; Programme Update no. 2

*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 Central Africa region comprises eight countries:

- Cameroon
- Central African Republic (CAR)
- Chad
- Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
- Equatorial Guinea
- Gabon
- São Tomé and Príncipe
- Republic of Congo

Between April and June 2004, the cholera epidemics hit the region. After Cameroon and the DRC, the epidemic reappeared in Chad, already strained with the Sudanese refugees' management.

Besides cholera, the progression of the HIV/AIDS pandemic remains a serious threat to regional national societies while poverty, unemployment and rural depopulation have also taken their toll.

There is hope that political transition will lead to free and fair elections in the DRC despite the humanitarian crisis that occurred in Bukavu and Kinshasa (DRC). At the Gabonese Red Cross, signs of improvement have been hampered by differences among members of the Executive Council.

In CAR, series of armed conflicts have threatened the political stability, making it imperative for some members of the affected local Red Cross committees to relocate to Bangui, the capital. The national society has made efforts to resolve its institutional crisis and focus on capacity building. The President of the national society and his Secretary General participated in the last Central Africa national societies' coordination meeting.

### Health and Care

**Goal: The health-related vulnerability of the populations of Cameroon, Chad, CAR, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome & Principe, Congo, and DRC is significantly reduced due to community activities of Red Cross volunteers in Central Africa.**

**Objective: A mechanism to multiply the best practices in community health activities enhance volunteer network and significantly impacts disease control.**

### **Fight against HIV/AIDS: The Sex Workers Project**

#### **Achievements**

##### **Educational Talks**

Educative talks were organized in July 2004 to sensitize sex workers on issues related to:

- Welfare and Equilibrium
- HIV/AIDS/STI

The campaign enhanced participants' understanding of the dangers related to high risk behaviours and the need for making decisive changes. The target sectors covered by these talks have increased considerably from 10 at the beginning of the operation to 32. Similarly, the number of girls sensitized has also increased from an estimated 100 to over 3,000.

**Activities related to the Henry Dunant Health Centre**

To ensure pertinent follow-up, the action plan of the sex workers project was reviewed in July 2004, while the procedures manual of the Health/Social Welfare Centre was finalized on 21 July 2004.

The centre's personnel were recruited on 23 August 2004 following the selection of the best candidates. All the Cameroon Red Cross' partners were associated with the recruitment process to ensure credibility and transparency. These partners included the National AIDS Control Committee (NACC), the Ambulatory Hygiene Laboratory (Laboratoire Hygiène Mobile), the Women's Affairs (MINCOF) and the Social Affairs Ministries.

A programme was organized to orientate the newly recruited personnel to the Red Cross spirit and principles as well as, the sense of commitment and respect of others.

The centre has been operational since 6 September 2004, with almost all its equipment already in place. The NGOs "Cercle des Amis de la Prudence" (CLAP) and the "Association des Femmes Actives et Solidaires du Cameroun" (AFASO) participated in the campaign to launch centre. This campaign was aimed at sensitizing these associations' members who are mostly concerned with the "sex workers" and their clients' health. Apart from these members, patients have already started visiting the centre, and the laboratory is operational.

**Micro-projects**

In September 2004, the micro-project officer of the "sex workers" scheme visited three new sites (hair dressing salons, secretariat and office automation centre, and petty trading). These projects are aimed at alleviating poverty for beneficiaries. In October 2004, seven of the eight submitted micro-projects applications were selected and the beneficiaries received the sum of CFA 2.4 million to finance the projects. The loans are expected to be paid back in 12 instalments, without any interest.

Training was organized on 24 September 2004 to enhance the beneficiaries' business management capacities. The number of micro-projects financed will increase rapidly given their impact on the lives of the beneficiaries. A good number of the sex workers have left the commercial sex profession.

**Partnership**

The Red Cross confirmed their position as a key WHO partner.

The sub-regional office has mapped out an action plan aimed at encouraging donor support for the Cameroon Red Cross' sex workers project. Within this programme, it sent out documents to the Canadian High Commission and the British High Commission as well as the German Embassy to solicit support. The British High Commission in Cameroon disbursed CFA 15 million to finance identified micro-projects. The London Imperial College has also shown interest in the project as a result of the sub-regional office's fund raising strategy.

The Imperial College granted CFA 23 million to the sub-regional office for research on the efficiency of microbicides against HIV/AIDS/STI at the Henry Dunant Health and Social Welfare Centre. At the beginning of the project, the INGO, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) was a partner of Cameroon Red Cross, with a promise to care for 250 HIV-positive sex workers. Due to the MSF's internal restructuring process, it has been unable to fulfil its promises.

On 21 September 2004, representatives of the sub-regional office, the Cameroon Red Cross and the Luis Pasteur Centre of Cameroon, met to update the STI treatment costs within the framework of the sex-workers project. The new budget is CFA 16 million. Thus far, the initiative to solicit partner support for the sex-workers project has been fruitful and will be pursued to create a synergy.

## **Community-based Health**

### **Epidemics**

#### **The Cholera Epidemic in Cameroon**

After the outbreak of the cholera epidemic in Foubot (Noun Division, West Province), the sub-regional office sponsored a two-day field assessment mission (13-14 May 2004). An information bulletin based on the results of that mission was published and yielded CHF 2,000 used to control the epidemic in Foubot. Through the active mobilization of over 150 volunteers, the Red Cross contributed enormously to checking the epidemic spread and reducing its mortality.

The sub-regional office also participated in a WHO-sponsored Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) and Epidemiological Surveillance meeting (17-22 May 2004). It also established contacts with WHO in Cameroon to share information and integrate the national society in the early alert system. The office made similar contacts with the Cameroon Red Cross and Congolese Red Cross to discuss their action plans on the fight against epidemics and share information related to the Global Funds' fight against malaria in the region.

The sub-regional office participated in another WHO-sponsored anti-polio immunization meeting in Yaoundé (7-8 September). The meeting provided the opportunity for the sub-regional office to show the comparative advantage and the potential role of the Red Cross in the fight against polio and measles. One of the meeting's resolutions is the involvement of the Red Cross in all the WHO's anti-epidemic campaigns.

The comparative advantage of the Red Cross is its unique volunteer network that can be deployed rapidly in the community, even in enclosed areas, in spite of bad weather or impassable roads or paths.

#### **The Cholera Epidemic in Chad**

The Regional Health Delegate visited Chad on a cholera situation assessment mission (22-30 September 2004). Chad has also experienced the resurgence of poliomyelitis.

Consequently the WHO offered to establish a partnership with the Red Cross within the framework of the management of the epidemics affecting DRC, Chad, and Congo. This UN support amounts to USD 150,000.

The added value of the Red Cross, which is its unique volunteer network that can be deployed even in enclosed areas, constitutes a key asset in epidemics management.

#### **ARCHI 2010**

The Health Delegate completed his mission in the DRC and debriefed at the sub-regional office (14 August).

#### **Impact**

The sex-workers project has entered its operational phase due to its fruitfulness. Beneficiaries who have benefited from loans have regained their dignity and respect through involvement in jobs they enjoy doing. This has also empowered them to quit their former trade and alleviated their poverty levels.

The Red Cross volunteer network constitutes an undeniable asset. This has strengthened its partnership with the WHO, eager to utilize the Movement's unique and efficient manpower.

The successes so far achieved in the area of local partnership reveal the potential in local funding sources. Its only prerequisite is the presentation of quality projects.

#### **Constraints**

The following shortcomings have been noted:

- The incomplete commissioning of the Cameroon Red Cross until mid August 2004;
- The delay in a receipt of the signing authority of the Acting Head of Sub-Regional Office which disturbed the implementation of planned activities;
- The slowness of National Societies in forwarding the information to the sub-regional office.

## **Disaster Management**

The Federation's policy for change aims at giving more responsibility to regions and facilitating collaboration amongst its local, regional, and international structures. To consolidate this policy in the framework of disaster management, there is the need to organize continuous retraining sessions to enhance the preparedness. This will also strengthen regular structural assessment for the deployment of efficient teams capable of pertinent and timely disaster responses.

**Goal: The disaster-related vulnerability of Central Africa's populations is reduced.**

**Objective: The technical disaster management expertise of the Regional Disaster Response Team (ERDAC) is improved in the domains of Water and Sanitation, epidemic management, and food security. Relevant mechanisms are put in place to facilitate the deployment of ERDAC teams in the event of a disaster.**

### **Achievements**

#### **Organisation of WatSan Workshops**

Members of the Disaster Management Department visited the sites in Limbe prior to the organization of the WatSan workshop in the South West Province of Cameroon.

The first executive WatSan workshop took place in Limbe (1-9 May 2004). Among the 23 participants, 15 came from Central Africa, 2 from West Africa, 4 from the sub-regional office, 1 from the Cameroon Department of Civil Protection, and 1 from the Swedish Red Cross.

The Swedish Red Cross, which is the main sponsor of the project, supported all the charges related to the training. In addition, they put an ERU member at the disposal of the sub-regional office to facilitate the training.

#### **Process to Deploy ERDAC Members: Updating the Database**

To ensure the follow-up of ERDAC members and their activities, the existing database has been updated and opened to the Dakar Regional Delegation. Thus, it is now possible to know each ERDAC member's area of competence before deployment in specific cases (epidemic management, water and sanitation, assessment of vulnerabilities, etc.). Contacts have been made with an insurance company to cover ERDAC members when they are deployed. Protecting ERDAC members who are out to provide relief is a responsible decision that encourages them. Therefore, they will work with enthusiasm, in spite of the accidents and hazards they face.

#### **Support to Cameroon Red Cross**

After the various regional training workshops on disaster management, the sub-regional office supported the Cameroon Red Cross in replicating the training at the provincial level. To date, training has been organized in 7 of 10 provinces.

The sub-regional office has given concrete expression to its role as national societies' coach in their respective development processes.

#### **Preparation of the Second WatSan Workshop and Fund Raising**

After the May 2004 training in Limbe, the team of facilitators carried out a participant assessment and selected the top ten for the October 2004 workshop in Kribi (Cameroon).

The Swedish Red Cross agreed to cover the entire training costs and provide the required material in response to the sub-regional office's demand. In addition, it put a facilitator, an ERU/WatSan delegate at the disposal of the sub-regional office. The Swedish Red Cross thus emerges as the main sponsor of the sub-regional office's programmes.

#### **Other Activities**

The second FACT evaluation in Chad was held during the first week of July 2004. This led to the launching of the Federation's second appeal in favour of Sudanese refugees. With this support, the Red Cross of Chad carried out a series of activities including the establishment of a refugee camp in Tréguine. This camp is solely managed by the Red Cross of Chad and hosts approximately 20,000 people.

**Impact**

Through ERDAC, the notion of sub-regional solidarity has been reinforced. This has led to the enhancement of the sub-regional office and national societies' image among governments in Central Africa

**Constraints**

The major constraint is the difficulty for the national societies to respond to the sub-regional office's messages. The information on subscription lists for example, is still being expected.

The workshop to set up the Cameroonian national DR team was aborted due to inadequate financial resource

**Promotion of Humanitarian Values**

**Goal: All discriminations against marginalised individuals or groups of people are eradicated.**

**Objective: The Sub-Regional Office provides marginalised people channels to communicate and express themselves through the media, personalities of international renown, or through any other form of expression (painting, plastic art, traditional dance). The Federation's position on all sorts of discrimination, with special emphasis on PLWHA stigma, is advertised.**

**Achievements**

The sub-regional office published the monthly "Central Africa in Brief" and contributed to the publication of the "Liaison Bulletin" of the Regional Delegation for West and Central Africa.

Information and press releases were sent to the media to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May 2004). Some media announced the event and presented programmes on the event's history.

In collaboration with the Principles and Humanitarian Values Department in Geneva, the sub-regional office supported a youth camp in Central Africa under the theme: "Fight against HIV/AIDS: No to Discrimination". About 100 youths from the Red Cross of Chad and the Cameroon Red Cross participated in that camp and expressed satisfaction after the meeting. They promised to take measures aimed at promoting behavioural change among peers in favour of peace and combating discrimination against PLWHA.

**Impact**

The youth progressively feel the need to mobilize themselves, and promote a veritable peace culture in Central Africa.

**Constraints**

Financial constraints inhibited the Gabonese Red Cross and Congolese Red Cross also invited to the youth camp from participating. They were unable to afford the transportation costs.

Although representatives of each national society were trained in reporting techniques in late 2003, some still find it very difficult to forward their reports and the information related to the volunteer field activities to the sub-regional office.

**Organizational Development**

**Goal: The performances of the Red Cross of Cameroon, Chad and Gabon are improved upon.**

**Objective: The financial capacities of the targeted national societies are built to enable them cover basic costs and implement the ARCHI 2010 strategy.**

**Achievements**

The sub-regional office's budget managers participated in a budget management training workshop in Dakar (Senegal).

**Cameroon Red Cross**

Within the framework of the national societies' capacity building, the sub-regional office trained executives from the headquarters and six divisional programme coordinators in the Project Planning Process (PPP). The participants also received orientation on their terms of reference as well as Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA).

**São Tomé and Príncipe**

The Organisational Development Delegate organized and facilitated a workshop on Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) during his working visit to São Tomé and Príncipe. This enabled the national society to launch its CAS process.

**CAR**

The Central African Red Cross established four commissions, each with a budget and a working schedule, for three months (July - September 2004). The four commissions included:

- The Juridical Commission reviewed the national society's articles of association and edited its rules and regulations prior to submission for approval of the Ordinary General Assembly (OGA). The commission was also involved in voluntary service policy development.
- The Planning Commission organized the general assemblies and restructured local committees (local assemblies and training of newly elected members). It also revitalised volunteers and their respective committees through project support for pilot committees. The commission developed programmes to train volunteers in the key areas of the ARCHI 2010 strategy.
- The Finance Commission produced the required tools for resources management within the administrative and financial procedure framework to be implemented at the Secretariat General and local committees' levels.
- The administrative Commission developed an organisational chart, job descriptions, salary patterns as well as personnel rules and regulations.

In August 2004, a good governance and management training was organized in favour of the Executive Council members. Representatives of partner ministries of the Red Cross, volunteers and national society members participated in the training.

The sub-regional office and the ICRC facilitated the training since the latter has a representative in Bangui. The French Red Cross, also present in Bangui, participated as an observer. After the training, the national society developed its Executive Council's plan of action as well as its capacity-building programme for the sub-regional office in preparation for the 2005 Appeal.

**Impact**

After the institutional crisis that demobilized its volunteers, the Central African Red Cross is progressively regaining its position amongst the Central African National Red Cross Societies.

**Gabon**

After the Executive Council's decision to suspend the sub-regional office's technical support, all the scheduled capacity-building activities of the Gabonese Red Cross have been stopped. The national society and sub-regional office are expected to take measures to face this situation.

**Constraints**

The Executive Council's decision jeopardised the Federation Representative's mission in Gabon.

**Coordination**

**Goal: The image of the Regional National Red Cross Societies is improved.**

**Objective: Governance and intra-regional partnerships among National Societies and with the other members of the Movement are reinforced.**

## Central Africa sub-regional programmes; Appeal no. 01.48/2004; Programme Update no. 2

### Achievements

The sub-regional office organized the coordination meeting of regional national societies in collaboration with the Coordination Committee's president. The ICRC also participated in the meeting (12-13 August 2004). The following resolutions were passed:

- Mobilization of resources through local partners ;
- Development of quality programmes to create a meaningful impact;
- Development of integrated programmes' approach

The Head of Sub-Regional Office paid a working visit to the Gabonese Red Cross to seek a solution to the crisis between the Executive Council and the Federation Representative in Gabon.

### Impact

The Head of Africa Department attended the regional coordination meeting, thus demonstrating concrete signs of interest in Central Africa.

### Constraints

The Coordination Committee lacks financial resources to implement its activities.

The institutional crisis at the Gabonese Red Cross has hindered development and tarnished its image.

### International Representation

**Goal: The public, the diplomatic corps, and other donors are convinced to increase their support to the activities of the International Federation and those of the Central Africa National Red Cross Societies.**

**Objective: The public, government authorities, diplomatic corps and donors are encouraged to support the Federation and Central African National Red Cross Societies through better acquaintance with their positions on humanitarian issues and activities.**

### Achievements

Several embassies accredited in Yaoundé invited the acting Head of Sub-Regional Office on the occasion of their respective National Days and other activities. This reflects the sub-regional office's efforts to promote the Red Cross' image in the diplomatic milieu to better advocate in favour of vulnerable people.

The acting Head of Sub-Regional Office paid a goodwill visit to the permanent secretary of the National AIDS Control Committee (NACC) to strengthen the cooperation ties existing between NACC and the Red Cross.

### Impact

The Red Cross image is enhanced and the sub-regional office is known by diplomatic authorities and international organizations accredited in Yaoundé.

### Constraints

The intention to invite sub-regional ambassadors to participate in a contact and work meeting is delayed by the absence of a Head at the Sub-Regional Office.

Similarly, the rigorous principle of precedence in force in the diplomatic milieu heightens fears of inability to invite high-ranking personalities to launch the 2004 World Disasters Report (28 October).

It is however hoped that original solutions will be found to address the situation and the Federation will be effectively represented in international and regional forums.

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

# Central Africa Sub-Regional programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.48/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

01/12/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				519,982	TOTAL COVERAGE 191.9%	
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT 2004				64,000	29.01.04	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT 2005				55,000	29.01.04	CAMEROON HUMANITARIAN VALUES
IRISH - GOVT		32,446	EUR	50,000	21.06.04	MANAGEMENT & COORDINATION
SWEDISH - RC		1,325,000	SEK	223,925	06.04.04	HIV/AIDS YOUTH PROGRAMEM & FILLES LIBRES PROJECT
SWEDISH - GOVT		3,500,000	SEK	591,500	03.05.04	DISASTER MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION & COORDINATION
SWEDISH - RC		80,000	SEK	13,400	07.09.04	ERDA TRAINING
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				997,825	CHF	191.9%

### 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	