

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

COTE D'IVOIRE: INTERNAL UNREST

24 October 2002

Information Bulletin N° 02

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 40,000

This Information Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. In coordination with the ICRC and the Red Cross of the Ivory Coast and based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation may consider launching an Emergency Appeal for international support.

The Situation

Following a month of intense fighting which first broke out between Ivorian government troops and insurgents in the three largest towns of the Ivory Coast -- Abidjan, Bouaké (centre) and Korhogo (north), both parties have agreed to a cease-fire brokered by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). With the insurgents controlling significant parts of northern and central Ivory Coast, the humanitarian situation in the country continues to be of concern. Persons who have chosen to leave their communities as a result of conflict or other violence have relocated with host families or have grouped in areas immediately outside the affected areas. While health, water, sanitation and shelter needs are not considered critical at present, there are food needs in some households..

The outcome of the current cease-fire and negotiations will determine whether the current humanitarian situation remains fairly stable or deteriorates sharply both within Ivory Coast and in neighbouring countries. The potential impact on the region is considered significant.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

CHF 40,000 was allocated from the Federation's (DREF) for this operation (funds have been received from the Swedish and British Red Cross to reimburse the DREF). The Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross (CRCI), under the overall coordination of the International Committee of the Red Cross, is assisting victims of the Ivorian conflict in various parts of the country (see Information Bulletin no. 1 for the initial Red Cross response). In collaboration with the ICRC, the CRCI is transporting food and nonfood items to displaced persons in Didiévi (south of Bouaké) and intends to increase its distribution in that area according to a reassessment of needs.

With the assistance of the ICRC, the Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross has set up mobile clinics in Bouaké where at least 150 patients are attended to on a daily basis and those with more serious health problems are evacuated to the University Hospital (CHU).

In a bid to avoid epidemic outbreak in Bouaké, Red Cross volunteers have been running a waste disposal service. They collect dustbins, thrash cans and dispose of them in a safe place. The government waste disposal board had stopped working since the fighting began.

The Red Cross, with the support of ICRC, has been distributing food assistance for about 10,000 persons to institutions (hospitals, orphanage, psychiatric clinic, etc) in and around Bouaké as well as to some neighbourhoods of the city accommodating particularly vulnerable persons.

In order to respond to the needs of the population fleeing Bouaké, the Red Cross has assisted the Catholic Mission in Didiévi, Mbaihakro and Yamoussoukro with food and non-food items. These missions serve most often as transit points for population before joining family members in other areas of the country. The Red Cross is Yamoussoukro assist the local hospital in receiving sick persons having fled Bouaké.

In order to prevent the spread of diseases and improve the hygiene in these transit points, the ICRC is presently setting up new toilets and repairing water taps and a second convoy of chemical products for the water supply systems in Bouaké and Korhogo has been delivered, in order to assure pure drinking water in the conflict area.

Following the outbreak of violence between local and immigrant farmers in the western provinces of the Côte d'Ivoire, ICRC assisted some 4,000 IDPs at the Catholic Mission in Duékoué with mats, plastic sheeting, blankets and soap. At present, the Red Cross distributes food from WFP to some 6,000 agricultural workers in Duékoué and Man.

The ICRC has provided medical material to the Ferkessedougou General and the Korhogo Regional Hospitals, all in northern Cote d'Ivoire. In Daloa, the Red Cross evacuated the wounded to the Daloa Regional Hospital and donated medical kits to the hospital.

The Regional Response Teams in Central & West Africa are working with the national societies in countries bordering the Cote d'Ivoire (notably Mali, Burkina-Faso and Niger) to prepare a mission in these countries from 28 October to 10 November to evaluate the needs of the returnees/ refugees, the potential for further population movement into these countries, the operational capacity of the local committees as well as their contingency plans.

International Federation Support for the Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross to date

The International Federation is fully supporting the capacity of the CRCI to meet the operational requirements described above. In coordination with the ICRC, the Federation has supported the capacity of the CRCI to respond to immediate humanitarian needs in the Cote d'Ivoire through the provision of first aid kits, relief supplies, logistic support and telecom equipment. The Delegation is also supporting the finance department of the CRCI in adapting systems to a more complex accounting environment.

First aid and relief supplies:

Item	Quantity
Sleeping mats	1,530
Blankets	2,625
First Aid kits (contents for renewing kits)	1,000

Logistics Support:

provision of fuel for operations
provision of vehicle for headquarters staff
provision of 8mt truck
funds for repair of 2 four wheel drive field vehicles
upgrading photocopying equipment
provision of fuel for operations

Telecoms equipment:

HF base station & equipment for key branches
VHF handheld units and spares for key branches
Telephone system for headquarters
Cellular telephone equipment

Federation support is intended to enable the CRCI to maintain its disaster response capacity throughout and beyond the present emergency situation; complementing the emergency support of the ICRC to the CRCI.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact:

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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