

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

LIBERIA

20 March 2004

In Brief

Appeal No.: 01.27/2003 ([Click here to access the 2003 Appeal](#))

Appeal target: CHF 691,419 (USD 474,419 or EUR 470,094)

Appeal coverage: 96.5% ([Click here to access the Final Financial Report](#))

Appeal 2004: Liberia no. 01.25/2004 ([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

The Federation Representative arrived in Monrovia, Liberia at the end of February 2003, after a request by the [Liberian Red Cross Society](#). The continued insecurity and increased fighting during the first eight months of 2003 was a challenge to the national society in carrying out its humanitarian activities. In July 2003, the headquarters and vehicles were totally looted. Most of its chapters were also looted and some totally destroyed and volunteers displaced. The Federation and the ICRC are working together with the national society to rehabilitate chapters and reinstitute programmes after the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement in Accra, Ghana in August 2003.

ICRC is the lead agency in the country and has worked together with the Federation to increase the capacity of the national society in service delivery.

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The fight against HIV/AIDS, which began in November 2002, continued during the year and was expanded to cover two additional counties. After the arrival of a Health Delegate in November 2003, the national society started developing and implementing a comprehensive community-based health programme throughout the country.

The food security programme, supporting 1,000 farmers in three counties, was disrupted by the fighting but was revamped and expanded during the last four months of 2003.

The national society has continued its development towards becoming a well-functioning national society and has a new management structure in place with four new directors in administration, finance, disaster management and youth.

Objectives, Achievements, and Constraints

Health and care

Goal: The health of vulnerable people in Liberia is improved through increased knowledge of : proper hygiene and sanitation; importance of good drinking water; and transmission of communicable diseases.

Objective: A Community-Based Health programme will be developed and implemented by the volunteers of Liberian Red Cross Society.

Expected Result 1: Through peer education, HIV/AIDS awareness among young people in Grand Bassa county has been significantly increased.

Achievements

- The HIV/AIDS programme, which was started in Grand Bassa County, was expanded to Margibi and Montserrado counties in the last quarter of 2003.
- 150 HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns were conducted.
- 191 peer counsellors were trained and are active.
- 25 HIV/AIDS drama artists were trained and are active.
- 21,000 youth were reached through drama presentations and sensitization sessions.
- 42 school health clubs were established.
- 120,000 condoms were distributed.
- Seven community HIV/AIDS action teams were established.
- Vibrant Red Cross youth networks were established in the three counties.
- A youth volunteer management system was put in place in Grand Bassa and Margibi.

Constraints

- During the first eight months of 2003, the fighting between the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), the Movement for Democracy in Liberia and the Government of Liberia military continued and reached the capital of Monrovia on 5 June 2003. Although four counties had remained accessible from Monrovia during the first part of 2003, from the first attack on Monrovia in June to August 2003, the national society headquarters staff and volunteers were limited to providing humanitarian assistance to the capital Monrovia.
- Some areas opened up gradually after a comprehensive peace agreement signed on 18 August 2003 in Accra Ghana. However, by the end of 2003 the whole country was still under the UN phase 5 and travel outside of Monrovia was limited to the counties of Grand Bassa, Margibi Montserrado and Bong counties and no overnights were allowed.

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Impact

- The HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns have laid the foundation upon which the home based care of persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) component will be included in the programme. The lessons learnt will be incorporated in the Liberian Red Cross HIV/AIDS training package and will be developed and finalized at the beginning of 2004.

Expected Result 2: The recruitment of a director for the community-based health programme for the Liberian Red Cross Society will be completed by October 15 2004.

Achievements

- A Health Delegate was recruited in November 2003.

Constraints

- Despite two attempts to recruit a Health Director, no suitable candidate was found. The Health Delegate had no national society counterpart and worked with a team of three Liberian Red Cross staff in water and sanitation (WatSan), HIV/AIDS and first aid.
- Funding for the health programme was received late in the year due to insecurity in the country caused by continued fighting.

Impact

- The community-based health programme started in 2002, has been carried over and will be completed and implemented in 2004. This is because of delayed disbursement of funds, the delayed arrival of a Health Delegate and failure to recruit a Director of the community based health programme.

Expected Result 3: A clean up campaign will be carried out in Monrovia targeted to orphanages, IDP¹ camps, West Point area, Bushrod Island and parts of Central Monrovia.

Achievements

- Four clean-up campaigns were carried out by Red Cross volunteers in Sinkor, Central Monrovia, Bushrod Island and the Gardnersville communities.

Constraints

- Funding for the health programme was received late in the year due to insecurity in the country caused by continued fighting.

Impact

- Community leaders, citizens and young people participated in the clean-up campaigns with interest and good will. However, due to lack of funds, the national society could not to leave the clean-up tools with the communities and was unable to conduct regular follow up. In addition, there were no funds to hire trucks to carry away the refuse.

Expected Result 4: Along with the clean up campaign will be carried out information sessions for the inhabitants of the targeted areas on related health issues.

Achievements

- As mentioned, four clean-up campaigns were carried out in Sinkor, Central Monrovia, Bushrod Island and the Gardnersville communities. The Red Cross volunteers co-opted the community leaders and citizens to join in the campaign and key health messages were disseminated through drama groups.

Constraints

- Funding for the Health Programme was received late in the year because of insecurity in the country caused by the continued fighting,

¹ IDP – Internally displaced persons

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Impact

- Conveying health messages during clean up campaigns through drama is very popular and attracts many people who do not participate in the actual campaign. The national society will continue sharing health information during the clean up campaigns.

Expected Result 5: Safe drinking water will be provided to the citizens of Monrovia and the accessible chapters through assessments and chlorination of wells.

Achievements

- During the fighting in June, July and August 2003 in Monrovia, Red Cross volunteers distributed 4, 644 gallons of potable water to 24,162 IDP located in various buildings in the city and to IDP during their flight to safety.
- During the same period, Red Cross volunteers constructed eight trench latrines with 20 pits for 7,000 IDP at the Newport High School and the SKD sport complex.
- From 19 July to 11 August 2003, the Red Cross west point first aid post and the Red Cross New Kru town first aid post assisted 1,146 war wounded, 129 diarrhoea cases and 72 cholera cases.
- Red Cross volunteers chlorinated 786 wells in Central Monrovia.

Constraints

- Following the comprehensive peace agreement signed on 18 August 2003 in Accra, Ghana, some areas opened up. However, by the end of the year the whole country was still under the UN phase 5 and travel outside Monrovia was limited to the counties of Grand Bassa, Margibi, Montserrado and Bong counties and no overnights were allowed.
- Funding for the health programme was received late in the year due to insecurity in the country caused by continued fighting.

Impact

- National society volunteers chlorinated 786 wells in three months on a recurrent basis. The number of diarrhoea and cholera cases reported at the clinics decreased.

Disaster Management

Goal: The Liberian Red Cross Society will respond to the needs of the vulnerable affected by the conflict as well as food insecurity.

Objective: While developing the national society local Emergency Response Teams, the Society will learn more about the most urgent needs of the vulnerable people including access to food.

Expected Result 1: The food security project that was successfully implemented in the counties of Grand Bassa, River Cess and Margibi earlier in the year but interrupted due to the conflict in the country, will again be supported through the provision of seeds and replacement of agricultural tools and will be extended to the rural areas of Montserrado County. The purchase of seeds and necessary materials will be coordinated with the ICRC Agro Programme.

Achievements

- Between January and May 2003, a total of 996 farmers were shown new techniques in crop management, nursery construction and management, fertilizer application and transplanting.

County	Number of districts	Number of acres	Number of farmers
Grand Bassa	2	43.0	329
Margibi	2	28.5	348
Rivercess	2	30.5	319
Total	6	102.0	996

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Maize, peanuts, and a variety of vegetables were planted. The Montserrado county food security project supported 14 cooperatives with a total of 500 farmers. Training was provided and tools and seeds were distributed and 22 acres of land were planted.

Mount Barclay	2.5 acres
Carasburg	2.0 acres
Block "D", Johnsville	2.0 acres
Palm Community	1.5 acres
WOCHIDA	2.0 acres
Youth Acceleration	1.5 acres
Ma T. Agric Corp	1.0 acres
Benson St. Agric	1.0 acres
Caldwell Agric	1.0 acres
Moore et others	1.0 acres
Maimai Town	2.5 acres
Kamara Town	2.0 acres
Kollia et Friends	1.0 acres
Winston et Partners	1.0 acres

- The relief department of the Liberian Red Cross Society, supported by the ICRC, completed a nation-wide training cycle in emergency response team (ERT) workshops for 96 participants, with six participants from each of the 15 chapters and the Bong Mine branch of the Bong chapter. In total, three ERT workshops were conducted in Monrovia, Zwedru and Buchanan.
- In June 2003, the Relief Coordinator, WatSan Coordinator, Montserrado Field Officer and the Nimba Field Officer participated in a week long RDRT workshop, held in Accra, Ghana sponsored by the Federation.

Constraints

- In June and July 2003, farmers fled and left their crops unattended as a result of the fighting in Grand Bassa, Margibi and Montserrado counties.
- Eleven out of the 15 chapters were inaccessible for most of the year and all were inaccessible for a two month period in the summer.
- Funds received were for food security and no funds were received for disaster management.

Impact

- The food security projects will continue over 18 months to determine the success of the "security" aspect of the project.
- The training of the ERT has benefited the population. The Liberian Red Cross plans to take part in the resettlement of refugees and IDP.

Expected Results 2: In coordination with ICRC, a data base will be developed on the volunteers and staff of the national society that have successfully completed the disaster management training. Individuals will be identified for refresher training and new volunteers recruited to fill the gaps left as a result of the conflict in the country.

This objective was not realised due to the continued difficulty in accessing most of the country. This will be implemented in 2004.

Organizational Development

Goal: The Liberian National Red Cross Society is a well functioning national society.

Objective: The Liberian National Red Cross Society is capable of delivering services effectively and efficiently.

Expected Result 1: The national society has a decentralized structure with active chapters, which facilitates its improved operational capacities and resource development capacities.

Achievements

- The role of the Field Officers of the 15 chapters has been re-confirmed and supported financially by the Federation.
- The HIV/AIDS and food security programmes have been implemented and supervised by chapter staff and volunteers, assisted by headquarter national staff.

Constraints

- At the end of the year, the whole country was still under a UN phase 5 and many of the chapters were still inaccessible from headquarters.
- The Liberian Red Cross had plans to establish a regional approach by identifying five separate chapters as regional chapters with responsibility to support the chapters and branches in their respective regions. Due to the fighting, insecurity and lack of funds, this has been deferred to a later date.

Expected Result 2: Governance has clearly defined job descriptions, and the work of Governance is distinct from the work of Management.

Achievements

- At national level, governance and management have, operationally, clearly defined their respective roles and adhered to them.
- The national society has revised and approved their statutes which clearly define the roles of the elected members.

Constraints

- Some Red Cross chapters were inaccessible due to insecurity.

Impact

- 2004 is an election year for all chapters and the national society. Considerable effort will be put forward in 2004 to provide information sessions on governance and management and to assist the chapters to prepare for their annual meetings and for the national society to prepare for the general assembly.

Expected Result 3: The construction or rehabilitation of the following Red Cross offices will take place: National Headquarters, Montserrado and Bong chapters.

Achievements

- The rehabilitation of the national headquarters, funded by the ICRC, was 99% completed at the end of the year.
- The Montserrado chapter received a donation of a piece of land and a new building is under construction.
- The construction of the Bong chapter started at the end of 2003.

Constraints

- Some Red Cross chapters were inaccessible due to fighting.

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Impact

- For the national society to deliver her programmes effectively, each chapter must have its own headquarters. In 2004, another seven chapters will either be rehabilitated or constructed. Construction of the last five chapters is planned for 2005.

Expected Result 4: Six senior management positions at the National Headquarters level, Director of Community-Based Health Programme, Director of Disaster Management, Director of Youth, Director of Administration and Finance, Director of Tracing and Director of Information and Communication, will be advertised, positions filled and incumbents trained.

Achievements

- The positions of directors of disaster management, youth, administration and finance were filled in November 2003. Administration and finance were separated hence the two directors.
- Training of the newly hired staff is going on.

Constraints

- All seven positions were advertised. However, many qualified Liberians have left Liberia to escape the fighting. In addition, there are many UN agencies and other international organizations who are hiring staff with the same qualifications and are paying higher salaries.

Impact

- The restructuring of the management of the national society is critical to its continued development to become a well functioning national society.

Expected Result 5: The status of the President of the Liberian National Red Cross Society is to be clarified and, if necessary, support provided for a National Executive meeting to choose an acting President.

Achievements

- A national executive board meeting was held in October 2003 and the first Vice-President was elected to fill the position of acting President until the general assembly to be held in December 2004.

Constraints

- There has been poor communication from the elected President of the Liberian Red Cross.

Expected Result 6: The National Board meeting will be held with the objectives of providing a draft of the 2004 plan and information and input to the upcoming Statutory meetings and General Assembly.

Achievements

- The national board meeting approved the national society plan for 2004, including the budget.
- The acting President was elected to attend the statutory meetings in Geneva along with the Secretary General.
- The ICRC Cooperation Delegate and the Federation Representative, briefed the acting President on the Geneva meetings.

Expected Result 7: During the month of December the Presidents and Field Officers of all 15 chapters will spend a week in Monrovia during which the 2004 NS objectives will be shared and training in the Community-Based Health programme will take place.

This activity did not take place in 2003 and has been brought forward to 2004.

Constraints

- There insecurity in the country so movement is difficult
- Delayed recruitment of the Health Delegate slowed down activities
- The absence of a Health Director has slowed down activities

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Expected Result 8: A joint ICRC and Federation information session on the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement for government Ministers and their senior officials (Geneva Conventions, Principles and Humanitarian Values, will be held.

Constraints

- An information session was not held because of delayed appointment of new ministers and officials to the new transitional government.

Expected Result 9: A Finance delegate will be recruited for a 12 month period to enable the national society to develop and implement an interim management system.

This was not implemented and will be carried over to 2004.

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