

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

MALAWI

17 July 2005

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In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA011; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January to June 2005; Appeal coverage: 37.8%; Outstanding needs: CHF 535,493 (USD 418,354 or EUR 345,926).

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

Appeal target: CHF 860,784 (USD 683,700 or EUR 554,500).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Programme summary: The Malawi Red Cross Society¹ signed a memorandum of understanding with WFP to implement food distribution to chronically ill tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS patients in Salima and Karonga district. In Mwanza, Karonga, Zomba, Mchinji and Dowa districts beneficiaries have increased food production from winter cropping enabled by the small-scale treadle pumps irrigation project.

The water and sanitation team has completed the outstanding work from the 2003 project in Nkhotakota district and the 2004 project implementation began in June with a likelihood of being completed within 2005. A detailed assessment of the project area of Lilongwe district, Masula Traditional Authority was conducted based on the demand for water supply, sanitation, hygiene promotion and income pledged for 2005.

With support from the regional delegation and bilateral partners, including the Danish Red Cross and the American Red Cross, the National Society conducted a management review and analysis in August and September 2004. The review concentrated on governance and management, departmental structure and division, operational and financial management and human resource development. Plans are already underway for the development of the National Society's strategic plan. Two of the board members were assigned to assist in the development of a volunteer management policy.

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¹ Malawi Red Cross Society- <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=110>

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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>

Operational developments

Despite the humanitarian challenges facing Malawi, it is one of Africa's most politically stable countries. HIV/AIDS is a major challenge to the socio-economic development of the country, with most of the new infections occurring among 15 -24 years age group. By launching and gazetting a national HIV/AIDS policy in 2004, Malawi confronted the stigma and secrecy surrounding HIV/AIDS in Africa by engaging the public in dialogue and addressing contentious issues. The HIV/AIDS programme is receiving financial support from the Federation, Danish Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross and the National AIDS Council.

The government of Malawi is developing a decentralisation programme where local authorities will be empowered to implement programmes in their localities, with minimum control from the government departments. The district commissioners will be responsible and accountable for funds allocated to programmes in their localities. The Malawi Red Cross Society programmes such as community-based health (CBH), water and sanitation (WatSan) will be affected at community level, as local authorities are the major stakeholders. The government has also replaced the drug Revolving fund by introducing the essential health package (EHP) which allows people to access free drugs at district level. The National Society's health department has to streamline its programmes, taking into consideration the availability of free drugs through the EHP.

In an effort to make it more practical for humanitarian organisations implementing it on the ground, such the Malawi Red Cross Society, the national water and sanitation policy is under review. Access to safe water is still below 50% demanding scaling up on water and sanitation projects. Due to insufficient rains for the past season the already reduced water level will diminish, forcing the National Society to go for more expensive technology in drilling boreholes. The National Society water and sanitation department conducted a detailed assessment of the project area of Lilongwe district, Masula Traditional Authority, based on the demand for water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion and income pledged for the year. The operational budget will support approximately 10,000 beneficiaries in Masula in Lilongwe district. The number of beneficiaries and planned activities has been reduced by 50% due to low funding. The water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion project integrates with the Malawi Red Cross HIV/AIDS interventions in this area in the district.

The National Food Reserves Agency has recorded an approximately 800,000 metric tonnes deficit of maize yet the country requires a total of 2.1 million metric tonnes to get it through to the next harvest. The National Society provides 1,729 households with supplementary feeding in Samila districts. Volunteers are conducting HIV/AIDS prevention activities and nutritional campaigns alongside targeted food distributions in Salima, Karonga and Dowa districts.

Malawi Red Cross Society, through its disaster management department, is conducting community social activities in the Dzaleka and Luwani refugee camps. Due to the refugees' consistent movements in and out of the camps, it has become difficult to provide accurate statistics on their number: some have moved to the urban area to conduct self-help projects or small informal businesses. The official refugee population is however approximated at 8,000.

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Health and care: HIV/AIDS

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

Objective: Incidence of HIV infection in the community and staff has been reduced and quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS and their affected families and friends is improved

Progress/Achievements

Promotion of risk reduction behaviour

- The National Society has four HIV/AIDS prevention projects where care facilitators are conducting peer education training for youths and adults and disseminating messages through drama. The prevention activities target schools and the communities in general.

Promotion of non-discriminatory workplace environment

- A draft HIV/AIDS workplace policy has been developed and is awaiting approval of the board of governors.

Home-based care (HBC) for persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)

- The national Society has 12 HBC project with 1,726 PLWHA. A total of 191 PLWHA are on the government antiretroviral programme.
- The HBC facilitators have mobilised PLWHA to attend voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) and 77 have since been attended.
- There are six functional support groups with 353 members, and are helping in fighting stigma and discrimination through interaction in income generating activities.
- The HIV/AIDS department distributed 10,000 blankets to HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), the aged and disabled people in all the 28 divisions.
- The HIV/AIDS project, through HBC, is providing psychological support, memory project and support group services to 1,440 OVC. A total of 3,600 children are receiving material support, 120 getting educational support and 1,440 attending Red Cross day care centres.

Improved capacity to monitor and supervise activities

- The national HIV/AIDS programme coordinator attended the Southern Africa Regional AIDS Network (SARAN), a planning forum for regional National Societies HIV/AIDS coordinators and officers facilitated by the Federation, meeting held in Johannesburg in early June. Plan of actions were developed and knowledge, good practices and information on HIV/AIDS programmes developments shared at the meeting.

Impact

- The OVC in community childcare centres are assured of at least a meal a day and consequently improved nutritional status.
- The community involvement in care and support for OVC has increased as communities are able to mobilize themselves to build structures for community-based childcare.
- Community leaders are supporting volunteers in organizing campaigns.
- The HBC has helped to improve the quality of life for PLWHA. They are now expressing self-esteem.
- The SARAN meeting that the national HIV/AIDS programme coordinator attended provided a chance to share knowledge, good practices and information on HIV/AIDS programmes development.

Constraints

- Most of the households lack food security and require food aids to improve the quality of their nutritional status.
- The National Society's budget line for food is extremely inadequate to improve food availability for PLWHA and OVCs at the household level.
- The prevention component is not very strong in the HIV/AIDS project and focus on the activities needs to be scaled up.

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Health and care: Water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Goal: Sustainable improvement in health and well being for vulnerable population (20,000) in Mduwa territorial area, Lilongwe district by 2006.

Objective: Establishment of sound, sustainable environmental services for vulnerable population (20,000) in Mduwa territorial area Lilongwe district, by 2006 in water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Progress/Achievements

Hygiene/ sanitation promotion

- A total of 40 people have been trained as hygiene promoters in the project area. The hygiene promoters will be working with the 10,000 beneficiaries to reach the project objectives and to improve hygiene behaviours.
- The WatSan department recruited and mobilized 60 volunteers, in Masula and Lilongwe districts and will be trained within the second half of the year.

Establishment of sustainable sanitation promotion (hardware) units

- Two sites for hardware units that will support the construction and distribution of 400 SanPlats have been identified in Masula. In addition six SanPlat casting artisans have been trained in SanPlat casting and 15 have already been done. Purchasing of materials for casting of more SanPlats is on course.

Fully-functioning and adequate community-managed water supplies

- The WatSan team completed an assessment for 40 villages in T/A Masula in Lilongwe district for the rehabilitation of 35 boreholes and drilling of five new ones.
- Sensitization and mobilization of communities for the activities in the project area was done, including the establishment and revival of old water point committees and identification of 40 hygiene promoters in the area.

Establishment of community-based operation, maintenance and cost recovery systems

- A total of 25 water point committees have been revived and five water point committees have been formed to manage the water points.

Efficient implementation of water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion projects

- Activities including project selection, identification and implementation, water point committee member selection, community-based management training, hygiene promoters' identification and training have been carried out using demand responsive community-based approaches.

Increased resources for water/sanitation and hygiene promotion projects

- The WatSan programme officer is an active member of the National Water and Sanitation Collaborative Council which promotes learning and sharing of best practices amongst partners. The lead is the Ministry of Water Development.
- One member of the WatSan team is a trained member of the regional disaster response team (RDRT), in case of disaster.

Assistance to bilateral water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion projects

- The WatSan department assisted bilateral WatSan projects funded by the Danish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross by supervising drilling and construction works, contracting of drilling companies, preparation of drilling contracts and training of water point committees.
- A total of 27 boreholes, fitted with hand pumps, have been constructed and 42 water points committees trained in community management.

Impact

- Community cohesion is improving as people communities continue participating in an integrated manner during the work. Both women and men have been involved in assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring of activities.
- The regulatory bodies, made of local authorities' personnel, appreciate Red Cross initiatives and participate in some of the activities. The government is involved during assessment, planning, implementation, training, monitoring and handover of the projects.

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- With the government of Malawi is decentralizing its activities, the capacity of local government to handle work planned by the National Society is increasing.
- The use of the demand responsive approach has promoted community participation and input and increased as sense of ownership, making the projects sustainable.

Water

- The water project has reduced health problems that arise from inadequate access to safe and equitable water.
- The availability of water has enabled the communities to save time, energy and has enhanced livelihood opportunities, especially for women and girls who would otherwise be spending most of their time/energy in search for water.
- The community is sensitized to make sure that they have adequate facilities to collect, store and use sufficient quantity of water for drinking cooking and personal hygiene and ensure that drinking water remain sufficiently safe until it is consumed.
- A total of five boreholes have been rehabilitated and are functional in the project area. Purchase of materials to rehabilitate a further five boreholes is on course.

Sanitation

- Access to sanitation facilities has improved as each family contributes in construction of its own latrine and ensures use of latrines.
- By providing SanPlat casting, hygiene and safety, which lacks in traditional pit latrines, is improved.

Constraints

- The Federation's and the National Society's financial procedures continue to delay the implementation of project.
- The number of PLWHA is increasing whilst the water point reduce. Each water point is now covering a wider geographical area.
- PLWHA, under the HBC, are travelling longer distance to get water.

Health and care: Community-based health development programmes

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

Objective: To provide sustainable improvement of health in Dowa, Ntchisi and Kasungu districts

Progress/Achievements

Curative care

- The Malawi Red Cross Society is supported by the Netherlands Red Cross in curative health care projects in Dowa and Kasungu districts. There are plans to expand the project to Ntchisi.
- The National Society recently received funds and has identified project sites and mobilised and trained the community members.
- Community health workers, comprising of Malawi Red Cross Society volunteers and government employees, were trained on how to attend to minor ailments and distribute prescription drugs. The four-week training, funded by Malawi Red Cross Society, was conducted by government health officials.
- The community health care initiative improved referral and transportation of patients with complications to higher level health facilities.
- The Red Cross-trained volunteers also provide first-aid at community level.

Preventive health care

- The Malawi Red Cross Society is providing information on prevention of communicable diseases, such as malaria and diarrhoea, in the villages where there is home-based care.
- The National Society has introduced health and disaster preparedness capabilities at community level.
- In total 15,000 insecticide-treated nets (ITN) have been procured and distributed, alongside with condoms.

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- The National Society has also enhanced its preventive health care intervention by the provision of safe water and improving sanitation in the communities.

Maternal and child care services

- Through its health post, Malawi Red Cross Society supports traditional birth attendants (TBA) services. The TBA service is given by identified people within the community who have undergone basic training in safe delivery.
- The National Society has improved child delivery rooms by constructing TBA wards at the health post.
- The health post also support vaccination services for children under 23 months and monitors nutritional status and general health of children aged under five years.

Disaster management

Goal: Increase disaster management capacity of Malawi Red Cross Society in reducing human suffering when disasters occur through community involvement

Objective: Malawi Red Cross Society disaster management capacity improved with the participation of the vulnerable communities.

Progress/Achievements

Strengthened disaster management capacity

- The Malawi Red Cross Society hosted a five-day SPHERE training workshop in Salima where 17 staff members attended. The training was facilitated by the disaster management officer of the Zambia Red Cross Society and the Federation's regional disaster preparedness officer.
- A total of 1,463 participants in 104 communities from Karonga, Salima and Dowa were trained in food security project management.
- In a bid to equip them to train in their communities, staff members in Karonga, Kasungu and Salima districts were trained in small scale irrigation.
- Logistic training was conducted to the National Society's staff so as to strengthen support to targeted food distribution, supplementary feeding and food for work projects.
- Nutritional training for staff, i.e. training of trainers, on new health model was also conducted.

Reduction in loss of life during disasters

- In response to flash floods in Ntcheu district, which destroyed personal effects, Malawi Red Cross Society distributed five bales of second hand clothes, 30 tarpaulins, and 25 tents to assist 30 households.
- The National Society embarked on targeted food distribution in hunger-stricken areas thus assisting 825 people in three districts. The food was distributed in baskets containing pulses, maize meal, vegetable oil, and corn-soya-bean (CSB). A total of 319 tuberculosis patients also received the similar food baskets.
- The National Society initiated a supplementary feeding scheme targeting orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), chronically ill and tuberculosis patients.
- Food for work activities: afforestation; road rehabilitation; cassava seed multiplication; establishment of school orchards; excavation of irrigation canals; construction of an orphanage/shelter, and river bank protection were conducted. The beneficiaries received maize and pulses in return.

Community-based disaster management (CBDM)

- The National Society's food security project is building the capacities of communities in Karonga, Kasungu and Salima districts to respond to man-made disaster through the treadle pump irrigation projects.
- The food for work project has created community assets including orchards, road networks and forests.
- The food security officer conducts onsite monitoring; administering questionnaires during the distribution through and post-distribution monitoring to look at the utilisations of the food given.

Improved refugee services

- Malawi Red Cross Society, through its disaster management department, provides community social services to 8,000 refugees in Dzaleka and Luwani camps. Services provided encompass counselling, prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS activities and distribution of condoms.

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- The food baskets provided by the National Society to the refugees contained 13.5kg maize meal, 1.6kg pulse, 4.5kg sugar, 1.5kg salt, 0.75 litres cooking oil and 50 grams soap per person per month.
- Supported by the ICRC, the National Society is also offering tracing services.
- The National Society, working in collaboration with the government of Malawi through its Ministry of Health, is providing voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services. The Ministry of Health trained the three Malawi Red Cross Society staff members and six refugees on VCT who are now running the clinics. An average of 90 PLWHA visit the VCT centres every month.
- The National AIDS Commission supports some of the HIV/AIDS activities at the camps.
- The government also runs schools that benefit refugees at the camps as well as children from the host communities.
- The National Society also supports 80 women in development activities that include cookery, sewing, knitting and embroidery.

Impact

- Most of the PLWHA in districts where treadle pump irrigation, targeted food distribution and supplementary feeding are being practiced have improved livelihoods and are now able to fend for their families.
- There is also marked improved accessibility to markets, health centres due to the improved road networks.
- More people are going for VCT due to availability, proximity and improved services.
- Due to improved access to cassava seed, especially the sweet variety that is mostly favoured, food provision will be sustainable in the long term.
- The refugees at the camps have also improved on health condition because of the access to food and health facilities.
- The tracing service has enabled family reunification.
- Women are more self-sufficient through empowerment from women and development projects being run in the camps.

Constraint

- The disaster management programme is being affected by the inadequacy of funding which is hindering implementation of the programme in the wider geographical area, to respond to the increasing vulnerability.

Organisational development

Goal: To decrease vulnerability of people living in Malawi through improved service delivery by the Malawi Red Cross Society.

Objective: The organizational and operational capacities of the Malawi Red Cross Society improve through better functioning of governance and management bodies and reinforced branches.

Progress/Achievements

Branch reinforcement

- The Malawi Red Cross Society conducted by-elections for the divisional committees of Nkhara Bay, Ntcheu and Machinga districts.
- The National Society has trained more community members in running maize mills as income-generating activities in Kasungu, Chiladzulu, Dowa and Mzimba. The Spanish Red Cross Society supports three of the maize mill projects whose terms of reference have been revised.
- The National Society has also started working on the exit strategy by involving National Society's branches and other stakeholders within the communities to sustain the programme when funding from donors diminishes.

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- The Malawi Red Cross Society has, with funds raised locally, constructed an office block at its Lilongwe headquarters' premises that will provide additional office space and generate cash from subletting.

Management and governance

- In an attempt to strengthen programme delivery to the vulnerable, Malawi Red Cross Society has embarked on implementation of recommendations from the 2004 management review.
- The National Society has already started working on revision of the constitution, revising contractual obligations with employees, policy formulation, strengthening financial accountability, and structural review among other issues.

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

CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->						37.8%
OPENING BALANCE						5,257
FINNISH - GOVT	80,000	EUR	123,520	27.05.05	WATSAN RELIEF PROGRAMME	
IRISH - RC	26,737	EUR	41,509	07.10.04	VEHICLE FOR WATSAN PROGRAMME / CONSTRUCTION AND FIELD ACTIVITIES	
IRISH RC	100,100	EUR	155,005	14.02.05	WATSAN	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH						325,291 CHF 37.8%

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	