

GREAT LAKES - REGIONAL PROGRAMME

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO - REHABILITATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

After nine months of civil war, the troops of the Alliance of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (AFDL) seized control of Kinshasa in May 1997. Laurent-Desire Kabila, former leader of the AFDL, declared himself President of the new Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Five months after the change of government, with a number of indicators inviting cautious optimism regarding the economic and social redevelopment of the country, the new Government is still putting plans for health, social welfare and other infrastructure into place. In the meantime, there are still huge needs all over the country, making the work of the National Red Cross Society, supported by the International Federation, as vital for 1998 as it has been in the past.

Following violence in Brazzaville, thousands of refugees crossed the Congo river to seek asylum in Kinshasa in July.

THE OPERATION

The Federation Delegation in the DRC was opened in April 1997, with a mandate to focus on the Institutional Development of the Democratic Republic of Congo Red Cross Society, or DRCRCS, (then Croix-Rouge du Zaire) and on a large, ECHO-financed, Disaster Preparedness (DP) programme. A 36-member Development Commission was formed including directors and co-ordinators from the National Headquarters and five Presidents from provincial branches. The Commission produced a self-evaluation document and a set of recommendations for the future, which forms the basis for the Institutional Development activities proposed for 1998.

DP activities in 1997 included training of trainers in Kinshasa and the regions on population movement and Community Based First Aid (CBFA). These activities led to the preparation of a national DP plan, which will be finalised during 1998. The main emphasis of this plan will be on relief training and management.

Relief activities include the continuation of the Matadi project (support to 13 dispensaries and schools serving a population of 25,500 refugees in Bas-Congo), distribution of food and non-food to over 25,000 vulnerable in Kinshasa, distribution of medicines and medical supplies to nearby provinces, and the assistance to almost 30,000 refugees from Brazzaville.

OBJECTIVES OF THE OPERATION IN 1998

- { To improve the foundation, capacity and performance of the DRCRCS;
- { to improve the foundation, capacity and performance of the Provincial Committees of the four priority Provinces (Haut Congo, Kasai Oriental, Equateur, Kinshasa) identified by the National Society's development plan;
- { to provide better access to drinking water for 700,000 inhabitants of Mbuji-Mayi and for 40,000 displaced in Tshibombo;
- { to provide assistance in the health, educational and infrastructures to over 25,000 refugees of mixed nationality living in Bas-Congo;

{ to provide assistance to over 30,000 refugees from Brazzaville in Kinkole camp, close to Kinshasa.

PLAN OF ACTION

Institutional Development: Prepare and organise assemblies at provincial level, including self-evaluations leading to the holding of the General Assembly by the end of 1998; improve communication between Headquarters and provincial branches; finalise the three-year development plan; set up and implement systems and procedures for the financial management of the National Society, at headquarters level and in the four target provinces.

Branch Development: An outline Branch Development plan has been formulated, after detailed discussions between the Federation Delegation, the National Society and representatives from the Secretariat in Geneva. All sides show a strong commitment to Branch development, and a detailed plan, encompassing training workshops, CBFA, Emergency Response, rehabilitation of buildings, dissemination of Red Cross/Red Crescent principles, health and other training will be issued in the first part of 1998.

Water rehabilitation in Mbuji-Mayi: Construct a micro hydro-electric power station (1,300 kW) on the Mbuji-Mayi river to provide electricity to the existing water distribution network, and set up of a system to sell the excess of electricity produced as an income-generating activity.

Matadi: Support 13 Red Cross dispensaries, including supervision of activities, medicines and medical supplies, salaries and training for the health staff, and financial support; support schools, including distribution of supplies and construction/rehabilitation works; small construction and rehabilitation activities (water/sanitation and infrastructure)

Kinkole: Camp management, including construction and maintenance of the infrastructures (*blindés*, latrines, communal buildings); distribution food and non-food commodities; preventive and curative health services, including a dispensary, a 30-bed clinic, the referral of patients to nearby hospitals, and various community health activities.

CAPACITY

Three months of self-evaluation of the DRCRCS showed the limits of the national Society in terms of foundation, capacity and performance. This justifies the large investment (almost 25% of the appeal) in the development of potentially one of the strongest National Societies in Africa.

The programmes in the 1998 appeal need the support of a Federation Delegation staffed by 12 delegates. Three Branch Development Delegates will support the activities of the Provincial Committees of Kisangani, Mbuji-Mayi and Mbandaka. They will report to a Branch Development Co-ordinator, who will also support the activities of the Kinshasa Provincial Committee. A Development Co-ordinator, reporting to the Head of Delegation, will oversee all developmental activities, branch development on one side and the General assembly on the other. Two delegates (Health Co-ordinator and Camp Manager) will work on the Kinkole programme, while one Logistics Co-ordinator and one Finance/administration Delegate will serve the entire Delegation. The Matadi and Mbuji-Mayi projects will have one delegate each.

CO-OPERATION

The Federation and the ICRC are both fully supportive of the development of the national Society. The two organisations carried out a number of joint activities during 1997, and are expected to contribute equally to the General Assembly in 1998.

Relief activities will be implemented in full co-operation with UNHCR, WFP and other non-UN partners.

BURUNDI - ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

Towards the end of 1997 the Government of began to dismantle the regroupment camps and the inhabitants started to return to their villages. While this development is seen as positive, it has in effect opened new avenues of assistance. It has also prompted the Burundi Red Cross Society (BRCS) and the Federation Delegation to re-evaluate plans for 1998. It is now more important than ever to augment the capacity of the National Society to deliver services throughout the country, to aid a population on the move, to continue with ongoing activities, and to reconstitute the Disaster Preparedness (DP) stock in anticipation of repatriation of refugees living in surrounding countries.

THE OPERATION

The operation includes aid to the most vulnerable, assistance to returnees in two transit camps, Institutional Development of the BRCS, Community Health and Community Development.

OBJECTIVES OF THE OPERATION IN 1998

- { To give assistance in the form of non-food items to up to 15% of the most vulnerable;
- { to provide a stock of non-food items for the DP programme to support 100,000 beneficiaries (most likely returnees from surrounding countries);
- { to provide support to transit camps in Gatumba and Mugano in collaboration with UNHCR and WFP;
- { to support branch development and activities in 11 provinces;
- { to rehabilitate and utilise community health centres;
- { to provide the means for provincial committees to institute community based programmes, revenue generation and to respond to emergency needs in their provinces.

PLAN OF ACTION

Institutional development: Volunteers in 11 provinces will be recruited and trained. The goal is to be present in 11 of 12 provinces by the end of 1998. Each province will institute up to three projects designed to the needs of the community, including community development and revenue generation projects. Training in the planning, implementation and management will be a driving force for branch development.

Aid to the Most Vulnerable: Soap, used clothing, blankets and kitchen utensils will be distributed to targeted groups three times in 1998, assisting some 80,000 beneficiaries.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: Plastic sheeting, blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets and soap for 100,000 beneficiaries will be stocked. The programme will include training of the BRCS at all levels in disaster response, logistics and management.

Transit Camps in Mugano and Gatumba: Distribution of food (WFP) and non food items (UNHCR) to repatriates transiting these two centres will be continued. BRCS/Federation will also construct and repair shelters, distribution centres and health centres as needed.

Community Health: Four community health centres will be rehabilitated and used for training of traditional mid-wives, education in preventive health and nutrition. In the 11 provinces 80 latrines and

80 sources of potable water will be built. It is hoped that their construction, and training of local people during construction, will result in a replication of the project throughout the provinces.

Community Development: In each province at least two community development projects will be instituted. Already planned are homes for street children, programmes for the support of women, vegetable production, seed multiplication, bee-keeping and brick making.

CAPACITY

There are active committees in seven of the country's 12 provinces, each having up to 100 trained volunteers. The Society has 1,500 active members. Seven delegates are envisaged for 1998: Head of Delegation, Finance Administration, Logistics, Head of Sub-Delegation, Health, Development and Relief.

RWANDA - REHABILITATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The emergency period is over but many problems delay the process of rehabilitation and development in Rwanda. Insecurity prevails, living conditions are generally poor, suspicion and resentment are rife, as are malaria, HIV/AIDS, and other diseases. The problems of street children, orphans, children as heads of families and young demobilised soldiers are evident everywhere. There is a high proportion war-affected women who are often left without support.

THE OPERATION

The operation is designed to enhance the National Society's capability to address the needs of the most vulnerable, to reinforce the ability and capacity of the communities to face emergencies and crises, and to respond to their needs for self-sufficiency in various domains. In 1998 the Rwandan Red Cross Society (RRCS) will again concentrate on relief, rehabilitation and development programmes, intended to give material help and to diffuse potential sources of conflict.

OBJECTIVES OF THE OPERATION IN 1998

- { To have an effective community based health programme active in 11 out of 12 Prefectures by the end of 1998;
- { to develop a strategy for intervention in the event of future disasters in co-ordination with Government plans;
- { to alleviate potential tensions in the population through the construction and rehabilitation of houses;
- { to continue with the current school feeding that assists students at secondary level to remain in school;
- { to assist the most vulnerable in the country to achieve food security through the distribution of a minimum level of food;
- { to augment the capacity of the RRCS to provide services in 11 out of 12 prefectures.

PLAN OF ACTION

Community Based First Aid (CBFA): At the end of 1998, the communities affected by the programme will be able to plan and implement hygiene education, vaccination, nutrition, maternal and child health including family planning, and prevention of STD/AIDS projects and to develop the capabilities of their members through initial and secondary training of 360 CBFA volunteers.

Disaster Preparedness : Areas at risk and risk factors will be identified, and a disaster response plan devised; training for emergency response units at prefectural level will be organised and infrastructures for each of the 12 prefectures will be developed.

Rehabilitation/construction programme: This programme will help at least 500 families to restore or construct their houses with the assistance of local authorities.

School Feeding Programme: At least 16,000 food rations will be provided each month to secondary school pupils in the prefectures of Butare, Gitarama, Ruhungeri and Gisenyi.

Emergency aid: The emergency aid programme will be consolidated to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable by providing essential food for at least 60,000 people.

Project for the Advancement of Women: Thirty young women and girls from the most vulnerable poor districts of Kigali will be trained in dressmaking and embroidery.

Training and Branch Development Programme: Secondary training will be given to 72 members of the 12 prefectural committees and the 420 members of existing communal committees in committee management and awareness. Special attention will be given to youth sections by holding two work camps on construction projects at two housing sites for the vulnerable, through international exchange visits with neighbouring countries, and through the recruitment and training of members of 60 new youth sections.

Institutional Development Programme: This programme seeks to improve financial, accounting systems, material and human resources management systems by establishing and observing procedures, aiming at a higher staff participation in decision-making processes and carrying out continuous improvement and control. The image of RRCS will be strengthened by information/dissemination activities and the organisation and management of a documentation centre.

Resource Development: The aim is to improve the existing potential and encourage new income-generating projects to further the National Society's self-financing capabilities. Projects planned include an ambulance service and development of property owned by RRCS. The appointment of a Resource Development Delegate would be useful in determining the feasibility of the programmes.

CAPACITY

The RRCS has 40,000 members, 60 local committees at communal level, and 84 youth sections with more than 5,000 members. Committees have been established in all 12 prefectures. The plan is to follow a policy of decentralised management around coherent and integrated relief, rehabilitation and development programmes, with and for the most vulnerable communities.

The Federation Delegation is expected to be composed of a Head of Delegation and seven delegates to assist RRCS in the implementation of the above-mentioned programmes.

TANZANIA: AID TO BURUNDIAN AND CONGOLESE REFUGEES

Tanzania continues to host thousands of refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Burundian caseload is expected to grow from its present figure of 75,000 as international efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict have yielded few results. The future of the DRC refugees, 34,000 of whom are cared for by Tanzanian Red Cross Society (TRCS)/Federation in Lugufu camp, will be affected by the successful implementation of an August 1977 tripartite agreement.

THE OPERATION

TRCS/Federation have assumed responsibility for 27,750 Burundian refugees in Moyovosi, Kasulu District, where they provide camp management, curative and preventive health. A further 44,000 are supplied with curative and preventive health care in Mtabila camp and water and sanitation in Mtabila Extension. For the 34,800 Congolese Refugees in Lugufu, Kigoma District, responsibilities include Camp management, health, water and sanitation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE OPERATION IN 1998

- { To provide humanitarian assistance to the refugee population and to build self-reliance for eventual repatriation;
- { to build TRCS' capacity through the relief operation to strengthen management structures, internal systems and skills;
- { to strengthen disaster preparedness and the ability to respond to any new emergencies occurring along the western refugee corridor.

PLAN OF ACTION

Good nutrition and health will be achieved through regular distribution of basic food rations to refugees in Moyovosi and Lugufu; surveys in all camps to assure nutritional levels are being met; supplementary and therapeutic feeding where appropriate to meet particular needs, and addressing social and medical causes for malnutrition.

Preventive health services include vaccinations, health education and information and surveys. Curative health care will include upgrading access to care through construction and staffing of an additional OPD in Mtabila and adequate extension services in Lugufu. TRCS Health Information Teams will continue to be trained and deployed.

Training of TRCS staff in surgical and postoperative care will take place in Lugufu and similar support will be available to Health Department staff in the Kasulu District Hospital, benefiting the local population as well as the Kasulu camps.

In Mtabila Extension and Lugufu, the TRCS/Federation will deliver a minimum of 15 litres of treated water per person per day of water. Family latrines will be constructed to meet the UNHCR benchmark of 80% coverage. Vector control measures will contribute to a reduction in malaria morbidity.

The branch structure along the western corridor will be developed, especially in and around Kigoma/Kasulu/Ngara, in co-ordination with the national DP Plan.

Care will be taken to harmonise any assistance with the services available to the local host communities and assistance may be offered to Tanzanian people to avoid tensions, to be equitable and to leave the local population with stronger facilities and coping mechanisms after the refugees leave.

Dissemination of Red Cross/Red Crescent ideals and values will be undertaken with special target groups including all TRCS volunteers and refugee staff.

CAPACITY

TRCS is well placed to respond to the needs of refugees, having acquired much experience working with refugee populations through the years. The Society enjoys good contacts and the confidence of the Tanzanian Government. It has a bilateral implementing partnership contract with UNHCR to provide camp management for 100,000 refugees in Ngara.

Acknowledging the strengths that exist and the opportunity created by the relief operation to build capacity within the Society, a Co-operation Agreement was signed between TRCS and Federation in April 1997. This Agreement provides for TRCS management of the refugee relief operation, with the Federation contributing technical advice, financial and material resources and assistance in accounting for these resources. TRCS will manage the operation in accordance with standard Federation procedures. The experience of management responsibility, the organisation and systems developed and the new procedures adopted enhance the institutional capacity and the ability of the Society to respond to future disasters, including population movements.

The Delegation strength during 1998 will be 18.

CO-ORDINATION

The Central Co-ordinating Unit of the TRCS will provide the vehicle for participatory and multi-disciplinary management. Co-ordination of activities and plans will be achieved through regular meetings and contacts with authorities, with UNHCR, with ICRC and with other agencies working in the same field.

UGANDA: REFUGEES

The refugee situation in south-western Uganda has changed dramatically in the past year. The conflict in the former Zaire in the first half of 1997 had a profound effect in Uganda. Voluntary repatriations of ex-Zairian refugees led to the closure of all but two of the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS)/Federation camps.

The URCS/Federation relief operation in south-western Uganda is comprised of refugees in the camps of Orukinga and Nakivale in Mbarara District. Sporadic security incidents in and around Orukinga camp have continued throughout the year and it is unlikely that these camps will close for some time.

The current famine/drought in the north-east of Uganda is being monitored and intervention by URCS/Federation is underway, with needs generally covered by EU and WFP.

THE OPERATION

URCS/Federation took over the care of refugees in Nakivale and Orukinga camps in the southwest of the country in 1994. The refugees in Nakivale are from DRC, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia and include a group of Rwandan refugees who came into Uganda in 1990. All of the refugees in Orukinga are Hutus from Rwanda who arrived since 1994. The number of refugees in both camps has decreased, (to 3,000 in Nakivale and 13,000 in Orukinga), but, given the ebb and flow of populations in the Great Lakes area, a figure of 20,000 is being used for the development of this programme.

OBJECTIVES OF THE OPERATION IN 1998

{ The focus of the Nakivale and Orukinga refugee operation during 1998 will be on health, including water and sanitation, social services, education, construction and relief distribution. Refugee assistance will be at care and maintenance level as no permanent settlement is approved for the two camps.

Relief to refugees in Nakivale and Orukinga camps: Effective and efficient relief assistance (distribution of food and non-food items, adequate shelter and maintenance of existing infrastructure) will be provided as well as basic health care including supply and maintenance of safe water and sanitation services. Self-reliance, participation and welfare through community services, education, income-generating activities, vocational training and basic social services will be promoted.

Disaster Preparedness (DP): The capacity of Red Cross branches located in disaster-prone areas will be strengthened DP stocks and funding for quick intervention established; Close collaboration with the Government will be maintained in its preparation of a National Disaster Response Plan and with ICRC and UNHCR in the development and execution of the URCS DP plan.

Dissemination of RC/RC principles: Promote the fundamental principles of the Movement, International Humanitarian Law and basic human rights will be highlighted.

PLAN OF ACTION

Relief Activities: 15-day food distribution schedules will continue according to rations prescribed by WFP/UNHCR for 20,000 refugees in Orukinga and Nakivale camps. Assorted non-food items will be distributed as and when made available. Continuous food basket monitoring will be conducted to ensure that relief aid reaches target beneficiaries. Refugee shelters and existing buildings will be maintained and a supplementary feeding centre will be constructed in Nakivale camp.

Health: Basic health care will be continued for refugees in both camps, development workshops will be held for 40 health personnel and the health service will be integrated to meet National Health Guidelines.

Water and Sanitation: Clean water will be provided to 20,000 refugees and the local community. Ten boreholes and shallow wells will be constructed. Vector control in both camps will be carried out on a monthly basis at all health centres, schools, base camps and areas around the entrance to the camps. Four camp level pit latrines will be constructed and general repair and maintenance of all mass latrines will continue

Education: Educational and recreational services for the 1,300 refugee children in three primary schools and for adults will be continued. Skills training workshops will be held for refugees in the area of community health, sanitation, safe water and other community issues.

Social/Community service: The refugee community will be assisted with income-generating activities and support of vulnerable groups including the handicapped will be maintained. Training courses for social outreach workers (to decrease vulnerability to AIDS and other communicable diseases) will be conducted.

Disaster Preparedness activities: A DP working group will be formed to draft and print a disaster preparedness and response policy. DP guidelines for RC/RC branches will be developed and field tests conducted. Vulnerability capacity assessments will be held in 13 disaster-prone districts.

Dissemination: Briefings on the Fundamental Principles, humanitarian law and basic human rights will be organised, including a session on how to implement the key points of the Kampala Declaration at branch level.

CAPACITY

URCS has been involved in relief activities since its inception in 1963. Its experience in relief activities has facilitated on-the-job training in relief management for many staff and volunteers country wide. A new Disaster Preparedness and Relief Response unit has been established at National headquarters to ensure among other functions, proper maintenance of a skills inventory register.

The Delegation has a Head, Logistics Delegate, Finance/Administration Delegate and Relief Co-ordinator based in Kampala and a Head of sub-delegation and Water/Sanitation delegate in Mbarara. The number is likely to remain at six with roles changing as the emphasis shifts to development activities.

CO-OPERATION

Federation/URCS has recently signed a status agreement with the Government of Uganda and has close working relationships with UNHCR and ICRC.