

# BENIN

## HEALTH, RELIEF AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

**CHF 395,000**

**1,200 beneficiaries**

**Programme No. 01.08/98**

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In March 1996 some 900 refugees from Nigeria arrived in Benin following unrest in the Ogoni region. They were granted refugee status by the Benin Government and were given shelter in the camp at Comè, and are now moving to nearby Kpomasse. Ethnic violence is still a factor in Nigeria and refugee numbers may increase if the 1998 presidential elections are accompanied by violence in the Ogoni region.

Most of the Togolese refugees who fled to Benin in 1993 have returned home with the exception of the ex-military. A small number are in Porto Novo and others in Cotonou. Elections are also scheduled for Togo and civil unrest there too could increase the refugee population.

### *The Operation*

The Federation and Benin Red Cross Society (BRCS) cater for some 1,200 refugees from Nigeria, Togo and the Great Lakes region, providing health care, food and non-food aid, assistance with income-generating projects, and capacity building. The Federation will continue to provide support to strengthen BRCS' operational capacities through the Regional Delegation in Abidjan.

### *Objectives*

- | To provide sufficient health care, food and non-food items to the Nigerian refugees in Kpomasse;
- | to train and assist 500 remaining Togolese refugees with income generating projects;
- | to continue reinforcing BRCS' operational capacity to manage the refugee operation without a Federation Delegation in the country;
- | to assist the BRCS in developing a viable emergency response plan for a possible new influx of refugees.

## ***Plan of Action***

- | Continue to manage the camp for the Nigerian refugees in Kpomasse, and run two dispensaries in Cotonou and Porto Novo for 1,200 people.
- | Develop an emergency response plan for a possible mass movement from Nigeria and Togo.
- | Provide training on first aid in the community by BRCS staff to volunteers in branches bordering Togo and Nigeria and reactivate local committees.
- | Provide training in income-generating projects for 500 Togolese refugees.

## ***Capacity***

Twenty volunteers have been trained in camp management, relief distribution and assisting at health posts. The Society has two operational vehicles, a training centre and a small number of permanent staff at headquarters. The Federation Delegation provides delegate expertise in the areas of relief, accounting and logistics.

## ***Co-operation***

The Benin Red Cross will continue its co-operation with the Government, UNHCR, and NGOs. The International Federation will assist the National Society from its Regional Delegation in Abidjan.

# ghana

**liberian boat people/sierra leone refugees**

**CHF 142,000**

**8,000 beneficiaries**

**Programme No. 01.09/98**

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Following heavy fighting in Liberia, 1,568 Liberians fled by boat to Ghana in May 1996, bringing the total caseload to 17,000. They were finally settled at a permanent site at Krisan in the Western Region from where voluntary repatriation started in June 1996. If peace prevails in Liberia, UNHCR foresees that many of the refugees will have been repatriated by June 1998, with about 5'000 expected to remain in Ghana. The recent political crisis in Sierra Leone brought a further 1,700 refugees to Krisan.

## *The Operation*

With financial assistance from the Federation, UNHCR, ECHO and Swiss Red Cross, Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) has co-ordinated most of the relief activities since 1996, with responsibility for distribution of food and non-food items, maintenance of sanitation, water supply and medical care.

## *Objectives in 1998*

- | To provide relief to Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees at the Krisan camp;
- | to upgrade the disaster response capacity of the GRCS.

## *Plan of Action*

- | Twenty refugee volunteers will continue to ensure the daily cleaning of existing sanitary infrastructure and the emptying of latrines once yearly.
- | Continue distributions of dry food and non-food items provided by WFP/UNHCR.
- | Operate a health clinic staffed by a medical assistant and refugee health workers;
- | Ensure regular maintenance of wells.

## ***Capacity***

GRCS has managed most of the operation as from 1996. The Federation has supported and provided a great deal of training for GRCS volunteers and staff. The Federation has trained most of the managers of the operation, through its Accra-based Representative. In 1998 the GRCS will manage the operation with support from the Regional Delegation in Côte d'Ivoire.

## ***Co-operation***

The GRC will continue its close co-operation with the government, UNHCR, WFP and local NGOs.

# togo

## health, relief and rehabilitation

**CHF 159,000**

**12,000 beneficiaries**

**Programme No. 01.10/98**

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Ethnic clashes over land ownership in northern Ghana since 1994 have left 12,000 refugees in Togo. The Togolese Red Cross Society (TRCS) has been providing assistance in north-west Togo, working closely with the government, UNHCR, WHO and NGOs. As the land dispute is still unresolved TRCS has started a programme to integrate refugees into Togolese society.

### *The Operation*

The operation focuses on health education, hygiene, training and finance for income generation for refugees and the local population. Strengthening disaster response capacities of TRCS branches and dissemination of Red Cross Principles to refugees are also priorities.

### *Objectives in 1998*

- | To improve the living conditions of the refugees and the local population;
- | to provide health services in two health centres, improve sanitation and sensitise on STD and HIV/AIDS prevention;
- | to reinforce the operational management capacity of the host branches of the central region;
- | to assist income generation projects with small credits to refugees and the host population;
- | to expand women's clubs for mother and child health.

### *Plan of Action*

- | Provide the salaries of four health workers for two health posts for one year, while income generating activities for future salary payments are being developed.

- | Train 22 hygiene committees in CBFA and STD/AIDS prevention.
- | Establish 35 new clubs for mother and child health in the central region.
- | Train 69 volunteers in branch management.
- | Train 25 Trainers of Trainers in five regions in needs identification and capacity assessment of the vulnerable.
- | Provide disaster response training to promote Disaster Preparedness capacity.
- | Provide financial/technical support to 23 branches to implement income generating projects.
- | Disburse 420 small credits to newly identified beneficiaries in the central region and expand the small agricultural programmes.

## ***Capacity***

The Togolese Red Cross Society has experienced personnel and volunteers who have been running the operation for almost five years. Support from the Federation comes through its representative in Ghana, and a locally recruited accountant from the Benin Delegation, with supervision from the Regional Delegation in Abidjan. A bilateral Development Delegate assists the National Society in daily management of the operation.

## ***Co-operation***

TRCS co-operates directly with the Government, UNHCR, WHO, and national NGOs.

# central africa

## REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

### CHF 5,094,000

#### Programme No. 01.11/98

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The Regional Delegation (RD) was opened in Brazzaville in December 1994 and became fully operational in February 1995. Up to mid-1997, it covered Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tomé and Príncipe and the Democratic Republic of Congo (former Zaire). From August, 1997 onwards, the Democratic Republic of Congo was administratively handed over to the Great Lakes region. The setting-up of the country delegation in Kinshasa in April 1997 marked the end of direct assistance from the Regional Delegation to the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In 1996, the main programmes were Community Health, First Aid, emergency assistance to the National Societies (NSs) in health-related disasters and armed conflict and evaluation of Federation support to the NSs. A first meeting of regional NSs took place in Douala in July 1997 to discuss the increasing instability in the region and NS strategies.

The Central African Region is marked by armed conflicts in Congo (Brazzaville) and the Central African Republic. During meetings between regional NSs, the RD and Secretariat staff in July and October 1997, the increase of poverty and of ethnic intolerance, the presence of private militias and the growing number of unemployed youth were identified as additional causes of conflict.

During both meetings, the NSs stressed again the urgent need to strengthen their capacities in order to handle the situation appropriately. They decided not only to organise relief operations in support of victims of the conflicts, but to realise programmes in health, social welfare and income generation at all levels. These programmes will target reoccurring natural disasters like floods and drought as well as epidemics like cholera, meningitis, Ebola and AIDS. Information programmes and training in International Humanitarian Law are also envisaged, as are youth programmes targeted at creating a "culture of peace".

***Pointe Noire, Angolan Refugees, Congolese IDPs:*** The Regional Delegation is also responsible for the management of the operation for 5,000 refugees from the Angolan enclave of Cabinda, who fled to Pointe-Noire, Congo following heavy fighting in 1992. Armed conflict in the Congolese capital Brazzaville in 1997 caused the displacement of tens of thousands of citizens, many of whom ended up in Pointe-Noire.

The project provides food aid, non-food items, shelter, medical assistance and support for the education of the children, and is implemented in close co-operation with UNHCR. Between 1994 and

1997, five new sites were prepared for the refugees in order to give sufficient fertile land for self-sufficiency. Food distributions were reduced from general distribution to most vulnerable, two more sites were established with more than 130 houses, as were a dispensary, warehouse facilities and water points. Seeds and agricultural tools were distributed in all sites. A bakery, tailoring service and the production of cooking pots proved valuable income-generating projects. Vaccination programmes were implemented to curb outbreaks of measles.

## *Objectives in 1998*

- | To assist the National Societies in the development of a programme for the promotion of peace, aimed mainly at youth;
- | to provide support to the NSs for the improvement of the institutional capacities in order to better organise, motivate and train their human resources on all levels, identify the most vulnerable, develop programmes with them and elaborate a development plan;
- | to install a communication network allowing interlinkage of the local, regional and central level of each National Society, inter-regional communication and better contact with the Secretariat in Geneva;
- | to assist the NSs in developing effective fund-raising strategies locally and regionally;
- | to support the NSs in establishing a system of prevention and preparedness for health related disasters;
- | to assist the NSs in establishing a system of preparedness for relief operations in case of conflict situations and/or natural disasters;
- | ***Pointe Noire:*** The established structure of the operation continues: targeted distribution of food aid, seeds and agricultural tools to the vulnerable as well as the new arrivals, comprehensive medical assistance to all refugees/IDPs, and co-operation with governmental and non-governmental services in the region. The focus will shift to reinforcing the efforts for self-sufficiency through improved agriculture, small animal husbandry and income generating projects. The Congolese Red Cross (CRCS) plans to upgrade the present system of education, and train refugee youth in Community Based First Aid.
- | ***Regional Delegation:*** The Regional Delegation will leave its temporary location in Kinshasa and will be established in a country where security, infrastructure and support from the authorities will allow it to be fully functional.
- | ***Brazzaville:*** The rehabilitation of the Congolese Red Cross, its support to returnees and the CRCS role in the reconstruction of Brazzaville will remain a priority for the Regional Delegation in 1998.

Federation Regional Delegation support will focus on supporting Youth, Institutional and Resource development, Telecommunication, Community Health, First Aid, Disaster Preparedness and Regional Co-operation.

## *Programmes in 1998*

## Youth

Campaigns will be organised by each NS (in schools, youth camps, at sports events, through drama etc.), developed by the youth department of each NS, targeted especially at urban youth, in co-operation with schools and other organisations.

## Institutional Development

In order to increase managerial capacities of the NSs, workshops will be conducted for members of regional and local committees involved in technical programmes (Youth, Health, First Aid, Preparation for man-made, health and natural disasters). These will cover the areas of resource management (human, material, finances), assessment of needs, mobilisation of volunteers, reporting, fund-raising and monitoring.

The programme of self-evaluation, which started in 1996, will continue. Priority will be given to launching this process with the National Societies of Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Equatorial Guinea and Chad. In Cameroon, Congo and Central African Republic assistance will be provided in the elaboration of a development plan. Depending on funding, a Development Delegate will be provided to the National Societies of Gabon and Chad.

Support will be given to the National Societies of Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad and Congo by the Regional Finance Delegate to help them establish sound financial procedures

## Telecommunications

An analysis will be made into the existing systems of communication in each National Society and in the region and appropriate systems established with the help of the Secretariat.

## Resource Development

The identification of funding needs will be part of the Health, Relief, Youth, and Institutional Development programmes. Workshops are planned with each of the National Societies in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad and Gabon to identify local funding sources. Disbursement of seed money to start small scale income generating projects for regional and local committees in all seven NSs is planned.

## Community Health & First Aid

One hundred persons in selected NSs will be trained as trainers and technical supervisors in First Aid and Community Health for the prevention and early intervention of cholera, meningitis, Ebola, diarrhoea and related endemic diseases.

Existing training modules and materials for sensitisation and information campaigns concerning cholera, meningitis and Ebola will be translated into local languages and put at the disposal of the NSs concerned.

For HIV/AIDS/STD, the programme of peer education via the regional network will continue. In order to ensure timely response to the most common epidemics in the region, emergency reserves in cash and kind (kits, and medical material) are needed at the Regional Delegation.

## Preparedness

Workshops in systems of relief and logistics in the event of conflict or natural disasters will be organised for representatives of each NS. In Central African Republic, Congo and Cameroon 20 representatives from local and regional committees will be given a one week training in systems for relief, including basic logistics. Assessment missions for the logistical needs of the National Societies of Chad, Congo, Cameroon, and Central African Republic are planned.

Emergency stocks with basic non-food items and the necessary management systems will be put at the disposal of the National Societies of Congo, Central African Republic and Cameroon.

The Regional Delegation will assist the National Societies of Cameroon, Chad and Central African Republic to manage early warning systems to deal with natural disasters.

Assistance will be given to Chad Red Cross in determining a strategy for the response to reoccurring drought.

#### **Regional Co-operation**

The Regional Delegation will facilitate regional networking by supporting regular circulation of information between NSs and organising consultation meetings on an annual and an ad hoc basis as needed.