

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

GUINEA-BISSAU

6 June 2005

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. 05AA020; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January to May, 2005; Appeal coverage: 4.1%; Outstanding needs: CHF 268,181 (USD 215,285 or EUR 173,692).

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

Appeal target: CHF 279,571 (USD 222,100 or EUR 180,100)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Programme summary: With the assistance of the Spanish Red Cross bilateral office based in Guinea-Bissau, a health centre providing curative and promotional health services was built in 2000. The national society conducts HIV/AIDS sensitization activities among the population and also organizes peer-education projects in three regions of the country.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau¹ in collaboration with the Federation has been working with Spanish Red Cross bilateral office based in Guinea-Bissau on WatSan projects since 1995. Consequently, it has developed considerable expertise in the domain. The present project aims to improve the living conditions of the people by improving access to water and sanitation in the country. Guinea-Bissau has four identifiable disasters:

- Natural (earth tremor in 1984)
- Agricultural (locust invasion, 22 hectares destroyed in 2003)
- Health (cholera, meningitis and measles epidemics), and
- Man-made (refugees from the Casamance crisis in Senegal and the internal 1998 politico military crisis).

As part of its emergency response activities, the disaster management programme remains a priority for the national society's development plan. Providing basic contingency planning for elections is a part of the preparation for emergencies, thus the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau drew a contingency plan, in 2000, with the Federation's support. Another contingency plan was prepared, with ICRC support, to cover the four most sensitive regions during the 28 March elections. Additionally, a disaster management plan of action for 2004-2005 involving all aspects of disaster preparation and response has been developed with Federation support.

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¹ Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=183>

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

After two decades of independence, Guinea-Bissau continues to be one of the poorest countries in the world, with poor infrastructure and low social indicators. 88% of its population lives on less than USD 1 per day while its human development index is ranked 172 of 177.

For more than 12 years, Guinea-Bissau's armed conflict has taken its toll on the country's development, with ripple effects on the already deplorable health care delivery. At the end of 2003, the children under-five mortality rate was 221 per 1,000. The health situation of women and children remains critical.

The Federation regional office provided organizational development support to Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau for its General Assembly and strategic plan. ICRC regional delegation in Dakar, which is active on the field has a focal point in Bissau and has continued to support this national society in the promotion of principles and humanitarian values, disaster preparedness and family reunification services. The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau has good co-operational relationship with the Spanish Red Cross bilateral office Guinea-Bissau, whose presence has been consistent since 1996. Spanish Red Cross bilateral office in Guinea-Bissau implements projects in the area of water and sanitation (WatSan), HIV/AIDS and organizational development (OD).

Health and care (HC)

Goal: The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau contributes to the improvement of health conditions of vulnerable populations in 2005.

Objective: The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau stimulates responsible behavioral changes against the most common and vaccine-preventable diseases in the areas of Sab, Quinara, Tombali, Oio and Bolama.

Expected Results:

- The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau has technical capacity for the fight against common and vaccine-preventable diseases.
- The target population of the project is sensitized on common and vaccine-preventable diseases.
- The target population of the project is sensitized on malaria.

Achievements

- The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau assists the ministry of health in building a national resource capable of reducing morbidity and mortality rate due to diseases such as malaria, diarrhea and measles.
- It further promotes voluntary blood donation, through community sensitization, in association with voluntary blood donors.
- In line with its main objective of providing assistance to the most vulnerable individuals and communities, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau will, according to the ARCHI 2010 strategy, implement a primary health care project in the rural areas of Sab, Quinara, Tombali, Oio and Bolana. The project will focus mainly on community volunteer mobilization, at an average of two persons per village and 25 villages per region. Its mission will involve sensitizing communities on the frequent tropical diseases preventable by vaccination and other common diseases. It will work closely with regional health management unit and is expected to be completed within a year.

Constraints

- While the social situation took a favorable turn in 2004, the populations' health conditions remained deplorable.

Water and sanitation (WatSan)

Goal: The populations' living conditions are improved in 2005.

Objective: Vulnerable communities of Gabu, Bafata, Oio and Bijagos have access to safe drinking water and observe basic hygiene measures.

Expected Result:

- The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau contributes to the improvement of the living conditions of vulnerable populations.

Achievements

- The initiative for improving access to safe water by the populations included the construction of 37 traditional wells and 16 public washing facilities for more than 225 people in the villages of the Oio region since 2002.
- The government has developed a water code on water supply and sanitation within the framework of the development program of the country. It is aimed at attracting financial resources, coordination and capacity building within the sector.

Constraints

- Severely restricted access to safe water and sanitation explains the low life expectancy and high infant mortality encountered in Guinea-Bissau. About 52% of the rural populations do not have access to piped water.

Disaster management (DM)

Goal: The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau contributes to the reduction of disaster-related risks in Guinea-Bissau in 2005.

Objective: In 2005, the disaster management capacity of the regional committees has been built and strengthened in four border regions (S.Domingos, Tombali, Gabu and Bubaque).

Expected Results:

- A contingency plan is drawn up and implemented.
- The regional committees of S. Domingo, Tombali and Gabu are equipped with teams, materials and equipment to face emergency situations.

Achievements

- The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau organized first aid training for disaster preparedness and knowledge of the Movement for local committees.

Constraints

- Lack of funding did not allow for more activities to be carried out.

Organizational development (OD)

Goal: The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau's capacity to respond to the needs of vulnerable populations is strengthened.

Objective: The management of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau is improved to enable it respond to the needs of the vulnerable in 2005.

Expected Results:

- The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau applies the principles of good governance.
- The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau's management capacity is improved.
- The fundamental principles and humanitarian values are promoted within members and volunteers.

Achievements

- A strong presence of dynamic volunteers (available, motivated, trained in first aid and community activities) in the entire national territory.
- Good working relationships with the ministries of health, education and natural resources.
- In the last General Assembly, organized in November 2003 with Federation's support, a new chairman was elected and the advisory board opted for the separation of powers between governance and management functions.
- Professionalization of key positions, within the context of the new restructuring policy, is on course. Terms of reference for the positions to be filled are already elaborated in the logframes and funds are being expected to commence the recruitment process.
- The national society drew up a three-year development plan, in 2004, based on the Federation's main strategic orientations, taking effective recognition of its capacities. It has set up three income-generating projects (training centres, a film hall and a cyber café) to reduce dependence on external partners.

Constraints

- The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau has experienced many structural problems, mainly due to the non-separation of management from governance. The governance situation was worsened in April 2003 by the government's direct intervention in the appointment of a chairman.
- Inadequate financial resources did not allow all activities to be carried out from January to April 2005, forcing some to be put on hold.
- The national society is faced with a series of difficulties such as the absence of activities which adversely affects members and volunteers' motivation. Volunteers do not benefit from trainings received by staff members.

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

CASH

| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> | | | | 279,571 | | TOTAL COVERAGE |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----|--|---------|----------|-----------------------|
| | | | | | | 4.1% |
| CASH CARRIED FORWARD | | | | 5,730 | | |
| UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC | 5,000 | USD | | 5,660 | 19.04.05 | |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH | | | | 11,390 | CHF | 4.1% |

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

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