

# 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

29 December 2003

Appeal No. 01.16/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 506,864 (USD 347,795 or EUR 344,264)

Programme Update No. 2

Period covered: June to October 2003

*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 180 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### In Brief

**Appeal coverage:** 40.4%; [Click here to see attached Contributions List](#) or refer to the Federation's website for details.

**Outstanding needs:** CHF 302,333 (USD 232,833 or EUR 195,243)

#### Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

- Southern Africa: Food Security and Integrated Community Care (Emergency Appeal no. 15/2003)
- Southern Africa Region (Annual Appeal no. 01.24/2003)

**Programme Summary:** The [Lesotho Red Cross Society](#) health programme is vibrant with various health interventions among them TB and malaria concerns. The HIV/AIDS programme has scaled up its home based care activities in an effort to manage the pandemic while health services have been made accessible in the rural areas. A disaster management coordinator was recruited and trained in RDRT. The national society has strategically strengthened branches through filtering experienced headquarters staff to branches. The volunteer system will also be redesigned to strengthen team work and voluntary spirit. The national society is also vigorously using training as a tool to achieving its goals. With the support of the Federation, the national society has successfully computerised the financial systems making it more effective in monitoring and producing financial reports. Partnerships and external relations have been kept strong with Red Cross and non-Red Cross bodies.

### Operational Developments

Besides poverty and food insecurity, Lesotho also struggles with a high HIV/AIDS prevalence, which is estimated at 31%, and an increase in tuberculosis infection that accounts for 50% of hospital beds. Other health challenges include; diarrhoea, respiratory tract infections and increasing malnutrition, which is more prevalent in under-fives and people living with HIV/AIDS. With the enormous needs for health care services in the country, particularly in the remote mountainous areas, the Lesotho Red Cross has an important role to play in assisting the most vulnerable communities. With the proper capacity and resources, the national society will be able to extend its programmes and become one of the best providers of health care services in the country. The regional health programme will focus its efforts on assisting the Lesotho Red Cross scale up its activities by training personnel and encouraging the drafting of project proposals for fundraising, as well as the reinforcing the national society's working partnership with other relevant stakeholders.

With regards to HIV/AIDS, the Lesotho Red Cross has continued to train home-based care facilitators and scaling up of the programme in addition to the community-based health care project launched beginning of the year. The later was covered in programme update number one. With support from the regional delegation, the Lesotho Red Cross drew up a five-year plan for HIV/AIDS activities in 2001 founded from a baseline survey. The Lesotho Red Cross has since established two orphan projects and a youth peer educator's project. The national society intends to establish more home-based care projects in 2003 to 2004 while they beef up existing initiatives.

Lesotho Red Cross has is experienced in running health clinics; the national society runs four clinics in the rural areas of the country, three in the lowlands and one in the mountains. The clinics provide consultation services to patients in addition to other services such as; antenatal services, immunization of under-fives, family planning, dispensing of drugs and follow-up visits. The Lesotho Red Cross is aware of its bias towards curative services and is committed to extend into preventive health services to vulnerable communities. The Lesotho Red Cross is also known countrywide for rendering first aid in vulnerable communities as well as to commercial organizations. The activity is being expanded and discussions with government authorities are underway to facilitate it's inclusion it in the traffic bill being formulated.

The Lesotho Red Cross plans to reduce headquarters based employees to divisions/branches and the affected staff have been trained on their responsibilities over the divisions/branches. A better understanding has been developed between management and the affected divisional coordinators regarding this development. The move aims at enabling the national society to increase its efforts towards humanitarian service delivery in Lesotho.

## **Health and Care**

**Goal: A sustainable improvement in the general health and reduction in HIV/AIDS transmission of the targeted vulnerable communities through the provision of community-based health and care interventions.**

**Objective: The Federation facilitates the development of the national society's capacity in community-based health care and HIV/AIDS programming, including through the sharing of lessons learnt from other Southern Africa national societies.**

**Health: Objective: The capacity of the Lesotho Red Cross to design and implement health projects that contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality from common health problems is strengthened.**

### **Achievements against the expected results**

Some activities that were to show achievement for the expected result were not undertaken due to lack of funding and inadequacies in programme implementation planning.

- **Lesotho Red Cross is a member of national immunization committee and county coordination body.**  
The national society is affiliated to the national immunization committee and county coordination body.
- **Improved immunization coverage in targeted areas up to 100%.**  
This is an ongoing service undertaken at the four Lesotho Red Cross clinics in rural areas of the country; three in the lowlands and one in the mountains
- **Proposal for malaria and tuberculosis developed by Lesotho Red Cross and submitted to GFATM<sup>1</sup>.**  
Lesotho is not malaria prone hence the proposal for malaria was not done. However, activities relating to tuberculosis are ongoing at all Lesotho Red Cross four clinics.
- **Lesotho Red Cross has partnerships with other organizations.**  
The national society continues to strengthen partnerships with other organizations.

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<sup>1</sup> GFATM refers to Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria. This fund was created two years ago as an innovative instrument that would contribute to an integrated, more comprehensive response to these deadly but largely preventable diseases.

### Impact

The health and care general health component is made visible by the services offered through the Red Cross clinics in the rural areas, where clinical diagnosis and treatment, immunization and tuberculosis treatment are provided to the communities. Such services have compelled the Lesotho government to provide financial support towards the procurement of drugs.

### Constraints

Although the Lesotho Red Cross has continued with the ownership and maintenance of clinics sustaining the services is a constraint to the organization given that it demands vast resources.

### HIV/AIDS

Lesotho has one of the highest HIV/AIDS incidence rates in the Southern Africa region and the number of orphans and dependents is growing steadily. The Lesotho Red Cross needs all the support it can get to make a difference in the lives of people infected and affected by the pandemic .

**Objective: By the end of 2004, the prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS reduces infection and impact among the target group.**

### Progress/achievements

- **500 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) provided with quality care and support.**

The Lesotho Red Cross was working on a HIV/AIDS population of 3,000 people in three districts; 1,000 per district catchments areas in Berea, Leribe and Mafeteng. The expected 500 PLWHA are within the 3,000 working population. The Lesotho Red Cross has 70 trained home-based care facilitators, in Berea, Leribe and Mafeteng, who in turn train home-based client support groups.

**Table 1: Home-based care clients distributed by gender**

District	Old clients			New clients			Recorded deaths			No. of discharges			Bed ridden clients		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
<b>Mafeteng</b>	34	75	109	159	298	457	9	15	24	58	95	153	0	0	115
<b>Berea</b>	0	0	0	18	68	86	0	0	0	2	11	13	0	0	15
<b>Leribe</b>	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>135</b>

- **80,000 youths reached with safer sex skills.**

The youth are the major backbone of the Lesotho Red Cross membership and volunteer groups. They are well involved on a day-to-day basis on various programmes. In Mafeteng district the food parcel distribution is done the youth group. Approximately 540,192 condoms were received and 100,012 have been distributed with assistance of the youths.

- **The capacity of the national society is strengthened.**

The capacity of the Lesotho Red Cross has been strengthened and is demonstrated by its clear participation in all HIV/AIDS programme components: prevention, community-based health care for orphans and vulnerable children. Lesotho Red Cross is providing quality care to HIV/AIDS infected and affected people through home-based support groups, training of care facilitators, providing information and education to the youth and adults and the distribution of condoms.

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**Table 2 Home-based care facilitators that have been trained**

District	Targeted		Achieved		Attendants by gender	
	Training	Participants	Training	Participants	M	F
<b>Berea</b>	1	20	1	18	3	15
<b>Leribe</b>	1	20	1	16	2	14
<b>Mafeteng</b>	1	36	1	36	4	32
<b>Maseru</b>	1	20	1	20	9	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>72</b>

- **The Lesotho Red Cross is recognized both nationally and internationally as a key actor in the fight against HIV/AIDS through advocacy and communications strategies directed at media and authorities.**

The first HIV/AIDS coordinator was trained in project management and divisional development. Following this development, the Lesotho Red Cross has been steadily scaling up participation in HIV/AIDS programme components. Advocacy and communication directed to media and authorities has been achieved especially during HIV/AIDS related functions.

### **Impact**

The HIV/AIDS programme has assisted the Lesotho Red Cross to be proactive in programme planning and management through providing learning opportunity to staff and volunteers at the national society. In the process of providing care and support to PLWHA, there has been considerable restoration of dignity in some lives of the infected and affected that are within the Lesotho Red Cross district catchment areas.

### **Constraints**

Time pressure on limited human resource slowed down implementation of other planned programme activities. For instance, Mafeteng drama group training which should have taken place in July during the school holidays had to be deferred due to engagement of the trainers in other activities. The proposed date to achieve this activity can only be during December 2003 holidays.

There is also no district transport to facilitate adequate supervision and monitoring of the community-based health care facilitators' daily home visits. The temporary measure and arrangement of providing transport from the headquarters in Maseru on a weekly basis is only likely to work for a limited period. While limited working space was available at the headquarters the district offices has inadequate working space and equipment. Existing structures at divisional levels were not planned to accommodate the current scaling up of HIV/AIDS or other programme activities.

## **Disaster Management**

The Lesotho Red Cross disaster management coordinator and two staff attended the regional disaster response team (RDRT) training in Malawi in September funded by the regional delegation. The Lesotho Red Cross has limited staff committed to respond to disaster management demands and this is measured by the national society's inadequate participation in national and divisional disaster management services. After the recruitment and training of the disaster management coordinator, the Lesotho Red Cross is prepared to focus on disaster management policy and planning. The national society's governance and management are making attempts to develop a large member and volunteer-based disaster management within the strategic plan 2002 - 2007.

As funding for the Lesotho Red Cross was not immediately available during the first half of the Annual Appeal, the intended disaster management progress has been below expectations.

**Goal: Implementation of characteristics of a well-prepared national society has improved the Lesotho Red Cross in three key areas, namely; know-how, capacity and performance.**

**Objective: Secretariat assistance to the Lesotho Red Cross has increased the national society's disaster response capacity to meet the humanitarian needs in the country.**

#### **Progress/Achievements**

- **The national society has consolidated and updated data base for human and technical disaster management resources that are accessible when needed; target for 11 emergency first aiders and five RDRT members by 2004**

The position of disaster management coordinator at headquarters level was filled in August 2003. During the reporting period, the disaster management coordinator has already received training in disaster management in Malawi. Following the development of disaster management leadership, steps will be undertaken to consolidate and update database for human and technical disaster management resources that will be accessible at least no later than 2004.

- **Disaster management policy and plan in place and disseminated to all stakeholders by end of 2003**  
There is no marked progress under this expected result, as the draft plan drawn in 2003 will be implemented in 2004. The activities were not achieved due to lack of financial resources as well as personnel with the expertise.
- **200 staff and volunteers countrywide trained in disaster management by end of 2003**  
The RDRT trained staff members are the base to lead training for other staff members and volunteers and with enough funding more staff and volunteers will be trained.
- **Integrate long-term food security interventions in national society priority programmes**  
The issue of integrated long-term food security has been raised and still waiting support from the Federation.
- **Countrywide early warning system network based upon disaster management information system and situation monitoring by RDRT members is established**  
As reported in first programme update nothing was in place due to delays in employing the disaster management coordinator and lack of adequate funding.
- **Sustainable and appropriate disaster management infrastructure in place**  
The Lesotho Red Cross has no documented evidence on sustainable and appropriate disaster management infrastructure, but was adequately retaining contact with former staff and volunteers with valuable experience and capacity in various disaster interventions. In this regard, the Lesotho Red Cross was slowly establishing a sustainable and appropriate disaster management infrastructure in place.

#### **Impact**

Although funding for disaster management was not adequate, some disaster management aspirations have been met. The disaster management coordinator trained in RDRT and serves as a contribution to the Lesotho Red Cross. Through other programmes, staff and volunteers have also been trained in assessment methodologies, such as those that are used in vulnerability assessment capacity (VAC).

#### **Constraints**

As reported in programme update number one, funding has remained an obstacle in disaster management. Given sufficient funding, the Lesotho Red Cross has the capacity of developing disaster management activities and become a well-prepared national society.

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## Organizational Development

**Goal: Implementation of characteristics of a well-functioning national society has improved the Lesotho Red Cross in the three key areas; foundation, capacity and performance.**

**Objective: The national society's institutional capacity and its progress towards operating as a well-functioning national society is enhanced through Secretariat support.**

### Progress/Achievement

- **The capacity of Lesotho Red Cross to design and implement their strategic directions is improved**  
To implement their strategic direction, the Lesotho Red Cross had to reduce its headquarters staff and relocate some to divisional offices. The Federation has assisted the Lesotho Red Cross with training of the five staff designated to move to divisions. The other staff not inducted with the Lesotho Red Cross work were trained in all aspects of the components of the Movement, and trained on hands on skills.
- **Lesotho Red Cross has a legal foundation that supports the effective implementation of programmes**  
The Lesotho Red Cross derives its legal foundation from the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho Act of Parliament of 1967 and has its own constitution that defines purpose, membership, structures and powers designated to each structure. However, in both cases the Lesotho Red Cross act of parliament and the constitution need an extensive review that will appropriately support its effective role.
- **Lesotho Red Cross has an effective volunteer management system in place.**  
The volunteer management system is unlikely to be designed and implemented soon without financial and human resource assistance. However, interim measures were being undertaken to instill team work and commitment the spirit of voluntarism.
- **Lesotho Red Cross has increased its financial resource base in both value and diversity.**  
Increasing financial resources continued as Lesotho Red Cross area of concern. The national society looked into funding issues in two different ways - programmes and service deliveries funding and core cost funding. Donor interests to funding service deliveries were reestablished although the much needed core cost funding, that is primarily used to attract and retain quality staff and volunteer as well as to help it improve its disaster management and organizational development, has not increased. The main source of core income continued to come from rent of properties, commercial first aid services, government for clinic service and seasonal contractual services during food security. However, HIV/AIDS and disaster management service delivery programmes and organization development undertakings are predominately supported from the Red Cross external sources.
- **Lesotho Red Cross has functional divisions in place that are actively participating in project implementation.**  
Lesotho Red Cross has in some districts functional divisions that are actively participating in project implementation. This is more visible in the districts where the Lesotho Red Cross has HIV/AIDS home-based care services and food security activities. With the placement of divisional coordinators in the divisions, the Lesotho Red Cross visibility will greatly improve.
- **Lesotho Red Cross has in place effective financial management systems.**  
In striving to build the confidence of those who support the Lesotho Red Cross, adequate financial management systems have started and were in place at the headquarters. The system developed with the Federation technical input will be expanded to the divisional levels. It includes training governance and management with oversight responsibilities in financial management systems.

The national society's use of computerized accounting system for financial management continued and has made the accounting system sound. The finance delegate supports the national society in preparation of financial returns. Transition of financial accounting for projects funded through the Federation is being done smoothly. National society working advance is now requested, reported and accounting done in Lesotho. This is a major step towards decentralization of financial management in the regional delegation. However having the budget holder concept at the Lesotho Red Cross facilitates the success of this.

### **Impact**

The programme has impacted the Lesotho Red Cross through an improved understanding of organizational development theories and concepts. The Lesotho Red Cross has re-dedicated its energy to disaster management, organizational development and principles and humanitarian values activities along with other service delivery programme. Once in place, they will uplift the Lesotho Red Cross image to greater heights that are within the parameters of a "well-functioning national society". Much of these aspirations are derived from its participation and experiences gained during the 2002/2003 Southern Africa Food Security and Integrated Community Care Programme.

### **Constraints**

Lack of donor support to the annual appeal have greatly affected the implementation of the appeal planned activities and changes during this reporting period. In addition the late disbursement of the available funds also had repercussion on organizational development initiatives. High staff turner-over emanating from competitive human resource market forces is likely to continue and affect Lesotho Red Cross development aspirations.

### **Coordination**

Good coordination was initiated with the 2002/2003 food security programme and to date the Federation shares office space with the national society. The Federation also attends governance meetings and important functions organized by the national society. The Federation delegation coordination role is also extended to the Germany Red Cross and transport support package (TSP) on all matters of information sharing and security. The relationship and coordination with other non-red cross organizations has been well maintained.

The German Red Cross continued to have their physical presence in Berea district and was committed to distributing 6,000 food parcels and agriculture inputs to 2,000 chronically ill people. The operation was being carried within the original Federation/Lesotho Red Cross targeted areas of home-based care activities.

The ICRC continues funding Lesotho Red Cross for Red Cross promotional materials. However, no visits have taken place since the last prison services course on international humanitarian law, human rights and rehabilitation.

Lesotho Red Cross letter of intent on prospects to partner with WFP targeted food distributions in Mokhotlongin 2003/2004 was not concluded; instead, WFP has requested Lesotho Red Cross to complete a project proposal. TSP team attached to WFP programme continues with its work. Discussions were concluded with WFP for a partnership role in assessment and registration of the most vulnerable for the 2003/2004 WFP targeted food distributions.

Progress was slow on working towards formal approach to UN and multinational agencies and foreign government representatives based in Lesotho. Initial contact to the ministry of foreign affairs on the Federation accreditation status was made.

The Lesotho Red Cross has to develop both self-determination and discipline for its capacity building aspirations. In both cases there are capacity building issues that can be advanced or improved by internal and external interventions, but require extensive analysis as opposed to piecemeal approaches. In the context, the Lesotho Red Cross capacity building by both external and internal means remained as important as reported in the last update.

In regard to financial management, plans were put in place to provide the Lesotho Red Cross with a volunteer through Skillshare International to assist the finance and administration director. The regional organizational development programme will focus its support for 2003 to build the institutional capacity of the national society; by encouraging strengthening of divisions who were to later establish branches or subdivisions as well as focusing on volunteer management systems and effective financial management systems to ensure that the national society responds to the humanitarian needs in the country. The Norwegian Red Cross has confirmed willingness to support position of finance development delegate in Lesotho during 2004. While Norwegian support is appreciated, it is equally important to emphasize the need to consider and fund the activities that will facilitate the financial management systems.

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*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 (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

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APPEAL No. 01.16/2003

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

07/01/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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## CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				506,864		40.4%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
REALLOCATIONS FROM AP.01.24/2003				164,531	15.11.03	HIV/AIDS
SWEDISH RC/GOVT				10,000	20.11.03	REALLOCATIONS PMN 0305004
NORWEGIAN RC/GOVT				20,000	20.11.03	REALLOCATIONS - OD
NORWEGIAN RC/GOVT				10,000	20.11.03	REALLOCATIONS - DM
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				204,531	CHF	40.4%

## 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	