

ANNUAL REPORT



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

3 March 2004

In Brief

Appeal No.: 01.16/2003 ([Click here to access the 2003 Appeal](#))

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

Appeal coverage: 40.4% ([Click here to access the Final Financial Report](#))

Appeal 2004: Lesotho no. 01.13/2004 ([Click here to access the 2004 Appeal](#))

This Annual Report reflects activities implemented over a one-year period; they form part of, and are based on, longer-term, multi-year planning.

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Overall analysis of the programme

Lesotho has faced severe food shortages particularly in the mountainous area. More than one third of the people in the country are currently dependent on food aid. This situation has negatively impacted on the health of the most vulnerable people especially with regards to malnutrition, morbidity and other common health conditions. Severe drought continues in most parts of the country and after the winter wheat harvest, vegetables crops are failing on a wide scale. Lesotho expects to produce no more than 20% of the country's food requirement in the next harvest. The WFP has appealed for food assistance for 322,000 people in Lesotho, although it is currently experiencing pipeline and funding constraint.

The southern Africa food security and integrated community care operation also implemented in Lesotho aimed to provide the needed support to communities in Lesotho's districts of Berea, Leribe and Mafeteng affected by HIV/AIDS and who have no other livelihood alternatives or means of improving on their nutrition. With support from the Federation, the [Lesotho Red Cross Society](#) provided food parcels and humanitarian assistance to 3,000 beneficiaries living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Besides food parcel assistance, the national society distributed selected seed types and fertilizer to 2,000 PLWHA¹, their families and care givers in Berea with bilateral support from the German Red Cross. The beneficiaries also received a food ration through the existing Lesotho Red Cross programme of assisting the chronically ill.

¹ PLWHA – Persons living with HIV/AIDS

Lesotho; Appeal no. 01.16/2003; Annual Report.

The food security operations brought together newly developed home-based care (HBC) and orphan support projects which involved food distribution and school feeding programme. The capacity of the Lesotho Red Cross was built to allow complementary assistance to existing beneficiaries and innovative alternatives types of punctual assistance to specific target groups. The lessons learnt through targeted household economy projects over the past five months has been the basis for the long-term assistance programmes of Lesotho Red Cross for 2004 and beyond.

The national society runs four clinics in the rural and most remote areas of the country, three in the lowlands and one in the mountains. The clinics provide basic health care to the most vulnerable in ante-natal services, immunization of children aged below five years, family planning, consultation of patients, dispensing of drugs and follow-up visits to patients in the community. The Lesotho Red Cross launched its first HBC project at a colourful ceremony which was graced by the King and Queen of Lesotho. At the ceremony, the King expresses his appreciation of the Red Cross efforts in fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic and used the opportunity to pledge support for the national society.

Lesotho Red Cross has been encountering governance and management difficulties since 1997. The Federation Regional Delegation in Harare continues to support the national society in the ongoing capacity building activities in governance, management and volunteer development and have started to yield positive results.

Health and care

Lesotho Red Cross is running four clinics, all of them located in the rural areas. The Ministry of Health supports staff salaries and drugs, while the Red Cross pays the support staff and the maintenance of the building. Two of the clinics are in the same area where there is HBC programme.

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.

Lesotho Red Cross is a member of the national immunization committee and the country coordination body.

Lesotho Red Cross received CHF 216,766 from the Lesotho government through the Ministry of Development Planning for procurement of drugs for the Red Cross health centres of Mapholaneng (Mokhotlong), Kolojane (Leribe), Thaba-Bosiu (Maseru) and Kena (Mafeteng). The national society is affiliated to the national immunization committee and country coordination body and is working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health to strengthen partnerships with all relevant stakeholders.

Improved immunization coverage in targeted areas up to 100%

The four Lesotho Red Cross clinics have been actively involved in the immunization of children aged below five years against communicable diseases, and 664 children were immunized in 2003. Approximately 500 mothers within the reproductive age were provided with family planning services at all the clinics with ante-natal services being provided to 448 expectant mothers. At least 50 clients attended post-natal services.

Lesotho; Appeal no. 01.16/2003; Annual Report.

Proposal for malaria and tuberculosis developed by Lesotho Red Cross and submitted to GFATM²

Lesotho is not malaria prone hence no proposal for malaria was put forward. However, activities relating to tuberculosis are ongoing at Lesotho Red Cross clinics offering DOTS³ for the tuberculosis patients. About 32,940 patients visited the clinic in 2003. Patients on DOTS treatment totalled 1,567 in 2003. Ante-natal care amounted to 594, family planning service reached 701 beneficiaries and 60 deliveries were performed in the one clinic which has the facility

Six first aid teams with 200 volunteers trained and able to provide first aid services in four districts

A total of 27 village health workers received refresher training courses to enhance their skills in the provision of community care. In addition 81 health education sessions were held and 604 people were taught on health issues including; prevention of diseases, nutrition, importance of attending ante-natal clinic, child spacing, HIV/AIDS and other relevant topics.

Impact

The general health care component is made visible by the services offered through the Lesotho Red Cross clinics in the rural areas, where clinical diagnosis and treatment, immunization and tuberculosis treatment are provided to the communities. Due to positive cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Lesotho government is providing financial support to the national society. The assistance that the government offers is through procurement of drugs and payment of staff salaries for the Red Cross clinics.

The community is increasingly becoming aware of the importance of good health and there is increased attendance rate to all types of services provided at the clinics. The most prevalent disease has been tuberculosis, and there has been a good response from the community as the tuberculosis patients come for their treatment and most of them finish the course of treatment.

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 southern Africa region and the number of orphans and dependants is growing steadily. Lesotho Red Cross continuously needs the support to make a difference in the lives of people infected and affected by the pandemic.

Following the baseline survey that was done in 2001, a five-year plan was drawn and the integrated community HBC was started in 2003 in four districts. The national society managed to train care facilitators; 36 in Mafeteng, 19 in Berea, 16 in Leribe and 19 in Maseru districts. There were three drop outs and one was deceased thus the remainder of 86 care facilitators. The national society is committed to scaling up the integrated community HBC activities towards fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The national society has been actively involved in the OVC⁴ care project whereby school fees are paid for the OVC. Other support for OVC has been through procurement of school materials, blankets, jackets and distribution of second hand clothing. Food distribution to beneficiaries has been integrated into the project to counteract the effects of food insecurity, in Berea and Mafeteng districts.

Objective: By end of 2003, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS infection and impact is reduced among the target group.

² GFATM - Global fund against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. This fund was created as an innovative instrument that would contribute to an integrated, more comprehensive response to these deadly but largely preventable diseases.

³ DOTS - Direct Observation Therapy Strategy (tuberculosis)

⁴ OVC - Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Lesotho; Appeal no. 01.16/2003; Annual Report.

Achievements

500 PLWHA provided with quality care and support

Lesotho Red Cross established four HBC projects in Mafeteng, Berea, Leribe and Maseru. In 2003, 86 care facilitators were trained and provided care to 951 clients. The Lesotho Red Cross HBC project provided care and support through home visits, training of family members of the clients in basic nursing care, provision of medical supplies such as gloves, dressings, painkillers and food parcels

80,000 youths reached with safer sex skills

Lesotho Red Cross established one additional prevention project with a total of 80 peer educators reaching out to 887 youths in schools with HIV/AIDS prevention messages. The expected result was partially met due to the fact that the HIV/AIDS staff focussed much of their time on establishing HBC projects. 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 and condom distribution is done by the youth group.

1,000 orphans supported materially and psychologically

The national society has integrated OVC into all HBC projects. A total of 925 OVC received support in the form of material, food and educational material. In Mafeteng and Berea in particular, OVC received food aid through the bilateral Germany Red Cross as well as the Federation supported food security project. Some of the OVC were referred to social welfare organizations.

The capacity of the national society is strengthened

A new HIV/AIDS Coordinator was recruited and oriented and four new Project Officers were employed to run the projects at district level. Volunteers in the community were trained in first aid. The capacity of the national society was strengthened and was clearly demonstrated by the national society's ability to implement HIV/AIDS programme components: prevention, community-based health care for orphans and vulnerable children. Lesotho Red Cross provide quality care to HIV/AIDS infected and affected people through home-based support groups, training of care facilitators, and providing information and education to the youth and adults and the distribution of condoms

Impact

There has been rapid scaling up of HIV/AIDS activities in 2003 in the national society due to the on-the-job coaching of the HIV/AIDS Coordinator on how to establish HBC projects and train care facilitators. The national society has increased its volunteer base after training of care facilitators. The HIV/AIDS programme has increased the pro-activity of The Lesotho Red Cross has become proactive in the planning and management of the HIV/AIDS programme by providing learning opportunities to staff and volunteers. Care and support to PLWHA, has considerably restored dignity in the lives of the infected and affected who are within Lesotho Red Cross district catchment areas.

Family members have gained confidence in caring for the sick at home as they received relevant training from the care facilitators. The clients have increased self-esteem and respect due to the support they have received through Red Cross HBC programmes. The food and HBC services have reduced the mortality rate among the clients. A considerable number of children who were out of school due to non-payment of fees and not having uniforms or textbooks are going now back to school, lessening the burden of the guardians of the OVC. Clubs for school children have been established and most of the members have reported increased knowledge on HIV/AIDS prevention and control. There is high knowledge and acceptance of the use of condoms among youths and adults.

Constraint

The myths and misconceptions about HIV/AIDS transmission are still existent in some communities. Condoms are perceived as a source of contamination. The national society has however begun involving tradition leaders to address these issues. Some levels of stigma are prevalent in certain communities though not very rampant. There are many OVC who are not supported the HBC project of the national society. There is need for more resources to increase coverage and volume.

Lesotho; Appeal no. 01.16/2003; Annual Report.

The increased number of staff and volunteers has impacted negatively on the annual HIV/AIDS budget. It is hoped that there will be good response to the 2004 Appeal budget to cover the 2003 over expenditure of some USD 22,500 on the programme. Funds from the German Red Cross to support the Berea and Leribe HBC projects were not available for the year 2003. The German Red Cross will fully support the two projects in 2004 in addition to funding from ECHO⁵.

Coordination

The national society has strong links with UN agencies – WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, and other organizations within the country including government. The national society is an active member of Lesotho network for HIV/AIDS organizations. The OVC project mainly in Berea and Leribe districts was bilaterally funded by German Red Cross. The OVC care project implementation in Maseru district in the year 2004 is in its planning phase and will be supported by the Norwegian Red Cross. An assessment has been done and will be implemented in 2004.

Water and Sanitation

Lesotho Red Cross implemented a sanitation and hygiene promotion project that involved the construction of 300 latrines and hygiene promotion activities in six villages in the province of Qacha's Nek. The project was funded by European Union micro-projects. The regional water and sanitation office was involved in the evaluation of the project and will assist as requested by the Lesotho Red Cross in a follow up on sanitation project that is planned with the European Union. The project achieved most of its objectives; however the future project could be improved with regional input because Lesotho Red Cross has little technical capacity in water and sanitation (WatSan).

Disaster Management

To improve on the national society human resource capacity three staff members from Lesotho Red Cross participated in the regional VCA⁶ training of trainers' workshop in January 2003. The training offered the national societies an opportunity to reflect on whether their programming is considering the vulnerabilities and capacities of target beneficiaries so that what ever intervention, impact can be measured. Three staff members including the disaster management officer who was recruited in August 2003 participated in the regional disaster response team (RDRT) in Malawi, a move that will improve human resource capacity for disaster management in the national society. The national society is currently monitoring the looming drought situation with the winter harvest described as a failure and drought now affecting the summer cropping season.

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 capacity to meet the humanitarian needs in the country.

Achievements

The national society has consolidated and updated database 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 national society has six RDRT trained staff and volunteers with the ability to coordinate response to disasters and carry out disaster assessments within the national society, with minimum support from the regional team. The national society has updated its human resource database and has 600 active volunteers who can be mobilized at a short notice to respond to major disasters. A number of these volunteers assisted with the food security operation resulting in them building their capacities on management of huge relief operations

⁵ ECHO – European Community Humanitarian Office

⁶ VCA – Vulnerability Capacity Assessment is a Federation risk assessment tool and process that can be used by national societies as a basis for their disaster preparedness and risk reduction planning

Lesotho; Appeal no. 01.16/2003; Annual Report.

Disaster management policy and plan in place and disseminated to all stakeholders by end of 2003.

In an attempt to set out operational framework the Lesotho Red Cross committed itself to the development of a disaster management policy and plan in 2003 which were not completed due to lack of funding. However, the Federation Regional Delegation in Harare offered technical support towards the development of the policy and plan by sharing policies and plans from other national society in the region.

200 staff and volunteers countrywide trained in disaster management by end of 2003.

To build the capacity of the national society, 22 staff and volunteers were trained in basic disaster management in December 2003 which equipped the participants with disaster management knowledge, skills and attitudes to run community-based disaster awareness workshops in 2004. The training is supposed to be cascaded down to division and community levels in 2004. The targeted figure of 200 was not achieved due to lack of funding.

Integrate long term food security interventions in national society priority programmes.

The food security operation gave the national society the opportunity to learn from the integration of food component with long-term programmes. However, due to lack of funding the national society failed to implement long-term food security projects that could improve chronic food insecurity in the country.

Countrywide EWS⁷ network based upon DMIS⁸ and situation monitoring by RDRT members established.

The national society has been monitoring the looming drought in the country. However, there is need to strengthen its capacity in situation monitoring and utilization of its RDRT and disaster management trained staff and volunteers in providing early warning and situation monitoring reports.

Sustainable and appropriate disaster management infrastructure in place

The national society has improved in working towards sustainable disaster management. A disaster management officer has been recruited to oversee the implementation of programme activities.

Impact

The national society successfully organized and facilitated a basic disaster management workshop in December 2003 with minimal support from the Federation Regional Delegation in Harare as capacity in DM has been built during regional training programmes such as the VCA and RDRT. The national society situation monitoring and disaster preparedness capacity has improved as reflected in its ability to track the looming drought in the country.

Constraints

The Lesotho Red Cross did not attract enough funding, hampering the smooth implementation of DM activities. With sufficient funding, the national society will be able to streamline its DM activities and become a well prepared national society able respond to disasters in a timely manner and offer assistance adhering to the Code of Conduct, humanitarian charter and minimum SPHERE standards in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable people.

Coordination

The national society continues to coordinate with other agencies such as the WFP, government departments, other NGO and the UN agencies in disaster management. The national society coordinates well with participating bilateral national societies operating in the country, and with the Federation country and regional offices. The basic disaster management workshop was made possible through funding from the Norwegian Red Cross.

⁷ EWS – Early warning systems

⁸ DMIS – Disaster Management Information System of the Federation.

Organizational Development

Lesotho Red Cross is one of the national societies that needs more OD support, as it has been encountering governance and management challenges in the past years. The Federation Regional Delegation in Harare continues to support the national society in the ongoing capacity building exercises and in a number of areas including governance, resource and finance development that have started to yield positive results.

A local consultant assisted the national society to develop a strategic plan for 2002-2012 with the assistance of a local consultant. The strategic plan focuses on:

- Restructuring the national society
- Increasing efforts in HIV/AIDS, health, disaster preparedness, food security, WatSan, first aid, divisional development, and youth as well as scaling up on volunteers' resource base.
- Resource mobilization for the organization's sustainability.
- Delivering quality and unique humanitarian services.
- Reviewing of the management information system.

Please contact the Lesotho Red Cross Society for a copy of its Strategic Plan 2002-2012

Following the national society's evaluations and assessment on programme operations of 2002 and based on the strategic plan, the national society has implemented a staff rationalisation at headquarters through reallocating the staff to the ten divisions to enhance proximity to the vulnerable communities. As a result of the restructuring, four divisions have been staffed with coordinators to support the activities of the national society at community level and to create sustainable well-functioning structures. A finance director and the programme co-ordinator were recruited for the headquarters.

The Lesotho Red Cross organisational development Appeal for 2003 did not receive funding for its activities. The Federation Regional Delegation in Harare reallocated CHF 30,000 to the national society in the last quarter of the year. Lesotho Red Cross is a member of the regional capacity building team; one governance member is a member of the team. Staff from Lesotho Red Cross participated at the regional financial and resource development and volunteer management workshops that were carried out in May and June 2003 respectively. The staff who attended these workshops are contributing to the development of the national society through bringing positive changes in financial management and capacity building initiatives. However, the national society still needs support in planning its OD and capacity building activities. The Secretary General attended a capacity building workshop in Tunisia in December 2003 funded by the regional OD department.

Lesotho Red Cross is currently finalizing the volunteer policy which will strengthen the volunteer support system. The national society will implement accounting software following an exchange visit with the Mozambique Red Cross.

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.

Achievements

The capacity of Lesotho Red Cross to design and implement their strategic plan is improved

Lesotho Red Cross reduced its headquarters staff and relocated some to divisional officers. The Federation has assisted the Lesotho Red cross with training of five staff designated to move to divisions. The national society finalized its strategic plan which was adopted at its annual general meeting held in March 2003.

Lesotho; Appeal no. 01.16/2003; Annual Report.

Lesotho Red Cross has a legal foundation that supports the effective implementation of programmes

The national society revised its constitution; and a new team of board of governors was elected. The Federation and the ICRC supported a governance and management training workshop which was held in July 2003.

Lesotho Red Cross has an effective volunteer management system in place

In July 2003 the national society with support from the Federation Regional Delegation in Harare produced the final document on volunteer's policy which is awaiting approval by the board.

Lesotho Red Cross has increased its financial resource base in both value and diversity

The regional OD department facilitated the participation of Lesotho Red Cross in the two regional workshops organized in Johannesburg and Harare in May and October 2003 respectively on resource mobilization and finance development.

Lesotho Red Cross has functional branches in place that are actively participating in project implementation

There has been an increase in the number of branches from 40 to 68; and 28 are active in as peer education, OVC and HBC in HIV/AIDS and food security operations. This is more visible in the districts where the Lesotho Red Cross has HIV/AIDS HBC services and food security activities.

Lesotho Red Cross has in place effective financial management systems.

The national society is at the advanced stage of computerizing the finance system at the headquarters following recommendations from the food security finance. The financial management system developed with the Federation technical input has been expanded to the divisional levels. It includes training in governance and management with oversight responsibilities in financial management systems.

Impact

The regional support to the Lesotho Red Cross has enabled the national society to put in place management structures, through training of division coordinators and governance. The Red Cross is more visible in Lesotho due the increase in the number of functional divisions. The programme has impacted the Lesotho Red Cross through an improved understanding of organizational development theories and concepts. The Lesotho Red Cross has renewed its implementation efforts in disaster management, organizational development and principles and humanitarian values activities along with other services delivery programme.

Constraints

Lack of donor support to the annual Appeal and late disbursement of available funds have greatly affected the implementation of planned activities. Lesotho Red Cross headquarters has no divisional development coordinator affecting activities such as compiling of information from the ten divisions and consolidation of reports.

Coordination of youth matters at national level is still a matter of concern without the divisional development offer or coordinator. If a solution is not found to combat high staff turnover emanating from competitive human resource market forces, Lesotho Red Cross development aspirations will continue to suffer.

Coordination

The presence of a Federation Head of Delegation had given some hope of closer working relationships however this only lasted for four months.

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