

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

LIBERIA

12 June, 2003

Appeal No. 01.27/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 691,419 (USD 508,583)

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January to April, 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

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 24%; See attached Contributions List for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 524,361

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Programme Summary: Note: this Programme Update no. 1 was compiled and submitted prior to the recent resumption of conflict events in the country. The situation continues to evolve, and subsequent Programme Updates will capture how the Red Cross is responding to the changing humanitarian needs.

The Food Security Project as well as the HIV/AIDS project, implemented in the Fall of last year are meeting their objectives (with the exception of the Food Security Project in River Cess County which has been abandoned due to the fighting in the area). One hundred and twenty five Liberian National Red Cross Society volunteers have been trained as peer educators in the HIV/AIDS programme and over 16,000 youth between the ages of 8 and 18 have been sensitized to the problem of HIV/AIDS. Under the Food Security Programme, 1000 farmers have been provided training, tools and seeds to plant approximately 50 acres of cassava, okra, corn, rice and peanuts. Twenty ERTs have been trained with six teams located in different locations in Monrovia and one team for each of the other chapters. Under Organizational Development, a restructuring process has been put in place. Six senior management positions have been identified, job descriptions have been written and the jobs posted in the local newspapers and internally. This is phase one of the restructuring. The NS Headquarters has, at present, 36 full time employees. At the end of the restructuring process this number will be reduced to 24. The restructuring process should be completed by the end of August.

The 2003-2004 Appeal for Liberia has not been well supported, with only 24% of the Appeal coverage. This has resulted in the need to readjust objectives. The funding available has been directed towards the HIV/AIDS and Food Security Programmes as well as Organizational Development. It is hoped that additional funding will be forthcoming to enable the National Society to proceed with the Community-Based Health Programme.

Operational developments

The Federation Representative arrived in Liberia on February. A joint work plan between the LNRCSS Secretary General and the Federation Representative was almost immediately developed with strong emphasis on meeting the

criteria of a well functioning National Society as well as programme objectives. The civil conflict that has been raging in Liberia for almost 15 years, has accelerated and now has spread to most of the country with the exception of Grand Bassa and Margibi counties as well as part of Montserado county. With only three chapters accessible to the staff of the National Headquarters, the objective of the development of strong branches throughout the country has been put on hold while waiting for the much hoped for cease fire and return to peace. The expansion of the Food Security Project and the HIV/AIDS project will continue in the three chapters of Margibi, Grand Bassa and Montserado.

Health and care

Goal: The health of vulnerable people in Liberia is improved through increased knowledge of how to prevent HIV/AIDS

Objective: Through peer educators and its volunteers, LNRCS is contributing to the community's increased knowledge of how to prevent HIV/AIDS

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Expected results: Community health has been improved through increasing access to preventive health care and knowledge on major health hazards provided by a growing corps of trained Red Cross volunteers.

- 25 trainers of trainers from all 15 chapters have been trained.
- 200 volunteers have been recruited and trained at chapter levels.
- 40% of the population in 10 counties has received key messages.
- Reduction of disease cases in target counties.

Actual results The Community-Based Health Programme will be implemented in the second half of the year following the recruitment of a Director for the Department of Community-Based Health.

Expected results:

- Through peer education, the awareness of HIV/AIDS among young people in Grand Bassa County has been significantly increased.
- The target population in Grand Bassa (20,000 persons under 18 years) has received key health messages.
- 30 health clubs are established in target schools.
- A Volunteer Management System covering all five districts of Grand Bassa has been put in place.
- Stigmatization and discrimination towards PLWHA has been reduced in the target county.
- Significant behavior change has been noted among the target population.

Actual Results

- Peer educators carried out sensitization sessions through presentations and drama, which included the proper use of condoms. A total of 23,202 condoms were distributed and 60 dramas performed while 16,306 youth between the ages of 8 and 18 were sensitized to the HIV/AIDS problem.
- One hundred and twenty five Red Cross volunteers have been trained as peer educators.
- A total of 27 health clubs have been organized in the various schools in Grand Bassa County.
- A youth volunteer database is in the beginning stages of development.
- Although it is difficult to assess, in this short period of time, whether or not stigmatization and discrimination towards PLWHA has been reduced, it is extremely positive to note that during six monitoring sessions by the Branch Coordinator, volunteers, elders, district commissioners and health officials praised the project and urged a continuation of same.
- Positive behavior change could not be measured in this short time frame. To ensure positive behavior change would require continuous awareness/sensitization activities coupled with the constant availability of condoms.

Impact

During the period under review an Impact Assessment Survey (IAS) was conducted to determine the level of impact the project has made thus far. Five hundred youths, both male and female, were randomly selected and interviewed.

Those interviewed expressed satisfaction for the level of intervention made by the LNRCS. They also requested the continuation of the project, specifically in Buchanan because of its diverse social activities.

Constraints

- Lack of availability of condoms.
- Incentives for volunteers are not attractive.
- Lack of VHF radio to monitor movement of the vehicle in the field.
- Bad road conditions.
- Some volunteers did not accept the Red Cross volunteer concept.
- The Health Club idea was not fully accepted especially by some school administrators. This led to the slow pace in establishing health clubs.

Coordination

The HIV/AIDS project coordinates its activities with the Government's National AIDS Control Programme. Also involved in assisting with the training of the peer educators were "Search for the Common Ground" (Talking Drum), the country Health Team and BOCUBA, a local NGO.

Disaster management

Goal: The most urgent needs of the vulnerable to having physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food are met.

Objective: While developing the National Society's local Emergency Response Teams, the Society will learn more about the most urgent needs in the area of Food Security and support the vulnerable people's access to food.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Expected Results

- The local ERTs are all trained and equipped to assist in emergencies and have a documented capacity to carry out needs assessment using VCA technique.
- Registered members of local Emergency Response Teams trained in needs assessment and VCA techniques.
- 10 local ERTs have access to relief items, transport and radio communication when required.
- LNRCS able to decide on food security priorities based on a nation-wide VCA survey.
- National Society staff in senior positions has received a DP training to foster increased support for DP activities on chapter level.

Actual Results

- A two-day VCA training workshop was held in Monrovia with two participants from each of the fifteen chapters. The training of the teams continued through several field visits. For teams from the displaced chapters, special meetings were held on how to approach people residing in IDP camps.
- Training of ERTs was carried out over a period of three months ensuring trained ERTs for each of the fifteen chapters. Those chapters that have been displaced because of the fighting have also trained ERTs and prepared them to provide assistance in Monrovia or in the IDP camp. In April, five additional ERTs were trained in Monrovia as part of the contingency plan should Monrovia be the scene of fighting in the future. The ERTs accessible from Monrovia have all received relief supplies provided by ICRC. The ERTs in Monrovia have received relief supplies, first aid kits and access to radio equipment.
- A nation-wide VCA was carried out in June and July of 2002 and priority areas for a food security programme were identified.
- The Coordinator of Disaster Management Department has received DP training at the regional level. Four Red Cross volunteers will participate in the Regional Disaster Response Team training to be held in Accra.

Expected results

- The National Society's capacity has been strengthened to assist vulnerable people in having physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food.
- 75% of the target group (1,000 persons) is able to plant in the next farming season using their own reserve.
- Beneficiaries are able to exhibit new techniques learned in crop management, nursery construction and management, fertilizer application and transplanting.
- Sufficient quantity of food produced to improve the nutritional diet of the beneficiaries.
- Improved capacity to implement disaster preparedness and development projects in the four Red Cross chapters and eight districts involved.

Actual results

- The Food Security Project has cultivated 50 acres of land in cassava, corn, rice, okra and peanuts. The project benefits 1,000 farmers and is carried out in three counties, Grand Bassa, River Cess and Margibi. (However, just prior to the writing of this report, the River Cess project was abandoned by the farmers due to the arrival of dissidents in this county). The general harvesting of the crops has not yet taken place and, therefore, the availability of a reserve for future planting will be determined in the last half of this year.
- Technical experts in the field of agriculture have provided training and information to the farmers participating in the project. This has included the proper preparation of the land for planting, effective application of fertilizer, construction and planting of seedlings at nurseries and crop management. Supervision and monitoring is carried out on a regular basis. The impact of what has been learned and what lessons will be applied will only be known in the next planting season.
- To be assessed following the harvesting of the crops.
- Three Red Cross Chapters participated in the initial project. One chapter, River Cess has just recently abandoned the project due to fighting in their area. The intention is to expand the project to Montserado county in the next half of the year, security allowing. The chapters involved in the project have also had volunteers trained as part of ERTs.

Impact: the impact of the project is to be assessed after the harvesting and through to the next planting season.

Constraints

- Lack of communication equipment on vehicle used for the project.
- Continued insecurity in the country. As of the writing of this report only three counties are accessible, Margibi, Grand Bassa and Montserado.

Coordination

Six local advisory committees have been set up in the project areas to provide support and supervision to the 19 districts involved in the project. The local committees include Red Cross chapter members, representative from the local authorities, agricultural experts from the area, representatives of farmers themselves and other interested individuals.

Organizational Development

Goal: LNRCS is a well-functioning National Society.

Objective: LNRCS is capable of delivering services effectively and efficiently.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Expected results

- The National Society has a decentralized structure with active chapters, which facilitates its improved operational capacities and resource development capacities.
- Governance has clearly defined job descriptions, and work of Governance is distinctly different from the work of Management.
- The National society is decentralized, having strong chapters with the capacity to carry out the mission of the Society.
- Headquarters provides technical support to chapters.

- Efficient and transparent management systems run by competent and well-trained staff in place.
- Core costs identified and covered by National Society's own funds within a defined period of time.

Actual Results

- At the Headquarters' level there is generally a clear understanding of Governance and Management roles. The Executive Committee meets once a month with the Secretary General present to discuss policy issues. There are still some areas of confusion regarding their respective roles but gradually these should be ironed out to the satisfaction of both Governance and Management. Training regarding Governance and Management roles is planned for the second half of the year. However, at this point in time only three chapters are accessible due to the conflict. These are Margibi, Montserado and Grand Bassa.
- Given the current conflict environment in Liberia, efforts to build strong chapters have to be delayed until such time as the National staff is free to move throughout the country.
- National Society Headquarters staff is providing good technical advice on programme matters including Food Security, HIV/AIDS, Conflict and Disaster Management. However, their work is limited to three chapters at this time.
- The National Society is restructuring its management skills. The new senior management team will be composed of six directors, the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General. Job descriptions have been prepared for these positions and the positions have been advertised. Governance with the third Vice-President as chair has established a selection committee. It is hoped that these positions will attract enthusiastic and competent people and that they will be in place by the end of June. A review of the NS financial system was undertaken in February of this year. As a result, support will be given to the NS to implement a standardized financial system with appropriate computer equipment and soft ware.
- Efforts to assist the National Society to raise funds to meet their core costs are on going. However, the environment in the country at this time does not make this task an easy one. Several meetings with Government officials have been held regarding their financial assistance through an annual allotment to support the Red Cross Programmes. The response has been courteous with promises to study the request. Some progress has been made regarding the promotion of First Aid training to businesses and organizations but more effort and initiative has to be put into it. The clinic operated out of the National Society's Headquarters is barely breaking even. With the ongoing management restructuring, more effort and results will be expected in this area.

Impact

The LNRCS has a five-year development plan, PLAN 2007. This Plan, along with the 2003-2004 Appeal document, is the basis of their annual work plan. The focus of their efforts this year is to meet the criteria of a well-functioning National Society. The re-structuring process is a key element in meeting this objective.

Constraints

- On-going civil conflict in the country.
- Difficulty in raising sufficient on-going funding to cover core costs.

Coordination

The Liberian National Red Cross Society, in addition to the support from the Federation, also implements the following programmes with the following partners:

- **ICRC:** Tracing, Dissemination and Emergency Preparedness in addition to providing volunteers to assist the ICRC in IDP camps in providing shelter, water and sanitation and distribution of non-food items.
- **UNHCR:** The LNRCS has an agreement with UNHCR to manage the camps for Ivorian refugees in Saclepea, Nimba County.
- **UNFPA:** The LNRCS conducted an awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS, funded by UNFPA, for 5,000 adolescents in the IDP camps around Monrovia. A second awareness campaign is programmed for 3,000 adolescents in Totota, Bong County.

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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.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

APPEAL No. 01.27/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

12.06.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				691'419			24.2%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				94'280			
BRITISH - RC		10'000	GBP	21'690	12.05.03	GENERAL DELEGATION CORE COSTS	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				115'970	CHF		16.8%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
CANADA	DELEGATE(S)			51'088			
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				51'088	CHF		7.4%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	