

# 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

28 December 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. 05AA038; Programme Update No. 2, Period covered: May to October 2005; Appeal coverage: 64.4%; Outstanding needs: CHF 647,769 CHF (USD 493,726 or EUR 418,590).**

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

Programme Update no.1 refer to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA03801.pdf>

**Appeal target: CHF 1, 942, 272**

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

**Programme summary:** The efforts made by national societies of Central Africa from June to October 2005 were related to capacity building, reducing vulnerabilities within communities, combating stigma against People living with HIV/AIDS, the elderly, deaf-mute children and other vulnerable people from underprivileged groups.

As far as the Health/HIV Programme is concerned, the activities related to the "Filles Libres" Project went on smoothly. The project has been extended to CAR, Sao Tome & Principe, and Equatorial Guinea as planned, and volunteers are increasingly committed and motivated in carrying out activities.

Regarding disaster management, the capacities of the regional disaster response team for Central Africa (ERDAC) were built during this period; thereby enabling national societies to provide rapid, professional and efficient responses to the needs of vulnerable people. Although some national societies are yet to produce their own strategic plans, the country assistance strategy (CAS) process is following its course.

In broad terms, volunteers carried out their various activities relentlessly, thereby contributing to reinforcing the visibility of the Red Cross. However, epidemics remain a problem to be solved in the region, and the needs are much more than the means available. Consequently, there is the need for international organisations to increase their support to add to the relentless efforts that are being made by national societies in Central Africa. The regional office achieved 70% coverage of its appeal, and the Swedish Red Cross has provided nearly 90% of the funds received so far.

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*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. 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>*

Central Africa region comprises eight countries: the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Republic of Congo, Central Africa Republic (CAR), Republic of Chad, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, and Cameroon. It is one of Africa's most vulnerable and disaster prone regions affected by both natural and man-made disasters including armed conflict, population movement, food insecurity, epidemics, political instability, poverty and economic recession.

Due to the weakness of their economies and challenges such as migration and corruption, the populations of Central Africa are exposed to several vulnerabilities. Poverty is rampant throughout in the region. Unfortunately, the national societies of the region that could have used their volunteer networks that can be found even in remote localities to help improve the living conditions of vulnerable people. However they don't have financial means and donor interest limited.

In an attempt to enable national societies of Central Africa to play a better role by mobilising the power of humanity, the Federation's regional office for Central Africa (BRAC) has been making efforts aimed at making local partners more sensitive and drawing their attention to the vulnerabilities of the populations in this region over the past four years.

Central Africa has experienced some disorders during the past 6 months. University students went on strike in Cameroon and as a result, rectors have been changed and chairpersons have been appointed to head the boards of directors of all state-owned universities. In addition, the government promised to revise the school fees at university level again. In CAR, civil servants complain almost on a daily basis about salary arrears. The political situation in Gabon is characterized by the preparation of the presidential elections. The opposition has been accusing the incumbent president of trying to do everything possible to remain in power eternally. In Chad, tensions within the presidential security milieu led to the dissolution of the presidential guard. In addition, some soldiers decided to quit the army. Furthermore security is seriously threatened in Chad by the crisis in Darfur. The region has hence characterised by a high degree instability that negatively affect the humanitarian challenges in the region.

## **The Regional Office**

### **Health and care**

**Goal: The living conditions of vulnerable people in Central Africa are significantly improved and the sustainability of this status is ensured.**

**Objective: BRAC supports the Red Cross Societies of Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Congo, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe to carry out a pertinent volume of community-based activities related to the promotion of health and to the fight against diseases. BRAC also supports the involvement of affected communities in the activities.**

**Achievements:**

- BRAC continues to animate Wednesday afternoon teleconferences where anti measles and malaria activities are identified and planned.
- From 5 to 7 October 2005, the traditional meeting of health officers in Central Africa was held in Kribi (Cameroon) under the patronage of BRAC and thanks to the support of the Secretary General.
- The forum was also attended by representatives of the Swedish Red Cross, ICRC, French Cooperation, and the MEPHA and MSD laboratories.
- It was clear from the meeting that several successes have been achieved in the fight against malaria, epidemics, diseases covered by the EIP, and HIV/AIDS. Such successes include:
  - The implication of communities in hygiene and sanitation activities as they now build latrines and water points themselves (for example in Equatorial Guinea);
  - The participation of volunteers in the various immunisation campaigns, in the fight against the Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever, and the putting in place of an early warnings system in Congo;
  - The development of a Cooperation Agreement Strategy CASS and the significant mobilisation of Red Cross volunteers to combat the various epidemics that hit DRC;
  - Assistance to floods victims and the integration of CAR national societies in the CCM as third Vice President;
  - The fight against epidemics with the setting up of a surveillance system, the fight against STIs/HIV and female genital mutilations in Chad;
  - The extension of the “Filles Libres” project to Douala by the Cameroon national society.
- During that meeting, each health officer received folders on HIV/AIDS, on how to use impregnated mosquito nets, and on sanitation campaigns.
- One of the added values of the meeting was the setting up of CARCHIN (Central Africa Red Cross Health Initiative Network) which is animated by the regional health officer at BRAC. The other members of CARCHIN include health directors of national societies, country health delegates, representatives of partner national societies (PNS), the head of the health department in Geneva, the health officer for Africa in Geneva, and regional partners. The main activities of CARCHIN included the sharing of information, competences, and experience among members (success stories and obstacles overcome).

The following table summarises the areas of intervention of the national societies of Central Africa in 2006.

Priority areas of intervention	National Societies					
	Cameroon	Congo	DRC	CAR	Guinea	Chad
Fight against STIs-HIV/AIDS	X	X	X	X	X	X
Malaria control	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vaccination and epidemiological surveillance	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fight against epidemics	X	X	X	X	X	X
Water and sanitation	X		X	X	X	X
Improving access to health care	X					
CBFA						X

- CARCHIN went operational immediately after its creation as documents and information related to bird flu which is currently in the spotlight of the media were shared among members. BRAC has been participating actively in teleconferences to prepare a response for the disaster should it occur.

**Impact:**

- The “Filles Libres” Project initiated in Cameroon turned out to be a success story and has now been extended to Sao Tome & Principe, CAR, and Equatorial Guinea.
- The national societies of Central Africa made a remarkable move in one of the following domains, notably water points and latrines building, the fight against cholera, Ebola, meningitis, female genital mutilation, discrimination and stigma against the elderly, orphans, and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).
- National societies can now access local funding because of their newly acquired visibility. This is for example the case with CAR national society which has been elected as 3<sup>rd</sup> vice President of the country

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connexion mechanism (CCM). This society also succeeded in signing a contract with the Global Funds for the funding of its anti-malaria programme.

- In addition, the national societies were given exclusive responsibility to organise social mobilisation for the upcoming immunization days, taking into consideration its commendable contribution during the previous one.
- Cameroon national society received funding from Coca Cola, MTN, and PMUC companies to combat HIV/AIDS and carry out WatSan activities.

### **HIV/AIDS Control**

**Goal: The spread of HIV/AIDS and stigma against People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) is reduced.**

**Objective: All eight national societies of Central Africa have been involved effectively and efficiently in the process of HIV/AIDS control, and have carried out a pertinent volume of activities to that effect.**

#### **Achievements:**

- BRAC posted an article on “Pssiton”, a Federation created web site where information on HIV/AIDS activities carried out by national societies can be found.
- BRAC has been providing ongoing support to the national societies in their HIV/AIDS related activities.

### **Diasater management**

**Goal: Build the capacities of national societies of Central Africa in the four key domains of the ARCHI 2010 strategy.**

**Objective: Build the capacities of national societies of Central Africa in good governance, human resources, management of local branches and programmes, and in finance.**

#### **Achievement:**

- BRAC continues to play its role as the coach of national society of Central Africa.
- *Supporting the deployment of regional resource persons.*
- Within the framework of the Togolese Refugee operation in Benin, three ERDAC members (2 WatSan specialists and 1 evaluation specialist) have been deployed in Benin. The 3 members came from Cameroon (2) and Congo (1) respectively.
- In addition, two ERDAC/WatSan members are currently in Chad within the framework of the Sudanese Refugee Operation.
- BRAC also deployed some ERDAC members (Logistics specialists) in Niger within the framework of the Operation Hunger in Niger.
- The mission of the ERDAC/health team ended in Chad, but the managing team of the Sudanese operation in Chad applied for the extension of their stay. The application is currently pending reaction from BRAC.

### **Humanitarian values**

**Goal: People who suffer from discrimination and stigma have access to assistance services.**

**Objective: National Red Cross Societies of Central Africa have aggressively advertised the positions of the International Federation vis-à-vis discrimination through the media or thanks to the intervention of internationally renowned personalities, with special emphasis on discrimination against PLWHA.**

#### **Achievements:**

- BRAC continues to support national society within the framework of the establishment and animation of humanitarian journalists clubs.
- In August 2005, BRAC presented a paper on reporting techniques within the framework of the seminar of communicators of Cameroon Red Cross in order to build their capacities.

## Organizational development

**Goal: Build the capacities of National societies of Central Africa in the four key domains of the ARCHI 2010 strategy.**

**Objective: Build the capacities of national societies of Central Africa in good governance, human resources, management of local branches and programmes, and in finance.**

**Achievement:**

- The Federation BRAC office continues to play its role as the coach of the national societies of Central Africa.

## Cameroon

### Health and care

**Goal: The vulnerability of Cameroonians to health issues is reduced, and the spread of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis in high-exposure communities is reduced.**

**Objective: The targeted populations in the communities working with the programme have adopted risk free behaviours as far as health is concerned, and continue to use the quality health and care facilities put at their disposal by the Cameroon Red Cross.**

**Achievements:**

*Community Health*

- After the assessment of the micro project aspect of the "Filles Libres" Project in June 2005, it was discovered that 10 beneficiaries out of 19 that are supposed to reimburse the credits granted have not been closely respecting the agreement's terms. In an attempt to solve the problem, meetings have been organised with the beneficiaries, their endorsers, and the Cameroon Red Cross and BRAC officers in charge of ensuring the follow-up of the micro projects.
- The Cameroon Red Cross gender and development officer and the HIV/AIDS officer at BRAC met on August 4, 2005 to define a new orientation of educative talks, the objective of which is to better sensitize the "Filles Libres" and encourage them to visit the national society health centre.
- From 20 to 24 August 2005, the National AIDS Coordinator of Cameroon Red Cross Society and the health team of BRAC conducted a mission to Douala within the framework of the process to extend the "Filles Libres" Project to that town. On that occasion, 21 peer educators were trained on STI-HIV/AIDS sensitisation techniques. These peer educators will facilitate contacts with the "Fille Libres".
- A session to retrain 60 peer educators CLAP, AFASO, and Cameroon red cross Society was held on September 16, 2005 thanks to the financial support of BRAC; the objective being to re-launch educative talks in areas of prostitution.

*WatSan*

- Following the outbreak of cholera in Cameroon in April 2005, a joint CRC/BRAC mission was conducted in the Western province to train both Red Cross volunteers and the leaders of the 4 targeted local committees (Bafoussam, Mbouda, Mbanganté, and Foubot), and to launch the building of latrines in each of the towns. Motor bikes have been put at the disposal of these committees to facilitate the displacement of Red Cross volunteers in every part of the targeted localities.
- Since June 2005, the Wouri Divisional Committee has been carrying out sanitation activities, including the treatment of water points, in order to combat water and faecal-borne diseases. Those activities are supported by the Colgate Company which offers the chemicals needed for water treatment.

## Disaster management

**Goal: Reduce the vulnerability of the populations in high-risk areas of Cameroon to disasters.**

**Objective: Build the capacities of five local branches of Cameroon Red Cross in disaster preparedness and response, and start food security programmes in two local committees of the northern part of Cameroon.**

**Achievements:**

- *A pilot project on Food Security in the Far North Province has been initiated*
- Thanks to the BRAC office for their support to the Cameroon Red Cross, which enabled the national society to develop a project on Food Security? After the signing of a contract programme related to disaster management between BRAC and CRC, followed by the development of a plan of action with a well-defined budget line, a joint mission went to Makary (Far North Province) to sensitize community leaders and volunteers of the implementation of this project. The community farms have been cultivated and follow-up is ongoing.

*Preparing the training of first-aid workers in targeted high-risk areas*

- A plan of action with a clearly defined budget line has been developed within the framework of the training/retraining of volunteers/first-aid workers in the 5 targeted high-risk areas of Cameroon. The areas include Mfoundi (Yaoundé), Nyos (Lake Nyos), Noun (Lake Mounoun), Fako (Limbe), and Wouri (Douala). The training enabled Cameroon Red Cross to contribute to the development of a national relief plan. The national society submitted its plan of action to the Department of Civil Protection (Government) that finalized the relief plan.

## **Organizational development**

**Goal: Cameroon Red Cross improves performance in the essential domains of ARCHI 2010 strategy.**

**Objective: Programmatic costs of the Cameroon Red Cross are covered as a result of enhanced resource mobilization and financial management.**

**Achievements:**

- A contract with a well-defined budget line has been signed between Cameroon Red Cross and BRAC within the framework of the activities of the Capacity Building Funds (CBF).
- Income-generating activities have been identified for each of the local committees targeted by the project.
- Office and sanitation equipment has been put at the disposal of these local committees.
- The National Organisational Development Officer of Cameroon Red Cross has already started visiting the targeted local committees to launch income-generating activities.
- A seminar was organized in Garoua, the capital of the Northern Province, by the national headquarters of CRC with the support of ICRC, brought together 14 communicators from the CRC divisional committees of the northern part of the country, including five from the Far North Province, five from the Adamaoua Province, and four from the North Province. The seminar which was animated from start to end by five facilitators from the NS, ICRC, and the Federation (BRAC) was based on the importance of communication within a Red Cross divisional committee. This second seminar organised by CRC was aimed at training communicators in the northern part of the country on better management of humanitarian information.

## **Humanitarian values**

**Goal: Reduce discrimination against specific groups of people.**

**Objective: Disseminate and promote humanitarian values through the national society theatre groups, leading to a reduction in discrimination against specific groups of people.**

**Achievements:**

- *Fight against discrimination: Advocacy in favour of the enrolment of the vulnerable young girl in school*
- After the first phase that was dedicated to the presentation of the project to administrative authorities, and to the sensitisation of traditional rulers and parents that are reluctant in sending their daughters to school,

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a joint Cameroon Red Cross/BRAC team distributed school kits to 120 girls selected from the most vulnerable families of the localities targeted by the project on September 2, 2005 in the premises of the governor of the Far North Province. The colourful ceremony took place in the presence of the highest authorities and elites of the Far Northern Province as a whole and of the Diamare Division in particular. The parents of the beneficiaries were also present.

- Cameroon Red Cross parsimoniously managed the funds that were allocated to execute the project to send rural girls to School in the Far Northern Province. The rest of the money was then used to send out the 80 rural girls to school in the Eastern Province. These girls received school kits at the beginning of the 2005–2006 school year. It should be noted that Red Cross volunteers played a key role in this operation as they covered all the localities of the province with the lowest school enrolment rates to identify beneficiaries (girls in families whose parents do not see the need of sending them to school).
- In his speech, the highest administrative authority of the province (the Governor) did not fail to welcome the unexpected gift from the Red Cross.

## Central African Republic (CAR)

### Health and care

#### Achievement:

##### *HIV/AIDS control*

- Thanks to the support of BRAC, the Cameroon Red Cross Society was able to develop a pertinent programme to combat STI/HIV/AIDS among prostitutes. The pilot phase be implemented in two subdivisions of Bangui (3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> subdivisions); and condom selling points will be established in inns of targeted localities; The micro projects will be funded on the basis of three “Filles Libres” for one micro project in order to create greater impact on communities.
- The regional health officer of BRAC visited CAR national society from 16 to 20 August 2005 to assess the health activities carried out so far and pave the way for the launching of the “Filles Libres” project in CAR. The officer also helped to consolidate the partnerships of this national society with WHO, FNUAP, UNICEF, and the CAR National AIDS Control Committee. The mission was also intended to help develop pertinent projects to improve the living conditions of vulnerable people.
- A social mobilisation project within the framework of the anti-measles immunisation campaign for children between 6 months and 14 years was developed and submitted to the Federation’s Secretariat for funding, thanks to the support of BRAC. The national society actually received funds for the immunisation campaign which took place from 24 to 30 October, 2005. The main activities carried out included;
  - Training and retraining volunteers on mobilisation techniques and epidemiological surveillance;
  - Mobilisation of communities before, during, and after the campaigns (2);
  - Establishment of community-based disease surveillance;
  - Commenting the efforts made by the national society, a CAR official declared;

Taking into consideration the results obtained, one can say that the actions taken by CAR yielded satisfactory results. In fact, 39,597 children out of the 41,682 that were registered by Red Cross volunteers have effectively been vaccinated, representing 95%. This shows that if the Ministry of Health (MoH) had given full responsibility over community-based mobilisation and the follow-up of volunteers on the field to the Red Cross, the expected results would have been obtained beyond expectations. The MoH has understood this and has decided to entrust CAR Red Cross with the exclusive responsibility to carry out community-based mobilisation and support volunteers in the field during the anti-polio NIDs that are scheduled for early November 2005”.

### Disaster management

#### *Disaster Response: Reacting to floods*

- In August 2005, torrential rains fell in Bangui, the capital of CAR, causing serious material and human casualties. After the publication of the first information bulletin which yielded funds from the Disaster Relief and Emergency Funds (DREF) to combat the disaster, BRAC conducted a mission to CAR Red Cross to support this national society within the framework of assistance to affected people.

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- After a second evaluation of the situation in the field, a second information bulletin was published, and the plan of action was updated. The affected people received non food items, and a sanitation kit was put at the disposal of CAR Red Cross. The 3<sup>rd</sup> information bulletin was published on August 27. The NS is currently pursuing the relief operation while preparing the response to potential future floods in the country.

### *Relief and Assistance*

- Central Africa Republic Red Cross (CARRC) volunteers were very active during the operations to respond to the floods which occurred in Bangui and the surrounding localities as a result of torrential rains on 6 - 7 August 2005. They identified 2,160 affected families, i.e. 15,000 persons, and distributed non-food items to the most affected 800 families. The relief items distributed were put at the disposal of the NS by the Federation (BRAC). Concretely, the volunteers distributed 800 cooking pots, 1600 pieces of soap, 800 buckets, and 800 blankets (including the 500 blankets donated by ICRC).

### *Training Community-Based First-Aid (CBFA) trainers*

- In order to build the disaster preparedness, prevention and management capacities of CAR Red Cross, 20 executives of this national society were trained on CBFA. The training was facilitated by a regional resource person deployed by BRAC.

## Organizational development

### *Follow-up of CBF activities*

CAR Red Cross received funds from CBF to help build its capacities. The national society is still in the restructuring phase after the recent political events in the country.

## Equatorial Guinea

### Health and care

**Goal: The vulnerability of the populations of Equatorial Guinea to social and health threats is reduced.**

**Objective: The targeted populations in the communities working with the programme have adopted risk free behaviours, and continue to use the quality health care and social welfare services put at their disposal by the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea.**

### Achievements

- Equatorial Guinea Red Cross (EGRC) continued building latrines and water points. In July 2005, the volunteers of this national society built 9 latrines in Malabo, 5 in Banei, and 2 in Batoicopo. They also built 32 latrines and 2 water points in Bata. In conformity with the ARCHI 2010 approach, the beneficiaries were associated in the “learning by doing” process.
- From 8 to 12 August 2005, 35 volunteers took part in a training session on the methods of transmission of STIs-HIV/AIDS and the sensitization techniques at the headquarters of the national society. Another training session on STIs for health educators was held from 24 to 31 August 2005 in Malabo.
- During the second half of August 2005, the 35 trained volunteers animated 3 sensitisation campaigns on STIs-HIV/AIDS in the Elanguema and Campo Yaoundé subdivisions. The objective of the sensitization was to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in the country as a result of the oil boom which attracts more girls and job seekers.
- A youth-oriented sensitization project has been finalized thanks to the support of BRAC. The project which is intended to slow down the spread of HIV/AIDS was launched in September 2005. It is mostly animated by the theatre group of the national society.
- EGRC launched a sensitization campaign on HIV/AIDS on 18 October 2005 in Elanguema and Campo Yaounde (localities with a total population of 18,000 inhabitants). The operation is expected to continue until February 2006. Thirty (30) volunteers have been roaming the streets of the two localities trying to draw the attention of populations to the fact that prevention is better than cure.
- HIV/AIDS is progressively spreading in Equatorial Guinea as an increasing number of people continue to flow in to the country following the oil boom. In fact, the prevalence rate increased from 4% in 2002 to 7% in 2005. National Immunization Days (NIDs) were organised all over the national territory from 6 to

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13 October 2005. One hundred (100) Red Cross volunteers from Malabo and Bata who had previously been trained on social mobilisation participated in that operation.

- Thanks to the support of the Federation, these volunteers are currently distributing insecticide treated mosquito nets in the field. Joint EGRC/Ministry of Health teams has been visiting the field to ensure that the mosquito nets are effectively distributed to the beneficiaries. For this operation, the national society used three ambulances, four megaphones, and distributed 204 T-shirts.
- A social mobilisation project within the framework of the anti-measles immunisation campaign in children between 6 months and 14 years was developed and submitted to the Federation's Secretariat for funding, thanks to the support of BRAC. The national society actually received funds for the immunisation campaign which took place from 19 to 28 September 2005. The main activities carried out included:
  - Training and retraining volunteers on mobilisation techniques and epidemiological surveillance;
  - Mobilisation of communities before, during, and after the campaigns (2);
  - Establishment of community-based disease surveillance.
- A two-faceted training session on the use of vaccine and on social mobilisation during NIDs took place in Bata from 22 to 24 September 2005 and was attended by 28 volunteers from the various local committees.
- The second part of the training took place in Malabo from 28 to 30 September 2005 and was attended by 35 volunteers from Malabo, Luba, Banei, and Ryaba. The two training sessions were animated by two instructors of the EIP with the objective to teach volunteers how to carry out social mobilisation and vaccination.

### *WatSan*

- Within the framework of the fight against water and faecal-borne diseases, the national society developed a project to ensure sanitation and improve access to potable water. After the evaluation carried out with the community, 30 latrines were built in the East for the benefit of at least 360 persons. Ten (10) potable water points were rehabilitated in suburban areas for the benefit of at least 500 persons.

## Disaster management

**Goal: Reduce the vulnerability of the Equatorial Guinea populations in high-risk areas to disasters.**

**Objective: Local branches of high-risk areas of Equatorial Guinea have multidisciplinary teams capable of ensuring disaster prevention, preparedness, and response. The NS establishes a flexible and efficient mechanism to ensure inter-connexion between the headquarters and local branch teams.**

### **Achievements:**

#### *Water and Sanitation*

- A training session on the techniques of tapping water, constructing wells and latrines was organized in Bata from 18 to 21 June 2005. Twenty-five (25) volunteers were trained, under the leadership of a technician from the Bata Red Cross managing team. Immediately after the training, 10 volunteers were called upon to put the knowledge acquired into practice, from 22 to 27 June 2005, by participating in the construction of 5 latrines in Basupu and 2 others in Campaca.

#### *Construction of Latrines*

- Following its permanent determination to offer better living conditions to the populations, EGRC continued to execute its plan of action concerning the building of latrines and water points. In July 2005, Red Cross volunteers built 9 latrines in Malabo, 5 in Banei, 2 in Batoicopo, 32 in Bata, and 2 water points in Bata. In conformity with the ARCHI 2010 approach, the beneficiaries were associated in the operations following the "learning by doing" method.

## Humanitarian values

**Goal: Reduce discrimination against the elderly, orphans, and young girls.**

**Objective: The general public knows, understands and respects the rights of the elderly due to the activities carried out by the media, theatre groups, and nationally and internationally renowned personalities.**

**Achievements:**

*Fight against Discrimination*

- Following its commitment to combat discrimination and stigma, Equatorial Guinea Red Cross developed a project to improve the health and living conditions of orphans. In that light, BRAC provided financial support to the national society to help rehabilitate its motel. The resources accruing from the use of this motel are used to ensure minimum comfort for orphans.

*Social Action*

- Within the framework of assistance to the most vulnerable people, the national society chose the elderly, and the deaf children as its target group. To ensure a better follow-up of these particularly vulnerable children, a training session on the techniques of impacting knowledge to the deaf-mutes was organized in Malabo from 1 to 30 June 2005, with the assistance of UNICEF and a Cuban medical team, which visited Equatorial Guinea for 3 months.
- Equatorial Guinea Red Cross organised a training session on the culture of peace from 25 to 30 October 2005. 35 volunteers from primary and secondary schools in Malabo attended the training session that was animated by 2 first-aid monitors of the youth Red Cross.

**Impact:**

- Vulnerable people (PLWHA, orphans, young girls, and the elderly) now consider the Red Cross a trustworthy friend that can facilitate their integration within their respective communities. In addition, the various governments in the region have welcomed the important role played by the NS of Central Africa to improve the living conditions of vulnerable people.

**Constraint:**

- As far as the assistance to the underprivileged is concerned, demand is higher than supply. Therefore, there is the need to increase support for the programme to promote humanitarian values.

## **Sao Tome & Principe**

### **Health and care**

**Goal: The vulnerability of the populations of Sao Tome and Principe to social and health threats is reduced.**

**Objective: The targeted populations in the communities working with the programme have adopted risk-free behaviours, and continue to use the quality health care and social welfare services put at their disposal by the national society.**

**Achievement:**

- Following the wish that was expressed by leaders of Central African national societies during their last meeting in Yaoundé (Cameroon), the “Filles Libres” Project has been extended to Sao Tome & Principe (STP). In order to ensure the smooth functioning of the project, Red Cross volunteers started by identifying areas with high intensity of prostitution and identifying “Filles Libres” in order to set up a network for those people. Condom distribution stands have been installed in areas with high intensity of prostitution.
- In September, STP national society volunteers essentially devoted themselves to the sensitisation in rural areas where the risk is high due to the vulnerability of the people, the lack of information on HIV/AIDS and certainly the anachronism of some traditions.
- Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross (STPRC) has decided to intensify the fight against AIDS, which is slowly but steadily gaining ground.. It is because of this that the “Filles Libres” project is being duplicated in this country after a contract programme in this light was signed in July 2005 between the Red Cross of Sao Tome and Principe represented by its Secretary General and the regional office for Central Africa represented by its acting head of office. Since then, high prostitution areas have been identified and girls counted. Kiosks have been placed in such areas by the Red Cross to enable volunteers to distribute condoms to prostitutes and their clients.

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- In September, STPRC volunteers essentially devoted themselves to the sensitization in rural areas where risk is high due to the vulnerability of people, the lack of information on HIV/AIDS and certainly the anachronism of some traditions.

### *WatSan*

- 5 Red Cross volunteers assisted by community members built 7 latrines in September 2005 in order to combat water and faecal-borne diseases.
- In order to improve access to potable water for vulnerable people, a street fountain was built in Sao Tome in October 2005.

## Disaster management

**Goal: Reduce the vulnerability of the populations of Sao Tome and Principe in high-risk areas to disasters.**

**Objective: Reinforce the technical know-how of disaster prevention, preparedness, and response teams in four targeted local committees, and set up a flexible and efficient mechanism to ensure interconnection between the team of the headquarters and those of local branches.**

### **Achievements:**

#### *Water and Sanitation*

- The STP Red Cross is dedicated to improve the conditions of its communities. Indeed, in June, 20 Red Cross volunteers cheerfully joined in the construction of two standpipes in the Mezeche and Cantagalo districts.

### **Impact:**

- The regional office is now known as a major actor in disaster management by the Cameroon government. The visibility of the Red Cross in all the countries of Central Africa has been consolidated. Although a lot remains to be done, vulnerabilities have effectively been reduced. Attracted by the achievements of the Red Cross in floods management, and in the building of latrines and street fountains, lots of people decided to join the Red Cross as new volunteers.

## Humanitarian values

**Goal: Reduce discrimination against the elderly.**

**Objective: Make the public know and understand the rights of the elderly through the media, theatre groups, or renowned national or international personalities.**

### **Achievements**

#### *Youth Red Cross*

- In order to end holidays in a happy mood, 60 young people from all over the country gathered from September 29 to October 2, 2005 within the framework of a youth camp. On that occasion, they developed several themes, including: HIV/AIDS, STIs, and us; the relevance of the youth Red Cross; and The role of Volunteers.
- During the five-day camp that was organized thanks to the support of the Portuguese NGO "MEDICO DEL MUNDO", the young people were able to share very enriching experiences on their daily activities among themselves.

#### *Construction of shelters for the elderly*

- Twelve new flats have been built for the elderly in September 2005. The inauguration of these flats took place on September 23, 2005 in the presence of the authorities of STPRC, beneficiaries and elected authorities. Through this, STPRC respected its commitment to improve vulnerable people's living conditions.
- Thanks to the support of BRAC, the winnings of TOTOLOTO (the national lottery of Sao Tome & Principe) have been reinforced and the benefits accruing from it are today used to improve on the living conditions of the elderly.

## Chad

### Health and care

**Goal: The vulnerability of the populations of Chad to health threats is reduced.**

**Objective: The targeted populations in the communities working with the programme have adopted health friendly behaviours, and continue to use the quality health and care services put at their disposal by the Red Cross of Chad.**

#### Achievements:

- Following the appearance of a wild polio virus case in August 2005, a follow up immunisation campaign was scheduled for late September 2005. Two hundred (200) Chad Red Cross volunteers took part in the campaign.
- FOSAP Funds for the fight against STIs – HIV/AIDS in Western Logone
- Within the framework of its activities to combat STIs and HIV/AIDS, the Western Logone Regional Committee of Chad Red Cross received a sum of 1,554,696 CFA from FOSAP, representing the first instalment of the funds needed to combat the diseases. This money was used to train 23 peer educators in all the divisional committees of the region and to organize CCB sessions.
- 17 monitors were trained on CBFA in the Lac-Wey divisional committee and in the third subdivision of Moundou. The trainees received their attestation on 22 October 2005 in the presence of Chad Red Cross executives and local political and administrative authorities.
- Sensitization campaign on hygiene in Sarh (Medium Chari Region).
- The first-aid workers of Chad Red Cross carried out sensitization campaigns in the "Quinze Ans" neighbourhood, encouraging the women who sell food to follow food-related hygiene rules in order to reduce the risks of food contamination. The regional committee expressed a wish to receive financial support from the National Committee in order to carry out the large scale campaign it intends to organize within the framework of the fight against diseases with epidemic potential.
- Fight against FGM
- In October 2005, the head of programmes established contacts with several socio-political and humanitarian actors that intervene in the process of protecting vulnerable people in Chad. The actors included executives of the National Committee to combat harmful traditional practices "CONACIAF", UNHCR, and the Chadian Association for Family Welfare (ASTBEF<sup>1</sup>). The objective of that initiative was to develop a common strategy for all the actors in order to make their actions more efficient and pave the way for easy take over by the beneficiaries.
- After the operation, Chad Red Cross obtained from partners the promise to support the training of peer educators on the fight against FGM in the near future. Moreover, UNHCR and UNICEF appreciated the FGM survey carried out by Chad Red Cross in the Bréjine and Tréjine refugee camps and expressed the wish that such activities be extended to other camps and within the local populations in the Eastern part of Chad.

#### Impact:

- The fight against HIV/AIDS has been intensified and the populations have begun to understand the role of the Red Cross within the process of HIV/AIDS control. This is shown in the growing interest that prompted the extension of the "Filles Libres" project to Sao Tome & Principe and to CAR.
- In addition, the Ministry of Health promised to entrust CAR Red Cross with the exclusive responsibility of carrying out sensitization campaigns and following up volunteers on the field within the framework of the national anti-polio immunization days that will take place in early November 2005.

### Disaster management

**Goal: Reduce the vulnerability of the populations of Chad in high-risk areas to disasters and develop pilot projects on food security in three rural areas.**

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<sup>1</sup> Association tchadienne pour le bien-être de la famille.

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**Objective: Train and animate disaster management teams in four local branches that are highly exposed to disasters, and develop a pilot project on food security.**

### **Achievements:**

- *Transportation of refugees*
- In September 2005, Chad Red Cross transported 1,342 Chadian refugees from CAR to their respective localities of origin. The operation was conducted by 25 volunteers deployed in 2 transit centres (Gore and Koumra) under the supervision of the Emergency Activities Coordinator of Chad Red Cross.

#### *Training on community based first aid*

- The Tandjile regional Committee has just completed the training of the first batch of volunteer's first-aid workers on CBFA to reinforce the existing teams.
- *Hygiene and Sanitation in Schools*
- The beneficiaries targeted in October 2005 by the WatSan project of Chad Red Cross which is supported by the French Red Cross were the users in Madjorio and Gassi schools of N'Djamena. Students in those schools were sensitized to hygiene and sanitation (cleaning of latrines, water points, and playgrounds). The students also participated in the maintenance of the garden and in the distribution of water in classrooms when the temperature is high.
- A follow-up strategy is being studied to make sure that these activities do not stop when the Red Cross withdraws from the project, and also to ensure that they are even improved by the beneficiaries. It is expected that in the long run the project will help change the behaviours of school children in view of ensuring the long-lasting of school facilities and the conservation of the school environment.

## **Organizational development**

**Goal: The performances of Red Cross of Chad are improved in the essential domains of the ARCHI 2010 strategy.**

**Objective: The governance, technical, and financial capacities of Red Cross of Chad are built.**

### **Achievements:**

- Red Cross of Chad has established a CAS with PNS, ICRC, and with other donors.
- Regional Assemblies establish the new regional committees.
- *Mandoul region have understood the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS)*
- From 10 to 20 October 2005, Mr. Ire Kertoumar, the Coordinator of the CAS process in Chad led a CAS mission to Koumra (Mandoul) in order to install decentralised structures for the implementation of this strategy in Mandoul. He was accompanied by Mr. Felix Tchang Hera Damsu, the treasurer general of Chad Red Cross.
- The team seized that opportunity to visit administrative authorities, target potential partners, and members of the Koumra Regional Committee. Once in Koumra, the visitors were impressed by the achievements of this newly installed committee which now has about 800 first-aid workers and sanitarians.

### **Impact:**

- Leaders of national society in Central African have begun to understand the CAS process.

### **Constraint:**

- Some national societies are yet to develop their own strategic plans.

## **Coordination, Cooperation, and Strategic Partnerships**

### **The Regional Office**

**Goal: The performance of national societies of Central Africa is strengthened.**

**Objective: The partnership between national societies of Central Africa, with other members of the Red Cross Movement, and with international organizations is reinforced.**

**Achievements:**

- In early July 2005, the acting head of BRAC took part in the management meeting that was held in Dakar (Senegal). He also visited Sao Tome & Principe Red Cross to sign the contract programme relating to the duplication of the “Filles Libres” project with the Secretary General of that national society. In addition, the head of BRAC visited Equatorial Guinea Red Cross and held working sessions with the Secretary General and the technical staff of the national society.

## **Effective representation and advocacy**

### **The Regional Office**

**Goal: The general public, authorities, the media, and donors, are encouraged to take an active part in the humanitarian activities carried out by the International Federation and by national society of Central Africa.**

**Objective: The advocacy activities carried out by both the International Federation and national societies of Central Africa are efficiently relayed to authorities, the media, the diplomatic corps, the general public, and other partners.**

**Achievements:**

- In an attempt to establish new partnerships and in order to ensure better visibility for Cameroon Red Cross and BRAC, the Acting Head of BRAC paid several visits to top-ranking personalities, including the High Commissioners of Great Britain and Canada respectively (in Cameroon), the Ambassadors of Japan and Greece, etc. He endeavoured to take part in all the ceremonies organized by the Cameroon Government and by other diplomatic institutions.
- The Head of BRAC is currently holding talks with the Japanese and Canadian embassies in Cameroon, as well as with the French Cooperation and other local actors that are likely to grant funds to support Red Cross activities.

**Impact:**

- Public awareness and the visibility of the Red Cross have increased amongst the diplomatic milieu in Cameroon.
- The Japanese embassy in Cameroon showed interest in Red Cross activities as they allocated funds to support the response to floods in CAR.
- The Canadian embassy in Cameroon showed interest in Red Cross activities as they allocated funds to help reimburse the DREF.

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

# Central Africa Sub-Regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05AA038

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/12/2005

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

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,942,272	TOTAL COVERAGE 66.6%	
OPENING BALANCE				154,150		
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT				62,852	01.01.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER MANAGEMENT
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		8,319	EUR	12,874	11.11.05	NS PARTICIPATION FUNDS
IRISH - GOVT		49,394	EUR	76,487	04.02.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
IRISH - GOVT		25,997	EUR	40,256	04.02.05	ARCHI & HIV/AIDS
JAPANESE - RC		86,964	USD	112,531	18.10.05	HEALTH & CARE
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,525,000	SEK	260,775	10.05.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HIV/AIDS YOUTH PROG. & FILLES LIBRES
SWEDISH - RC		2,950,000	SEK	504,450	10.06.05	MANAGEMENT, ORGANISATIONAL
SWEDISH - RC		422,460	SEK	70,128	15.08.05	CHAD, FEMALE MUTILATION
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,294,503	CHF	66.6%

### 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	