

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

LESOTHO

31 July 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

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA010; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January to June 2005; Appeal coverage: 136%; Outstanding needs: N/A

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

Appeal target: CHF 374,836 (USD 297,700 or EUR 241,400).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Programme summary: Lesotho Red Cross Society¹ collaborates with other organizations and, in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) is implementing food security projects in four areas. The national society also collaborates with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, hospitals, clinics and voluntary counselling and testing centres in delivering services to the most vulnerable people, especially those affected by HIV/AIDS.

The national society runs four health centres/clinics in Maseru, Mokhotlong and Leribe districts. The integrated community-based health care projects in Leribe and Maseru are closely linked to activities carried out in the clinics.

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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 (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). 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>

¹ Lesotho Red Cross Society- <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=102>

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Operational developments

According to UNAIDS 2004, the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Lesotho is at 29%. In the year 2000, the king declared HIV/AIDS a national disaster and has continued to use every opportunity to exhort citizens and partners of goodwill to do everything in their power to help control and manage the pandemic.

After the September 2000 5th Pan African Red Cross and Red Crescent conference (PAC) held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, the Lesotho Red Cross Society developed a five-year, 2002-2006, country programme on HIV/AIDS adhering to ARCHI 2010 strategy. The national society's strategy is in line with the government's strategic plan.

Lesotho Red Cross Society initiated an integrated community home-based care (ICHBC) programme in 2002, with the aim of improving the quality of life of persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), chronically sick people, tuberculosis (TB) patients and HIV/AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children (OCV). The programme is implemented in Mafeteng, Maseru, Berea and Leribe districts.

A bilateral agreement with the German Red Cross sustains the project in Berea and Leribe districts while the Federation funds the Mafeteng and Maseru districts projects. The new Federation's organisational development delegate started his mission in July and will support the national society's capacity building efforts and prove coaching to leadership.

Health and care : HIV/AIDS

Goal: Sustainable improvement in health and well-being of targeted vulnerable populations

Objective: The quality of life of 2,000 PLWHA and 1,000 OVC is improved and the risky behaviour of 2,000 youth is reduced.

Progress/Achievements

A total of 2,000 PLWHA and their families receive care and support

- After the initial training for project officers, PLWHA, care facilitators and stakeholders on the formulation of support groups in 2004, a total of eight support groups were established; two in Leribe and three each in Maseru and Mafeteng.
- The number of care facilitators increased in Berea and Leribe districts and they provided home-based care (HBC) in three new villages. The communities supported the training for the newly recruited care facilitators to ensure that they were equipped with skills and experience adequate to give appropriate support in new project areas.
- Following the death of three long serving volunteers, replacement facilitators were recruited and trained. The total number of care facilitators is now 127; 21 male and 106 female.
- The HBC activities expanded into Thaba Bosiu where care facilitators have already trained care providers. Many of the care providers were already working with the communities as village health workers prior to volunteering to join the Lesotho Red Cross Society project.

Care and support to PLWHA

- PLWHA are introduced to the HBC programme by community members and referrals from health centres. The national society's HBC provide the PLWHA with care and support including access to HIV/AIDS information and education, voluntary counselling and testing (VCT), prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT), tuberculosis (TB) and anti-retroviral therapy (ART) services. The project is being implemented in collaboration with the local health clinics and hospitals.
- In Maseru district, the project officer provided information on PMTCT to expectant mothers in local health clinics.
- The projects' care facilitators and providers regularly visited the PLWHA in Thaba Bosiu and Mafeteng and gave them blankets.

Promotion of prevention

- The theatre for development groups initiated by volunteers continued to perform around villages in Mafeteng, Maseru and Berea districts with the purpose of creating awareness on the HIV/AIDS prevention.

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During the visits, the theatre group members distributed information, education and communication (IEC) materials and condoms.

Table 1: HIV/AIDS project statistics

	Male	Female	Total
No. of clients registered in Jan to Jun	331	527	858
No. of clients who left the programme	24	38	62
No. of clients dead	40	61	101
No. of support groups formed			8
Referrals for VCT	9	70	79
Referrals for PMTCT		257	257
IEC meetings/community mobilization	188	212	400
No. of home visits to PLWHA			2975
No. of condoms distributed	HBC projects		28,569
	Other projects		29,990
	Total no of condoms		58,559

Reduction and eventual elimination of stigmatization and discrimination of PLWHA

- Lesotho Red Cross Society held a cultural day focusing on HIV/AIDS prevention, anti-stigma and promotion of non-discrimination for PLWHA and OVC in the Mafeteng district. The event, with the theme “the use of culture to fight HIV/AIDS”, was organized in collaboration with schools and other stakeholders in the district. The Minister of Gender, Youth and Recreational and guests from the ministries of health and social welfare, education and training and local government were the main speakers.

PLWHA and OVC benefit from income generating projects

- Care facilitators identified PLWHA and established support groups in four districts. Memory work training and writing of wills were also conducted by the care facilitators in the project areas. The eight support groups for PLWHA met twice a week for moral support and planned for development activities. Berea district has an OVC support group managed by the care facilitators.
- A total of 1,000 OVC received educational, material, psychological and social support. The number of the OVC beneficiaries in the Maseru district doubled to four hundred. The OVC programme initiated several income generating activities to enhance livelihoods.
- The 12 buddy groups in the Thaba Bosiu area were organized and provided with seeds for horticulture projects.
- Pigs and chickens were ordered with the purpose of supplying the groups. The principal chief of Thaba Bosiu, one local chief and other eight individuals provided fields for growing green vegetables for winter cropping.
- Grandparents-headed families were identified and provided with new houses to create enough space for the children sharing rooms with their grandparents. An assessment conducted prior to the implementation of the project identified the level of the demand and the maintenance work required. Mall houses were erected and 18 families were provided with vegetable seeds, second hand clothing, soaps and creams.
- Guardian/care committees were formulated with the purpose of providing relief to care facilitators in developing the mechanism of producing food for the OVC, fundraising and preparing nurseries that would provide seedlings to sustain the project.



Volunteers in one of the nutritional gardens run by the support groups

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- The national society provided psychosocial activities such as traditional dances, football matches and memory work for OVC and other children in the communities. The National Olympic Committee team participated in football competitions between OVC teams in the Thaba Bosiu.

Table 2: OVC Statistics

District	No of OVC
Thaba Bosiu	400
Berea and Leribe	686
Butha Buthe	1,400
Total	2,486

- OVC continued receiving food support under the German Red Cross-supported food security programme in Butha Buthe. Plans were forwarded for the exit strategy of the project and the Ministry of Agriculture was contacted to provide training on conservation farming regarded as a sustainable approach to farming to produce enough food for the OVC. The training also benefited guardians, stakeholders and other caregivers.

Table 3: Summary of support groups

District	No. of support groups	Type of support group	Activities plan
Maseru	3	PLWHA	Horticulture, popcorns, poultry and psychosocial support
	12	OVC/buddy group	Horticulture, poultry, Memory work, drama, traditional dances and access to health.
Berea	2	OVC	
Mafeteng	3	PLWHA	Horticulture, production of HIV/AIDS signs and poultry projects
Leribe	2	PLWHA	Horticulture, production of HIV/AIDS signs and poultry projects
Total	20		

PLWHA and OVC have access to VCT and medical care

- Refill materials for the care facilitator’s kits were procured and supplied to project officers for distribution in the four project areas.
- The four Lesotho Red Cross Society’s health clinics were provided with medicine, vaccines and medical supplies by the government. The Ministry of Health continued to pay salaries for the nurses in the clinics.

Impact

- Due to the national society’s efforts, in collaboration with the government and other organizations, PLWHA and OVC have access to VCT and medical care.
- Anti-stigma campaigns conducted in villages contributed to positive participation of the community members in supporting people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.
- At least 30% of OVC supported by the Lesotho Red Cross Society completed primary education while 10% of completed the high school level.
- More people have disclosed their HIV status and formed or joined support groups.

Health and care: First aid

Goal: Improved and maintained health status of vulnerable communities in the underserved areas through preventive, promotive and curative health care and rehabilitation.

Objective: community and commercial first aid training is promoted in the ten districts of the country.

Progress/Achievements

- Basic first aid training, an entry point that enables participants to proceed to taking general first aid training in the future, was conducted for various groups and organizations including factories and retailers, students and teachers in the Lesotho Opportunity Industrialization Centre. Employees of the Lesotho Brewing Company also received the same training.
- Lesotho Red Cross Society also conducts basic first aid training for nursing students at the Lesotho National Health Training Centre as part of their syllabus.
- Capacity building, in the form of general level 2 training, for volunteers and the divisional staff was provided and has prepared them to be instructors. Once provided with further training they will be able to train other people in the divisions.

Table 4: First aid training

Level of the training	Institution name	No. of participants
Basic-First Level	Factories	112
	Teachers and students	13
	Berea division	5
General- Second Level	Nursing students	38
	Lesotho Brewing company	11
Instructors	National society volunteers and staff	21

Impact

- Basic first aid training conducted for employees of the Lesotho Brewing Company will go a long way in minimising industrial accidents.
- The level 2 training provided to volunteers and the divisional staff will enable them to be instructors. Further training will equip them to train in the division.

Humanitarian values

Goal: The Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values are gradually known and respected throughout the country

Objective: To build a positive image, of the national society.

Progress/Achievements

- The national society continues to enjoy support from the local media which cover the Movement's activities. Activities of the national society have, since January 2005, been aired in at least 25 slots of 30 minutes each through the radio programme, 'Moithaopi'. The programme discussed among other issues the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem, the fundamental principles, international humanitarian law (IHL), and OVC. A total of 18 volunteers and ten staff members participated in the radio talk shows.
- The information department of the Lesotho Red Cross Society compiled, edited, printed and distributed the first issue of the national society's newsletter, 'Moithaopi' to all ten divisions. The department also contributed several articles on OVC to the Federation's website.
- Articles about the national society, the Federation and ICRC were published in local newspapers and broadcast on local radio stations and the national television, Lesotho TV.

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- During the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day celebrations, which took place in Maseru on 14 May, the information department distributed t-shirts, cups and plates bearing the theme, “Protecting Human Dignity”, among the participants.
- The national society exchanges publications such as newsletters, calendars and other educational documents with UN agencies, government ministries, non-governmental organizations and other international organizations.
- The national society also works together with the police, military and correctional services, by offering training on IHL and the Geneva Conventions to the personnel of the law enforcement agencies.

Impact

- By listening to the national society’s radio programme, community members have gained an understanding and knowledge of the humanitarian values as well as the role of the national society as an auxiliary to the government and the Movement in general.
- Members of the community have been able to read about the activities of the national society in the issue of ‘Moithaopi’, thus learning and appreciating its activities.
- The exchange of publications such as newsletters, calendars and other educational documents with UN agencies, government ministries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) has strengthened relationships.
- Working together with the police, military and correctional services, has increased the knowledge of the IHL and the Geneva Conventions amongst the personnel of the law enforcement agencies.

Constraints

- Lack of modern equipment, such as a digital camera, which can ensure the production of quality newsletters.
- Lack of transport makes it difficult for the information officer to collect first-hand information in the field.
- There is a need to produce a bilingual newsletter and accommodate both Sotho and English speakers.

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

APPEAL No. 05AA010

PLEDGES RECEIVED

04/08/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				374,836		136.5%
OPENING BALANCE				7,082		
BRITISH - DFID				387,203	01.05.05	DISASTER REDUCTION PHASE II ORGANISATIONAL
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		600,000	NOK	117,300	27.06.05	DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER MANAGEMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				511,585	CHF	136.5%

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	