

# 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

## MAURITANIA

10 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](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 05AA030; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January to May, 2005; Appeal coverage: 8.4%; Outstanding needs: CHF 408,656 (USD 328,053 or EUR 264,674).**

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

**Appeal target: CHF 446,293 (USD 354,500 or EUR 287,500)**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A**

**Programme summary:** The Mauritanian Red Crescent<sup>1</sup> considers itself autonomous though it works closely with the government, which pays some of its employees. Over the years, the national society has conducted various drought and flood relief operations with the Federation and other partners such as WFP, Lutheran World Federation and US Peace Corps. Mauritanian Red Crescent also operates medical centers that provide care at reduced fee, monitor malnourished children and offer first aid training to communities. In addition, the Mauritanian Red Crescent has provided sewing courses and childcare training to women and established a center for HIV/AIDS counseling and testing in Keiffa. It has also promoted branch development (through diverse projects in Nouadhibou) and participated in the dissemination of humanitarian values.

The Mauritanian Red Crescent (since mid 2004) successfully dialogued with the ministry of health (MoH) to launch an ARCHI 2010-based health programme at branch level. Following the launch, the Federation continues to assist the Mauritanian Red Crescent to strengthen the good will and progress it demonstrated in 2004 (in organizational restructuring, branch development and overall programmes) so as to meet the expectation of the government and other partners.

Since the national society has shown notable willingness to address its weaknesses and is striving to become a well-functioning national society, its relationship with the Federation is positive. Such a relationship has helped to reinforce complementary support from the Spanish Red Cross, French Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, and the ICRC.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Mauritanian Red Crescent <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=114>

*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 Mauritanian Red Crescent has naturally been focused towards aiding drought victims since it was founded at the verge of the great Sahel drought of the 1970s. The national society's involvement in the major drought relief operation helped it develop reputation as a strong humanitarian player with resources to respond to crises. The end of the drought relief operation and the external support it received then, however, led to a great decline in the national society's activities.

With the Federation's support for its structures and operations development, The Mauritanian Red Crescent formed 56 local branches. Still, the national society needs to consolidate its capacity to prepare for and respond to emergencies- be they droughts, floods or population movements. If it can mobilize its volunteers (to inform, sensitize, and organize local populations) The Mauritanian Red Crescent is well placed to complement the local authorities in needs assessment, thus ensuring that the most vulnerable are targeted and assisted.

The national society conducted a self appraisal exercise in 2003. The outcome of that evaluation helped it to develop practical and modest goals aimed at reinforcing its capacity to support decentralized health and disaster management activities. The Federation will continue assisting the national society in addressing these objectives in 2005.

The Mauritania Red Crescent organized a workshop for the ARCHI 2010 strategy ownership, in May 2004. During the workshop, participants (including MoH, WHO and UNICEF) developed an action plan that will involve the national society in community health actions throughout Mauritania. Highlights of that plan (envisaged to cover four years) are listed herein.

The Mauritania Red Crescent received financial support from the Federation, to cater for two positions (a programme officer and an accountant) at headquarters level. This helped it to strengthen its organizational base and showed the willingness of the Federation towards enhancing accountability.

## **Health and Care**

**Goal: To contribute to improved health of vulnerable populations in Mauritania through the establishment of a health programme based on the ARCHI 2010 strategy, in collaboration with MoH.**

**Objective: To contribute to the reduction of hygiene and sanitation related illness, malaria, sexually transmitted infections, vaccine-preventable diseases, and malnutrition in four pilot zones through social and community mobilization activities.**

### **Achievements**

- Launched an ARCHI 2010-based health planning initiative which received strong support from the ministry of health and drew interest of many other locally-based international partners.

## **Disaster Management**

**Goal: Community and national society branch capacity at headquarters and in four pilot regions to prepare, plan, and respond to emergencies is effective.**

**Objective 1: Put in place a sub-regional disaster management structure within the four branches and the headquarters.**

**Objective 2: Recruit and develop emergency response brigades in four pilot regions (Gorgol, Assaba, Brakna, and Guidimaka).**

**Objective 3: Develop and implement two integrated disaster preparedness, first aid, community health and social action programmes within each of the four pilot branches.**

**Achievements**

- Made significant progress within the field of emergency response. A headquarters' staff now coordinates disaster-related issues.
- Recruited and trained two provincial coordinators (with ICRC funding) who are responsible for regional disaster preparedness and management.
- Engaged two volunteer brigades (comprising of ten persons in Kaédi, Gorgol and another ten in Aleg, Assaba) in a hygiene and sanitation project, thus providing the a basis for emergency response in the two regions.
- Developed a first aid training project (in Nouadhibou) which trained volunteers within the Iron Mining National Company and organized them into emergency response brigades to handle possible crisis along the Sahara border.
- Trained the national programme coordinator in emergency WatSan during a regional workshop held in Cameroon.

**Impact**

- Through its brigades, the national society has increased relevance and visibility within the community.
- The national society is better placed to handle crises.
- The disaster management skills of the trained staff are enhanced.

**Organizational Development**

**Goal: To decrease vulnerability of people living in Mauritania through improved service delivery by the Mauritanian Red Crescent.**

**Objective 1: The Mauritanian Red Crescent has prepared a strategic development plan, which allows it to restructure itself, reinforce its capacities, and execute programmes that have an impact on those it seeks to assist.**

**Objective 2: Financial management capacities of the Mauritanian Red Crescent are strengthened.**

**Achievements**

- Participated in two regional training programmes on project planning and WatSan under disaster management.
- Recruited two regional coordinators to renew the regional committees, disseminate messages, and initiate activities at regional level– one for the Nouadhibou region (north), and the other for Aleg (southwest). The engagement of the regional coordinators has helped the decentralization process to begin.
- Earmarked one year of financial support for the position of secretary general to consolidate its staffing and programmes while it undertakes its strategic planning and professionalizing process.

**Impact**

- The regional training programmes, in which the pprogramme coordinators participated, advanced their knowledge and abilities needed for the next phase of strategic planning.
- The two regional coordinators provided training on dissemination of humanitarian principles and values, disaster preparedness and response, and community health for the major local committees in their region.
- The support for the secretary general's position will help the national society confront two basic challenges: strengthening the structure of its financial systems, in the same line as other Sahel national societies and meeting the Federation's financial reporting standards.

**Mauritania; Appeal no. 05AA030; Programme Update no. 1**

- In 2005, the national society will elaborate its volunteering policy based on the Federation policy and develop volunteers' management tools.

**Contraints**

- Lack of funding hindered implementation of activities intended to be carried out.

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

