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West Coast Africa Region Annual Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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**This report covers
the period 01/01/2013
to 31/12/2013.**

*A water point constructed for
communities in Ndri Koffikro, Cote
d'Ivoire.
2013/IFRC*



Overview

The West Coast Regional Representation (WCRR) programme is guided by the long-term planning framework (LTPF) 2012- 2015 designed to direct technical support to Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo National Red Cross Societies. The year 2013 marks the mid-term of the LTPF implementation and the revision of the strategy to factor in developments in the humanitarian context and arising National Societies (NS) needs. The WCRR team increased in number and capacity to ensure adequate and efficient coverage of NS technical support needs. The IFRC team is arranged in a way that maintains proximity to the NS and concentrated where the programme requires intensified support such as in Nigeria, Liberia and Benin. The main focus this far has been programme development, management and governance training, enhancing disaster response capacity, resource mobilisation and performance monitoring.

Aligned to Strategy 2010, the set outcomes at various levels contributed to the global Business Lines' strategic objectives that are most relevant West Coast Africa (WC) context thus: *To grow humanitarian standards*; and *To strengthen Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to development*. The project's overall objective is to increase technical support on institutional strengthening to the

seven NS aimed at improving the quality of service delivery to most vulnerable people. For a budget of CHF 4.5 million, the collective support from our partners reached just over CHF 3.1 million by end of 2013.

Concerted efforts in humanitarian action remains paramount in West Coast where the populations in the seven countries recurrently succumb to the scourge of civil unrest, natural disasters, diseases aggravated by wide spread poverty. The inequalities in wealth distribution, limited access to amenities such health centre and schools leave the majority highly vulnerable, particularly the women and children. Responsively, the LTPF main stream programmes include disaster management (disaster risk reduction, response and preparedness), health and care (community-based health, water and sanitation, malaria, mother and child health, HIV and AIDS) and organisational development (NS development, PMER, and resource mobilisation).

Due to limited funding and human capacity and resources the disaster response operations are mostly supported by the IFRC disaster response emergency fund (DREF). The regional disaster management (DM) provided thematic support to the DREF operations whilst the PMER unit ensured regular monitoring and reporting. Logistics and human resource deployments including of the regional disaster response team (RDRT) members were some of the support services coordinated by the WCRR.

The strengthened PMER technical support ensured direct support to NS in monitoring, reporting, project design and strategic plan reviews. The finance development initiatives engaged in Liberia and Benin immensely contributed to strengthening NS accountability and transparency. However, more remains to be done in support the NS ailing with poor governance and management, thus a refocus for the remaining year of the LTPF implementation.

The WCRR has been challenged to increase effort on improving membership service delivery particularly on NS development and in emergency operations. In that light, the WCRR during the third quarter of 2013 re-strategized its priorities to becoming more country focused. Two NS were selected for intensified capacity building on programme development and resource mobilisation, thus Ghana and Nigeria. Work has begun with capacity mapping and programme reviews. We are indebted to all our partners and donors for their support that has enabled the WCRR to support the NS to deliver quality services, at the same time strengthening their capacity. Our efforts could not be realised without the efforts of our members and implementing partners – the NS, their commitment and vibrancy in serving the vulnerable people is highly appreciated.

Working in partnership

In West Coast region we had the privilege of receiving funding and material resources from partner national societies, international organisations, government departments, diplomatic missions and corporate bodies.

Table 2: Partners' areas of focus since 2012

Name of Partner	Programme supported	Location
British Red Cross	DM, CAR	Liberia
Canadian Red Cross	DM, WASH/CBHP, MNCH,	Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire
Danish Red Cross	CBH,DM,CBHP	Liberia
Finnish Red Cross	CBHFA, OD	Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana
Japanese Red Cross	DM, MNCH	Benin, Ghana, Nigeria

Netherlands Red Cross	OD	Liberia
Norwegian Red Cross	CAR, HV	Liberia
Icelandic Red Cross	CBH	Cote d'Ivoire
Spanish Red Cross	HV, WIN	Liberia
Swedish Red Cross	CAR, DM, CBHFA, HV	Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire
Swiss Red Cross	CBH	Ghana
ICRC	RDC, OD	Liberia, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo
DFID	DRR, OD, FS, CBHFA	Benin, Cote d'Ivoire Ghana, Sierra Leone
Irish Aid	DRR, OD, FS, CBHFA	Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Sierra Leone
Nestle	WatSan	Cote d'Ivoire
Japanese Government	DM, OD	Benin
ECHO/EU	DM, Health	Sierra Leone, Nigeria
Government Departments	DN, Health, OD	All seven NS
Swiss Humanitarian Aid	CBH	Ghana
United Nations Development Programme	DM	Sierra Leone
United Nations Foundation	Health/Malaria Operations Research	Togo

The main challenge of our partnerships is the timeframe which are mostly short-term thus not sustainable in terms of supporting the development of the NS. Efforts to deliver our membership support are also thwarted by affordable short term technical support expertise due to the ad hoc funding structure. Accordingly key positions of programmes coordinator and finance managers and remained vacant during the last two years. In order to cover the gaps, the available international staff resorts to assuming multiple roles. Critically the need for long-term funding is unabated as this will ensure consistent and intensified support to the NS as well as meeting the objectives of the LTPF.

Progress towards outcomes

Business line 1: To raise humanitarian standards

Outcome: Uplifted thinking that inspires and underpins our services to maintain their relevance in a changing world, along with increased magnitude, quality and impact.

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<i>Output 1.1wc:</i> WC NS consistently contribute information to the databank with support of the WCRR			
1.1a) # of NS providing data on one or more FDRS key performance indicator	0	3NS	7 NS
<i>Output 1.2wc:</i> WC NS undertook a critical self-assessment (strength and weakness) and attain an OCAC certification			
1.2a) #of NS that have completed the self-capacity assessment	0	3NS	2 NS

and attained a certificate			
<i>Output 1.3wc:</i> Staff and volunteers in WC region participate in RCRC Movement learning platform and network			
1.3a) # of staff and volunteers who register and complete a course on the IFRC learning platform	3 at regional office	At least two staff member for each of the seven NS	At various levels, regional and NS staff participated in the IFRC learning platform

Comments on progress towards outcomes

This business unit has three less achievements since the activities are not directly linked to the WCRR strategy. Nevertheless, Ghana and Liberia are the NS that have undergone Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC), although Liberia did in February 2014. The OCAC Objective is “to enable NS to assess their own capacity and performance so as to determine the best approaches for their self-assessment, and also to acknowledge those NS that have reached a high level of proficiency.” The OCAC results have given direction to the Liberia Red Cross strategic plan revision in terms of highlighting strategic areas for improvement.

The regional human resource officer has been the focal point for supporting the NS to consistently update the databank. More is still to be done in this area, particularly enhancing the information technology (IT) hardware and software capacity for the NS. The improvement in IT will also help facilitate NS level staff to participate in RCRC Movement learning platform and network.

Business line 2: To grow Red Cross Red Crescent services for vulnerable people

Outcome: Relevant, speedy and effective humanitarian assistance by African National Societies

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<i>Output 2.1wc:</i> The preparedness and contingency planning capacities of the NS of Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo strengthened to respond the recurrent hazards			
2.1a) # of WC NS with contingency plans in place, up to date for all likely risks such as epidemics, floods, civil crises.	N/A	4 NS	4NS
2.1b) % of NS using standardized regional response assets (e.g. RDRT) during emergency operations	0	50%	80%
2.1c) # of WC NS with trained NDRT members in the current year	0	4 or more NDRT members trained per NS. 150 volunteers	2013 RDRT training deferred to first quarter of 2014. 175 in Cote d'Ivoire, 125

		in 4NS trained as CDRT.	Ghana, 70 in Liberia.
2.1d) Capacity of prepositioned relief stock	0	Relief items for 500 households in each country.	Regional stock prepositioned. Stocks for 3,450 persons prepositioned in Liberia
<i>Output: 2.2wc:</i> WC NS provided with adequate resources (logistics, financial and human resources) in preparing for, reducing risks and recovering from disasters and crises.			
2.2a) % of DREF (standalone) operations successfully implemented for small scale emergencies	100%	100%	All seven DREF operations successfully implemented
2.2b) # of people reached by international emergency response operations in WC region	TBA	TBD	200,000 directly and over two million indirectly reached.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

In disaster response, the WCRR plays a coordination role in resource mobilisation and technical support. In the last two years the regional office coordinated with Nigeria Red Cross the floods disaster operation delivered through an in-country IFRC team situated to directly assist the NS. The operation that closed end of February 2014 reached over 50,000 people with assistance to recover from the effects of devastating floods of 2012.

As stated earlier, DREF operations were commissioned in Benin, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Togo as shown in table 1 below.

Table 1: DREF operations in West Coast Africa Region in 2013

Country	Situation	DREF Code	Target Beneficiaries	Budget
Benin	Fire	MDRBJ011	2' 759	139'315
Sierra Leone	Fire	MDRSL004	2'253	167'769
Ghana	Cholera	MDRGH008	60'000	205'309
Ghana	Rain storm	MDRGH009	2'500	168'768
Benin	Floods	MDRBJ012	7'000	193'944
Benin	Cholera	MDRBJ013	45'000	241'154
Togo	Cholera	MDRTG004	80,000	154,913
TOTAL			199'512	CHF 1'271'172

Repeatedly the NS in West Coast are supported by the DREF for recurrent emergencies, a weakness attributed to lack of funding to support contingency plans. It has come to our attention the need for local resource mobilisation that will help the NS to promptly respond to emergencies before international support. Focus will be on increasing engagement with local government disaster management authorities through strengthening the NS auxiliary role. In addition, the WCRR to closely work with NS in developing disaster resilience and mitigation strategies including early warning systems for the communities at risk of the recurrent floods, drought and epidemics.

Business line 3: To strengthen the specific Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to development.

Outcome: Appropriate capacities built to address the upheavals created by global economic, social and demographic transitions that create gaps and vulnerability, and challenge the values of our common humanity.

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<i>Output 3.1wc:</i> Risks associated with climate change are known and reduced through mitigation and risk reduction interventions of WC NS			
3.1a) # of NS with participatory risk reduction programmes in high risk communities	2NS	5 NS	7 NS
3.1b) # of volunteers trained in community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) and climate change adaptation approaches	Volunteers trained in a number of NS	2,000 volunteer sensitized on CBDRR and climate change adaptation.	In Ghana, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Nigeria (approximately 1,500).
<i>Output 3.2wc:</i> The WC NS capacity to implement food security interventions is strengthened			
3.2a) Number of livelihood support programmes established in food insecure countries	Ghana	4 NS	Benin, Ghana, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, and Liberia.
3.2b) Number of communities sensitised on nutrition	Ghana	4 NS	Two in Ghana, one in Benin, one in Cote d'Ivoire, one in Sierra Leone.
3.3wc: WC NS health services strengthened through execution of the community-based health and First Aid approach			
3.3a) # of NS utilising the CBHFA approach		7 NS	52 CBH training sessions. 1,283 Red Cross volunteers trained in CBHFA (688 in Togo, 270 on

			DREFs, 175 on CHBHA in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, 150 in Liberia). 153 community-based volunteers (65 in Ghana, 65 in Cote d'Ivoire, 23 in Liberia).
3.3b) # of WC NS supporting immunisation activities (routine or campaigns) during the current year		3 NS	5 NS
3.3c) # of HIV and AIDS prevention and home-based care projects in the region		4 projects	Nigeria, Liberia, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire
Output WatSan: WC NS supported to implement sustainable water and sanitation (WatSan) projects that increase awareness in health and hygiene through PHAST approach			
3.3d) # of NS with WatSan activities during the year	2	Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Benin, Liberia and Togo	Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Benin
3.3di) # of households that use safe water and practice safe water storage and conservation methods		40 community water points rehabilitated. 80% of target household using safe water and safe storage methods.	105,088 households. 88 water points rehabilitated in Cote d'Ivoire.
3.3dii) # of people with access to sanitation facilities in WC NS target areas		40 community latrines constructed. 40 school latrines constructed.	1,683 family latrine with 54 in Cote d'Ivoire in 2013. 11 module 4 cabins in Benin.
3.3diii) # of people reached with hygiene promotion campaigns	51 in Cote d'Ivoire	40 safe conventional refuse dump sites per targeted community.	4,868 hygiene promotion sessions. 197 refuse dump sites. 2,689 disk racks installed 142 school hygiene clubs.
3.3div) # of community-based volunteers trained on hygiene promotions	Trained in Cote	In NS with CB projects	TBA

	d'Ivoire		
3.3dvi) # of established and functional Red Cross local committees with at least two members trained on monitoring and reporting.		In NS implementing WatSan projects	48 local committees. 197 committee members trained in monitoring. 65 community masons in Cote d'Ivoire and 33 in Benin. 16 hand pump mechanics trained.
<i>Output Blood Donation:</i> The supply of blood products to national blood transfusion centres is improved and benevolent have adopted risk-free behaviour			
3.3e) # of WC NS supported through First Aid to ensure supply of blood products to blood transfusion centres	0	4 NS	-
<i>Output Malaria:</i> Increased use of insecticide –treated bed nets (ITNs) to reduce maternal and child mortalities caused by malaria			
3.3f) # of NS conducting malaria prevention and control activities	Nigeria Togo	Nigeria Togo	511,500 ITNs distributed in Togo 195,000 families sleeping under ITNs in Togo.
<i>Output 3.4wc:</i> WC NS carry out activities aimed at reducing violence in communities targeting children youth and women empowerment			
3.4a) # of NS implementing activities aimed at reducing violence	3 NS	Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia	4 NS
3.4b) # of YABC peer educator who attend a skills-based training per year	0	30 youths	110 YABC
3.4c) # of NS that have youth policies and programmes and are implementing YABC	1NS	4 NS	4 NS
<i>Output 3.5w:</i> WC NS diversify income sources reducing dependence on single partner while maintaining and expanding existing and new partnerships			
3.1a) # of WC NS with more that 50% of their income generated domestically	Cote d'Ivoire	Benin, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia	In progress

Comments on progress towards outcomes

A special project on resilience and recovery was supported by the Japanese Red Cross in Benin

through which the Benin Red Cross assisted families affected by the 2012 floods and cholera disasters. The project implemented over a period of 11 months ensured the provision of shelter, water, sanitation, hygiene promotion and livelihoods/food security with all the components integrating community resilience capacity building to the families affected.



Picture 2: IEC materials used to disseminate health and care messages in Nigeria

Community-based health (CBH) is geared towards becoming a flagship programme in the WC region with Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia receiving IFRC in-country technical support. The community-based health and First Aid (CBHFA) approach has been effectively streamlined in health programmes in Liberia, Ghana and Benin and Cote d'Ivoire. Under the CBH, water and sanitation issues were addressed through projects implemented in Cote d'Ivoire supported through a long-term partnership with Nestle, and in Sierra Leone, Benin and Ghana under the Irish Aid project and Liberia as a sub-

project of the CBH programme. The main accomplishments include the rehabilitation of water points in Cote d'Ivoire and Benin. In Ghana, Togo and Benin the trained volunteers reached thousands of people through hygiene promotion.

The regional disaster response team which was planned for 2013 was deferred to first quarter of 2014 under the project extension of the Japanese supported project in Benin. Representatives from West and Central Africa NS attended the training focused on WatSan in emergencies.

On institutional capacity development, the NS received assistance in the development and some in the revision of their strategic documents and policies. The finance development process immensely contributed to strengthening accountability and transparency by ensuring adherence to best practices and international standard.

On the other hand the deteriorating security delayed implementation of project in a number of countries such as relief distribution in Imo State and IEC materials in Bayelsa, Niger and Plateau under the floods emergency operation. In Cote d'Ivoire there are still rumours of ethnic groups and civil upheavals towards elections and in anticipation of change in government. Climatic changes also thwarted implementation. An example is Benin where heavy rains during the third quarter of 2013 delayed WatSan rehabilitation/construction activities, which prompted IFRC to request for a two-month no-cost extension to allow project completion. Social mobilization and field activities are hampered during that time as witnessed also in Cote d'Ivoire CBH and WatSan project areas.

Coupled with limited number of road worthy vehicles, NS in WC region found it difficult to reach some areas due to poor road networks, thus delaying implementation. A practical example is of the 12 targeted states in Nigeria covering vast area of the country and due to limited means of transportation, distribution of relief items and emergency shelter assistance had to be extended by six weeks. Likewise the communities targeted through recovery shelter assistance were many hours from each other by road, which made monitoring and supervision challenging.

Business line 4: To heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work.

Outcome: Evidence-based humanitarian diplomacy conducted to draw attention to the causes and consequences of vulnerability, giving voice to vulnerable people, and demonstrating the value of Red Cross Red Crescent humanitarian work and leadership.

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<i>Output 4.1wc:</i> Improved representation and advocacy for Red Cross Red Crescent activities in the region			
4.1a) # of NS supported in formal meetings with local authorities and regional bodies such as ECOWAS	7 NS	Continue in 7 NS	4 NS
<i>Output 4.2wc:</i> WC NS provided with tailored support to adopt and/or amend their legislation and further develop their auxiliary role to public authorities			
4.2a) # of WC NS with updated Act/Statutes in the last five years	0	Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Benin	Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire
<i>Output 4.3wc:</i> The resource mobilisation capacity of NS is strengthened to inspire reliable contributions to their programmes and operations			
4.3a) # of NS provided with resource mobilisation capacity	NA	Benin, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Sierra Leone	4 Nigeria, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin
4.3b) % coverage of emergency appeals opened in the reporting year	80%	90%	90%
4.3c) % annual coverage of funding outlooks for development programmes supported through IFRC Secretariat	TBA	80%	60%

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Although resources failed the WCRR to host a partnership meeting in 2013, the regional representation ensured that partners and key stakeholders were informed of new developments and changes. Feedback from the partners helped the WCRR to streamline programmes keeping them relevant, realistic and cost effective. The WCRR also hosted regional representatives of PNS, external partners such as ECHO, EU and Nestle, who visited the regional office on orientation mission. This helped improve partnerships and collaboration.

The NS continues with income generating activities (IGAs) although on a low scale aimed at improving own resource base. Community-based income generation activities were also a success particularly in Benin and Liberia where mothers clubs and girls clubs were empowered with various skills and equipment respectively. In Benin we also assisted group of disabled person with material and equipment for producing soap, oil and 'gari' (staple food) for sale. Ghana Red Cross through the pilot food security project supported mothers clubs with livelihood projects. The clubs are helping increase household food availability and income streams to cover small basic needs.



Picture 2&3: BRCS/IFRC handing over material and equipment for making soap, gari and other cooking product to the beneficiary group in Cotonou, Benin

Regular information dissemination sessions on Red Cross work and the Fundamental Principles were carried out in all NS to broaden the understanding among beneficiaries and stakeholders and created the platform for fostering relationships.

Business line 5: To deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability.

Outcome: More effective work among National Societies through modernised cooperation mechanisms and tools, and a greater sense of belonging, ownership, and trust in our International Federation.

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<i>Output 5.1wc:</i> Capacities and resources are shared to improve coherence, alignment and accountability within the IFRC			
5.1a) # of memorandum of understanding (MoU), letter of agreements (LoA) signed with Movement partners during the year	NA	TBD	3 in 2013
<i>Output 5.2wc:</i> WC programme network groups and regional network (West Coast Group) are promoted to optimise communication and dialogue between members and the Secretariat			
5.2a) # of NS network/cooperation meetings that take place during the year.	NA	2 NS	1 per year
<i>Output 5.3wc:</i> NS information technology (IT) improved enabling effective communication and information sharing within the organisation and externally with stakeholders			
5.3a) # of NS supported to improve communication capacity under the 'Digital Divide' project	Sierra Leone	Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Liberia	2 NS
<i>Output 5.4wc:</i> Vibrant and adaptive PMER system with relevant tools developed for seven NS in West Coast Region			
5.4a) # of NS with harmonised PMER procedures and tools	Sierra Leone has a PMER system	Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana developed PMER systems	4 which include; Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria
The quality, credibility, integrity and accuracy of PMER products enhanced through capacity building			
5.4b) # of NS programmes achieving planned targets as a result of enhanced PMER system	30 programmes and PMER attended PMER training in 2013	21 programme and PMER staff trained. One regional PMER training workshop	One regional French PMER training. 21 PMER and programme officers trained
West Coast Region has well-articulated and realistic plans that enable effective result-based management of all NS programmes			
5.4d) % of NS with active strategic plan referenced in operational planning and proposal writing	0	80%	4 NS
NS and regional programme ensure result-based programming by systematically tracking progress and outcomes			
5.4f) # of new programmes with baselines and/or assessments prior to implementation	0	All new projects or programmes	Project based baselines in Ghana, Liberia,

			Cote d'Ivoire
West Coast NS and regional programmes departments are efficient and effective in reporting enhancing credibility and accountability to all stakeholders			
5.4g) Annual reports, operations updates, final reports and pledge-based reports meet the IFRC standards and donor requirements of quality and timeliness	0	All	All
Robust, functional and user friendly result-based evaluation system provides evidence to inform strategy, programming, responses and learning			
5.4h) NS strategic and operational planning advised by evaluation results and lessons learnt	0	One regional	TBA
<i>Output 5.5wc:</i> Partner National Societies receive administrative and technical support from the Federation country offices			
5.5a: # of functional country offices in WC region	0	Liberia	Liberia
<i>Output 5.6wc:</i> Operating environment is continuously analysed to ensure the security of Federation Activities in WC region			
5.6a) % compliance with security regulations in IFRC operations	NA	TBA	YES

Comments on progress towards outcomes

With the hiring of the PMER delegate, a technical support strategy was developed although its implementation could not take off due to lack of funding. The funding support through the Zone PMER however supported a French PMER training held in December in Benin. The training was facilitated by the Zone PMER and ensured the dissemination of PMER tools and processes, whilst helping the NS with ideas to develop their own project specific monitoring and reporting systems.

The identified gaps are in monitoring and reporting capacity to which the regional PMER has ensured integration into the capacity building agenda. Programme staff at every level were supported in their involvement in monitoring activities through meetings and on-the-job training that focused on the use of project specific monitoring tools. The PMER unit also continued serving as quality assurance focal point; a development that strengthened accountability in the region.

A regional planning meeting, the first in West Coast region was also hosted by Benin Red Cross. Attended by NS programme coordinators and regional staff, the meeting objective was drafting of 2014 operations plans and identifying capacity gaps in terms of funding and expertise. The planning could be improved by the including the participation of partners present in the region, as their input into programme development is most valuable. The PMER also extended support to NS strategic plan development where Liberia Red Cross benefited throughout its strategy review process. Groundwork has been done in supporting Ghana Red Cross which has helped flag out a number of gaps in the strategic plan that needs urgent redress in view of the developments in the humanitarian context.

In support to the health and care a baseline survey was conducted also in Ghana to gather data on selected health indicators in the CBHFA project communities in Central and Brong Ahafo Regions. Participating in the survey empowered the volunteers in data collection whilst building their capacity on interviewing beneficiaries. The main result is of increasing their understanding of the importance of data collection and reporting in a project cycle.

A WatSan baseline survey was carried in all 65 target communities and 55 schools in Cote d'Ivoire. A total number of 14,497 persons and 2,947 school children were interviewed using responded interviews and focus group discussions. PMER continued supporting collection of statistical data on water-borne diseases in collaboration with local health authorities and NS branches.



Picture 4: The participants and volunteers at the West Coast annual regional planning and review meeting held in Cotonou, Benin

More could be achieved with the increased human and funding resources at NS level. The NS needs to hire focal person to guide and support the PMER activities. This will help the NS meet the PMER requirements of their partners including the IFRC.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

The WC NS adopted a participatory approach to programming that encourages active involvement of stakeholders including beneficiary communities. The development of community-based programmes include the participation of stakeholders from the planning phase through to the exiting phase. In 2013, the stakeholders thus participated in beneficiary selection, which contributed to the achievement of the objectives more importantly meeting the expected results and impact. Community-based committees comprising of beneficiaries were established, trained and provided with resources to actively increase participation in decision making, implementation and monitoring.

Government department collaboration and participation cannot be ignored. The NS increased participation at stakeholders meetings organised by government departments such as the ministries of health and the disaster management departments. Equally, the malaria prevention initiatives in Togo were closely supported by the Ministry of Health where the partnership with UNICEF has leveraged the gap in long lasting insecticide nets (LLINs). The Government of Benin through the Ministries of Health, Interior and Foreign Affairs collaborated in project monitoring visits, thus ensured relevant and possible improvement to the project.

We have also enjoyed the participation and feedback from embassies and other diplomatic missions. The Japanese Government through her Embassy in Benin was regularly informed of progress, whilst the Ambassador of Japan attended most of the Benin Red Cross stakeholders'

events. The IFRC WC regional representative made efforts to attend such event graced by ambassadors and other dignitaries to represent the IFRC interests. The regional representative also undertook courtesy visits to various institutions of the region, such as to the Country Representative of FAO, United Emirates Côte d'Ivoire and Benin, Ambassadors of Canada and Japan. Courtesy visits private sector companies include to Bank of Africa, Moov - Côte d'Ivoire. In pursuance of partnerships building, the RR profiled the WCRR and NS programmes and explored the possibility of collaborations.

In the context of relations building with different with the Movement the WC Regional Representative participated at different meetings and activities jointly with ICRC and Red Cross of Cote d'Ivoire, and paid the field visit to the WC NS. He also participated at the General Assembly and the Sydney meeting in Brussels.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
Political and civil instability	H	Contingency plans, focusing on cross boarder project sot serve the displaced and the host communities
Active participation in various humanitarian coordination meetings - Côte d'Ivoire	M	This will be continually encouraged in order to ensure that the NS maintains and benefits from relevant partnerships and networks.
Short-term funding to long-term projects	H	Increase efforts on building long-term partnerships. Embark on a local resource mobilisation drive targeting corporates with relevant social responsibility policies.
Staffing constraints at the regional representation	M	Increasing the core funding level for the region in order to support key positions.
Low funding levels for the WCRR and National Society programmes	M	Robust fundraising and profiling of the regional office and national societies through improved programming to be pursued.
High staff and volunteer attrition rate at both national and regional levels	M	Employ staff and volunteer motivation strategy, ensuring competitiveness in the labour market

Lessons learned and looking ahead

Community/beneficiary level

- Community approach adopted by NS as emphasized under the CBHFA approach is an effective tool to ensure ownership and sustainability of any project in target communities. In the conception phase of a project, community understanding of project sustainability/continuation plan is necessary.

- Community-based group sessions are a good platform that helps beneficiaries learn from each other's experiences and can serve as an avenue for peer education, thereby promoting participation.
- The empowerment of communities through the provision of tools for risks mitigation is a useful model for project sustainability/continuity plan after the phase-out of externally funded projects.
- Vulnerable women's involvement in peer education on gender, sexual reproductive health and women's rights makes communities to realise the project as their own; it also creates a feeling of solidarity by giving holistic approach to each individual need.
- Men sensitization and involvement in gender awareness reduces domestic violence in communities.

Volunteering

- The involvement and participation of the volunteer network in community-based activities increased the Red Cross Red Crescent visibility. It also strengthened the implementation of activities to reaching more vulnerable people.
- Strengthening capacity in terms of knowledge in the fight against malaria through the promotion of the use of LLINs is a real acquired skill for volunteers.
- In the Ghana hygiene promotion project, it was realized that the volunteers are doing very well in promoting hygiene by targeting common meeting places and advocating with community leaders. The process has increased participation of the community members and is sustainable it has become a community practice led by the chief and the elders.

Organisational level

- The infusion of board members from various professional backgrounds promoted learning, diversity and the general efficiency and effectiveness of the governing board.
- The NS have the ability to infuse dynamism and expand the potential of their resources by engaging the government and fostering local partnerships with the corporate sector.
- New media technology is necessary to enhance the NS communications programmes, to help position NS as reliable and credible humanitarian actor in their countries.
- The concentration on a limited number of municipalities reduced transaction costs and ensures economies of scale.
- To ensure sustainability, it is necessary to support institutional capacity not only that of service providers, but also that of government technical agencies outside the community who have the responsibility of post-project continuity.
- Some innovations will be needed to improve the mechanism for collecting and processing data, reporting and automated monitoring. Technical support is required to ensure baselines and reviews are done and quality and timeliness in reporting is improved
- Although the planning and review meeting yielded good results, future meeting should include the participation of PNS and key stakeholders such as Ministries of Health, Disaster Management coordinating bodies, ECOWAS, and corporates
- Information dissemination efforts have led to increased interest and reporting from the media organizations particularly in Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and Benin, where there is positive perception and acceptance of our work. The dissemination of the principles, values and activities of the Red Cross in communities and schools has enhanced participation in Red Cross activities at branch/chapters' level.

Looking ahead, the WCRR partners have been prioritizing support on capacity building of the NS to enable them continue with projects after their exit. In this respect, in-country delegates of the IFRC and PNS worked closely with NS staff for among other things the purpose of knowledge and skills transfer. Thus the IFRC kept in-country presence in Liberia, Nigeria, Benin and Cote d'Ivoire. There were discussions with the Benin Red Cross and partners on how to strengthen the capacity of local branches to ensure proper handover and continuation after closure of the project supported in-country by the IFRC. The same goes for Nigeria where the IFRC team was extended to second quarter of 2014, to ensure proper handover and skills transfer, among other operational reasons.

The WCRR technical team will continue enforcing the use of global strategies with broader objectives in order to open opportunities for partnerships, such as the IFRC GWSI and strategy 2020 applied throughout a project cycle. NS level systems and frameworks have been developed with the support of PNS, IFRC and the ICRC such as the gender policy, the Code of Conduct, the financial manual and procedure, procurement policy, etc. to promote and secure continuity of best practice.

The sustainability strategy revolves around developing and strengthening NS capacity and resource base; thus the WCRR continue encouraging NS to focus on local resource mobilisation, creating dialogue with government departments, community capacity building and empowering volunteers to carry out community based activities. A strengthened regional representation team will ensure that NS capacity building, resource mobilization and programme support initiatives, planned in the year are implemented and followed up.

Financial situation

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations](#) (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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