

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

SIERRA LEONE

5 June, 2003

Appeal No. 01.28/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 3,444,614 (USD2,363,533 or EUR 2,341,987)

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January to March, 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: 50%; See attached Contributions List for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,726,229

Programme Summary: Programmes were well funded during the first quarter due to the carry over of remaining funds from the 2002 Appeal (01.04/2002). There were, however, gaps in funding for some programmes such as JAWA.

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) responded to the increased number of Sierra Leonean returnees and the influx of Liberian refugees. The SLRCS, in addition to emergency response activities, began the process of developing a three year Strategic Plan (2004-2006) with programming that concentrates on long-term activities and impact. It is hoped that a Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) is created by the end of the year with Partner National Societies and the ICRC. Additionally, work on a Memorandum of Understanding between the SLRCS, the Federation and the ICRC was undertaken to shift the Movement's work with the SLRCS to development cooperation from the ICRC Lead Agency under the Seville Agreement.

Efforts continued to ensure countrywide coverage of services through the expansion of branches and Red Cross groups in Koinadugu, Kailahun and Pujehun Districts. SLRCS programmes had a positive impact on beneficiaries in regards to reducing infant and mortality rates, raising awareness of and reducing stigmatisation regarding HIV/AIDS, reintegration and rehabilitation of children and amputees, peace building within communities affected by the war, and disaster preparedness and response, including the provision of first aid.

The Society's programmes regarding Organisational Development, Disaster Management, Child Advocacy and Rehabilitation (CAR) and Job Aid for War Amputees (JAWA) have the greatest outstanding needs.

Operational developments

The political situation continues to be stable within the country; however, increased violence in Liberia during February and March resulted in an influx of over 7,000 refugees into the eastern part of Sierra Leone. UNOCHA is coordinating a contingency planning group in the event that the influx reaches a potential estimated 17,000

refugees. All refugee camps are working at full capacity and the newly opened Tobanda camp with a planned capacity of 10,000 has already accepted 1,000 additional refugees.

Due to the escalation of conflicts throughout the region, UNHCR has seriously increased the repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees from Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia. The combined effect of returnees and Liberian refugees has led to an increase in activity for the SLRCS, particularly in the border branches.

UNAMSIL reports that the country is subject to a security threat in all sectors. There has also been an increase in armed robberies. An acute fuel shortage in February caused transportation problems and increased the price of fuel significantly. Although fuel supplies have returned to normal, the prices have not gone down and this will have an impact on operations this year.

The National Electoral Commission conducted its paramount chieftaincy elections throughout the country. During the war, over fifty percent of the paramount chiefs died. Of the 149 chiefdoms in the country, sixty-nine Paramount Chiefs were elected.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has commenced its hearings in Freetown and various parts of the country. The TRC was created to bring healing and reconciliation by creating a forum for people to tell their stories.

Health and Care

Goal: The health status and well being of the most vulnerable are improved.

Objective 1: The morbidity and mortality rate of under-fives and women of child bearing age has been reduced and average life expectancy increased while the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate has stabilised.

Progress/Achievements

Community-Based Health Care Programme

The morbidity and mortality rates of under-fives and women of childbearing age have been reduced in the rural areas covered by SLRCS programmes (health education, reproductive health, basic health service and community-based first aid training).

Health education on topics such as clean environment, maternal and child health care, protection of water sources, food hygiene and healthy diet, has reached 300,000 beneficiaries through health talks at the clinics, community meetings, dramatic performances and radio and street campaigns.

The network of SLRCS volunteers coordinated by the coaches continue with their community health promotion activities, and house to house visits in all of the 58 operational communities. The volunteers are focusing on maternal and child survival activities promoting the use of health facilities for antenatal care, post natal care, immunisations, growth monitoring, family planning, nutrition weaning foods, and water and sanitation. SLRCS volunteers reached a total of 17,940 people through health talks in nine clinics, and 7,324 in community health talks in (7 branches). In total the SLRCS reached 25,264 people, out of a year-end goal of 300,000 beneficiaries, during the first quarter of 2003.

Community-Based First Aid training has been given to 440 new and 200 existing volunteers and fifty first-aid kits have been distributed to branches.

These activities did not commence during the reporting period and are planned for April 2003.

Cholera Preparedness training and kits are supplied to 300 community volunteers.

These activities did not commence over the reporting period and are planned for May 2003.

The nine SLRCS clinics have treated 120,000 patients, mostly women and children.

To strengthen the health team in Kambia and Port Loko, and to reactivate the health clinic in Kambia, two SLRCS Branch Health Officers for the branches, and three nurses for the Kambia clinic were hired to begin their duties the second week of April. PHC Services continues in seven static clinics, two mobile clinics and one school clinic.

- The following services are being provided routinely.
- Antenatal Care
- Post Natal Care
- Family Planning Services (Makeni, Kenema & Bo)
- Provision of free essential drugs
- Treatment of minor ailments
- Immunisation of under fives and pregnant women
- Growth Monitoring of under fives
- Supplementary feeding (Bo & WFP)
- Health Education & Demonstrations
- Referrals
- Home visits – follow up/defaulters tracing in the communities, data collection analysis, and dissemination

Clinic attendance January to March 2003

Clinic	Bonthe Static	Bonthe Mobile	Mattru	Bo	Kenema	Bombali	Lungi	Carl* W/Loo	W. Area	Total
Under-fives	569	623	602	1,092	1,114	3,383	1,106	92	901	9,482
Ante natal	83	135	158	706	375	1,702	387	0	270	3,816
Post Natal	58	6	11	89	62	69	50	0	12	357
General	423	589	407	1,597	725	521	517	60	854	5,693
Total	1,133	1,353	1,178	3,484	2,276	5,675	2,060	152	2,037	19,348

***Feb./March only**

A total of 1,737 pregnant women of childbearing age were given their first to fifth doses of vaccinations in Mattru, Bo, Kenema, Western Area, Bombali and Lungi clinics in the first quarter. The following table shows the vaccinations given to children under-five, “under-fives,” during the same period.

Immunization of Under-Fives: January to March 2003

Doses	Mattru	Bo	Kenema	Bombali	Lungi	W/Area	Total
BCG	27	195	21	653	77	86	1,059
1 st Polio/DPT	28	191	68	494	103	100	984
2 nd Polio/ DPT	13	172	65	432	47	78	807
3 rd Polio/ DPT	15	162	45	329	23	87	661
Measles	5	136	46	263	29	91	570
Total	88	856	245	2,171	279	442	4,081
Fully Immunized	4	135	25	257	18	30	469

320 new and 300 existing Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) have received training and TBA kits. Thirty communities have constructed TBA houses.

Eighteen Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA) delivery facilities are under construction with imported materials, purchased using Federation funds with the community providing land and local materials.

In Kenema, 13 houses are being built in 13 villages. Two were completed and 11 are near completion. In Makeni, two houses are nearly finished. In Moyamba two houses are under construction, and work on one house in Bo has just begun. These activities have encouraged positive health habits, and improved the health of the vulnerable

groups in the targeted communities. 185 basic TBA delivery kits were purchased for 185 TBAs who will participate in a Basic TBA training course next quarter.

Health committees have been formed and water and sanitation volunteers trained in 55 communities and their wells chlorinated. In addition, 25 traditional wells have been rehabilitated.

Construction of 21 two compartment household latrines in Makeni, and 20 VIP latrines in Tonkolili is nearing completion. Four Class A wells are under construction in the CAR project centres in Kambia and Port Loko, and in Makomba and Tothkelleh. Fifty-six families were supported to construct VIP latrines in Russell, Tonkolili, and Bombali.

A successful Lassa fever, meningitis and measles campaign has been carried out sensitising 60,000 beneficiaries in prevention, good sanitation and control of the Lassa fever vectors.

Lassa fever is a problem in the South and Eastern provinces. Twelve cases have been reported from Jimmy Bagboh refugee camp with one death; 10 cases and no deaths in Gerihun camp; one case and one death in Largo camp; and, 23 cases with two deaths reported in Kenema district.

Sensitisation and community campaigns are ongoing in collaboration with the MOH, UNHCR and MERLIN. To date 12,860 beneficiaries have been reached through house-to-house visits and health talks out of a goal of 60,000 beneficiaries for the year.

110 mothers' club leaders have been trained and backyard gardening started in 55 communities.

The mothers' clubs had their first quarterly meeting in ten branches with 300 members in attendance. Nutrition education and food demonstrations continue in all operational clinics and communities. Growth monitoring of all under-fives continues on a monthly basis with encouragement from SLRCS volunteers. The mothers' club gardens have improved food security and self-reliance within the communities where they are based.

Growth Monitoring January - March 2003

Clinic	Bonthe Static	Bonthe Mobile	Mattru	Bo	Kenema	Bombali	Lungi	Carl* W/Loo	W. Area	Total
New case	335	390	303	241	185	672	229	12	247	2,614
Revisit	230	233	396	1,017	210	1,171	218	11	1,045	4,531
Total	565	623	699	1,258	395	1,843	447	73	1,292	7,195
Gained weight	165	164	338	904	145	1,104	149	10	966	3,905
Static weight	43	42	24	68	40	29	34	1	66	347
Lost weight	22	27	34	45	27	38	35	0	53	281

* March only

Impact

- 39,532 beneficiaries were reached through health education in the clinics, communities and via FM radio discussions.
- The programme observed improved environmental sanitation and positive mother and child survival activities in the communities.
- Safe and clean deliveries are being conducted by the TBAs who work in teams.
- Eighteen (18) TBA delivery facilities are being constructed and two pre-existing ones are in use. Early referrals are being made, and there were no reported maternal deaths in the SLRCS operational areas.
- Nutritional practices have improved with steady growth rates recorded on the cards of under-fives attending the clinics.
- The disease patterns in the clinics are showing a decrease in the incidence of anaemia in pregnant women.
- 12,860 beneficiaries in Kenema town and its environs, as well as three refugee camps in Jimmy Bagbo, Gerihun and Largo were sensitised on how to prevent and control Lassa fever. Since these campaigns were launched there have been no newly reported cases Lassa fever cases in the camps.
- The health staff, coaches and volunteer leaders in the four Regional branches and headquarters are now capable of promoting the use of insecticide treated mosquito nets and working with communities and volunteers on malaria control activities.

Constraints

- The programme faced some constraints in the area of transportation.

Coordination

- Preparatory work for the evaluation of the health programme, supported by the British and Swedish Red Cross, was completed.
- The programme at district and national level continues to be represented at health task force meetings and activities for malaria control, nutrition coordination.
- The programme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, UNHCR and MERLIN is providing Primary Health Care services to Liberian refugees in Bo and in the Western Area.

HIV/AIDS

Objective 2: The capacity and activity of SLRCS to create awareness on STDs and HIV/AIDS have been increased with more volunteer groups actively advocating on HIV/AIDS prevention and against discrimination through drama, peer education, distribution of condoms and media messages.

Drama groups have been established in four SLRCS branches, bringing the total number of active drama groups to 12. Bi-monthly performances are conducted by each drama group reaching more than 50,000 beneficiaries with messages on HIV/AIDS, positive behaviour changes and use of condoms.

The activities carried out during the quarter included: drama performances, one-to-one health talks (youth peers), house-to-house talks (adult peers) and health talks in clinics.

Each of the eleven branches has trained 40 youth and 40 adult peer educators who regularly work with school classes and communities on HIV/AIDS information and prevention, and an increase in the HIV/AIDS awareness among the targeted population are seen.

The SLRCS organised training for 440 youth and 440 adult peer educators in the ten CBHP operational branches. Quarterly meetings were held to discuss project activities and share experiences. Both youth and adult peer educators carried out outreach activities to schools and communities reaching 14,810 people.

100 community leaders, social heads, religious leaders and health personnel and 100 link teachers, have gone through HIV/AIDS information seminars, now actively advocating for positive behaviour changes. Harmful traditional practices are reduced and communities taking on home-based care of AIDS victims and advocating against the stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV/AIDS.

Nurses in the CBHP clinics and Traditional Birth Attendants using health talks, street campaigns and house-to-house visits provide information on STI, HIV/AIDS. A workshop was held for 74 members of SLRCS and Federation staff to sensitize them about the diseases and the stigma experienced by people living with the diseases.

300 commercial sex workers have completed a three-day course in HIV/AIDS prevention and actively promote safe practices in their environment including distribution of condoms.

A total of 4,836 condoms were distributed and 500 leaflets. Condom supplies given by the AIDS Secretariat have been exhausted in the country. The increase in demand is positive demonstrating the impact of increased awareness and behavioural changes. The SLRCS will need to find a new source to maintain an adequate supply of condoms.

SLRCS regularly airs HIV/AIDS messages, discussions, jingles and quiz competitions on local and national radio stations as well as on national TV.

The Bo, Kenema, Bombali, Kono, and Western Area Branches to increase awareness of STI's, HIV/AIDS and to reduce stigma of those afflicted with the diseases carried out radio discussion programmes. Television programmes also highlighted the training of peer educators in Freetown and an interview and discussion about the SLRCS programme.

SLRCS is seen as an active partner in the National AIDS Control Programme Task Force of the Ministry of Health and the Sierra Leone HIV and AIDS Project (SHARP).

Meetings were held with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Ministry of Education Science and technology, and UNICEF to collaborate on training for teachers. SLRCS also participated in a radio discussion coordinated by the Council of Churches of Sierra Leone.

Impact

The demand for condoms increased

Constraints

The coaches are reporting that the bicycles supplied are not adequate transportation to cover their districts. Condom supplies that were being given through the HIV/AIDS Secretariat have been exhausted and SLRCS needs to determine alternate supply methods.

Coordination

Preparatory work was done with the Danish Red Cross and the SLRCS in anticipation of the bi-lateral six-month mission of a Danish Red Cross Health officer, focused on the Society's HIV/AIDS programming.

Disaster Management

Goal: The effect of disasters in Sierra Leone are mitigated through the intervention of Sierra Leone Red Cross Society.

Objective: The capacity of SLRCS to provide timely and effective response to disaster victims has been strengthened.

Progress/Achievements

SLRCS has played a major role in responding to disasters.

Skills in Disaster Management of SLRCS staff and 20 action teams have been upgraded through training using the new developed and field-tested disaster management curriculum.

Five six-day basic Disaster Management (DM) training sessions were held for eleven action teams, totalling 116 volunteers in Moyamba, Port Loko (Lungi), and Port Loko, Kambia and Kono branches. Theoretical participatory sessions dealt with: disaster terminology, volunteer management and support, linking disasters and development, SPHERE standards, and food security. Practical fieldwork was done on Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA). A first draft of the SLRCS Disaster Management Curriculum has been prepared. Six simulation exercises were conducted for action teams in Western Area, Bo, Kenema, Bombali, Kenema and Port Loko (Lungi) branches. Participants were able to demonstrate the knowledge and skills acquired during their training.

Storage facilities have been identified or constructed at headquarters and at branch level. Fifty non-food-item sets are available at branch level for immediate emergency intervention to disaster exceeding the local capacity.

A one-year contract for warehouse space in Freetown was secured for storing a Non Food Items (NFI) donation from the ICRC. All branches currently have an emergency stock of NFI for 50 families. In February, a disastrous storm in Kenema District exhausted their stock and the branch still requires NFI for 123 families to complete the distribution of relief items. All existing 37 First Aid posts in ten SLRCS branches were replenished with emergency stocks for response to emergencies, consisting of first aid materials, blankets, stretchers, Red Cross aprons and flags.

Guidelines have been issued for release of emergency stocks.

No work was done on this objective in this quarter.

The disaster management database is operational containing vital information on potential suppliers, available stocks and logistic possibilities.

No work was done on this objective in this quarter.

All branches have radio communication sets linking them to the SLRCS headquarters.

A new branch office in Tonkolili District (Magburaka) was officially opened in March, and the Federation provided and installed an HF radio. The Federation provided radio repairs and servicing in Moyamba, Bo, Kenema, Kambia, Makeni, Port Loko (VHF only) and Lungi (VHF only).

In preparation for a National Disaster Management plan, VCAs have been conducted in six branches and Disaster Management plans prepared using the VCA findings. The government has established the forum to develop a National Disaster Management Plan with SLRCS being one of the major actors.

No work was done on this objective in this quarter.

52,000 Sierra Leonean returnees and Liberian refugees have been assisted on their arrival.

The SLRCS received and registered a total of 16,210 Sierra Leonean returnees from Guinea, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire. Returnees were given bread, sardines and potable water on a twice-weekly basis by the Society. In addition, first aid services were provided to those with injuries and referrals made on board UNHCR trucks to Lungi, Kambia and Port Loko government hospitals. Kambia branch action teams at the Pamalap – Gbalamuya border with Guinea, received the returnees.

In February, UNHCR increased their capacity to double the number of returnees to Sierra Leone. The Lungi (Port Loko branch) group was reactivated to receive returnees repatriated by air from Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire. On February 25 and 26, an assessment was carried out, following an influx of approximately 7,000 Liberian refugees crossing primarily at the Mano River Bridge border point, to determine their humanitarian needs and identify any gaps in service delivery. Particular concerns were identified in relation to unaccompanied children, lack of clothing and shoes, limited medical facilities at the Zimmi Way station clinic and a need to sensitise refugees to move away from the border region to the safety of way stations and refugee camps. SLRCS met with ICRC to strengthen the Red Cross Message network in the camps and way stations. To date, no other specific action has been taken to provide service, nor has there been an additional significant influx of refugees. However, as the fighting in Liberia intensifies, the threat of additional influx is very real.

Lumley Beach First Aid Post has been effective in rendering services to the affected individuals.

Six action team volunteers of Western Area Branch provided first aid services at the First Aid post on Lumley Beach on weekends and holidays. A total of 51 casualties were assisted with minor wounds.

Programme Management: A job description and recruitment process was initiated for the post of an Assistant Disaster Preparedness Programme Officer. Candidates have been short-listed but the hiring is temporarily on hold until the appeal budget fulfilment is clarified.

Impact

- The SLRCS, Kambia branch is the only Agency providing services at the border on arrival of returnees from Guinea. All other humanitarian agencies and NGOs are present in Port Loko . The Gbalamuya community and the Returnees themselves have a good public image. Support is received from the Guinean and Sierra Leonean soldiers, NaCSA and UNHCR.

Constraints

- The delay in hiring an Assistant Disaster Preparedness Programme Officer and the increase in refugee influx and Sierra Leonean returnees has delayed some of the programme objectives for this quarter.

Coordination

- The SLRCS is an active partner in the co-ordinated effort of humanitarian agencies on arrival of Sierra Leone Returnees at the Lungi International Airports and Pamalap border.
- Cooperation and collaboration with other operational agencies, UN,NGOs and the government continued to be very good.

Humanitarian Values

Goal: A culture of non-violence and sustainable development is promoted in communities.

Objective: SLRCS enhances the economic and social status of war-affected children, amputees and vulnerable communities, increasing the ongoing peace building process.

Progress/Achievements

Job Aid for War Amputees (JAWA)

The self-reliance capacities of 146 war amputees have been enhanced through skills training, job placement or micro-credit enterprises. Psychosocial support has assisted their integration into mainstream activities. Advocacy and media campaigns to targeted groups have increased their acceptance into and support from their communities.

The JAWA program is facing a severe funding crisis. The funding in the first quarter was assisted by a re-direction of Swedish Red Cross funds from 2002 funding. The JAWA staff has been engaged in on-the-job learning on how to profile and write proposals with the Federation's Social Welfare Delegate. They have researched local funding channels and proposals have been prepared for the US Embassy and British High Commission. Also, testimonial pieces from amputees who have benefited from each of the three programme components have been developed and distributed to donor national societies to assist with fundraising.

Skills training and micro-credit loans have been started in two new locations.

Loans were made to ten new beneficiaries in Port Loko in the sum of USD 91.

40 amputees have been trained in tailoring.

Fifteen trainees graduated in tailoring this quarter.

Ten amputees have been trained in gara tie-dyeing and soap making

Ten beneficiaries are currently enrolled in gara tie-dyeing training.

Ten beneficiaries have been placed in jobs.

Five beneficiaries were placed in jobs within the first quarter. Twenty employers were contacted for potential job placement; 13 in Freetown, three in Bo, two in Kenema, and 2 in Makeni.

Amputees have obtained knowledge and skills to identify and reduce post-traumatic stress symptoms.

The JAWA volunteers at each location conduct ongoing counselling and follow up with the JAWA beneficiaries. In these sessions, much support is given to assist the amputees to cope with their everyday challenges. A session on Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress is scheduled for volunteers in June.

Street begging has been reduced by 60% among the project amputees.

An evaluation will be implemented in June.

Community leaders have introduced and helped mobilised support for JAWA amputees.

Prior to repatriation, the inter-agency team representatives involved in amputee programming meet to coordinate actions and services to help the amputees return to their communities. Agency representatives, amputee leaders and community leaders meet at their new location to discuss repatriation needs and issues. On the day of repatriation, inter-agency team representatives accompany the amputees to facilitate settlement in their new communities. Various agencies are involved with follow up. JAWA actively participates in each of these steps.

In February 12 amputees were repatriated to Makeni and 36 amputees to Kono. More than half of these amputees were involved in the JAWA programme. In Makeni, the JAWA staff member has participated in each step of the programme, and the JAWA volunteer and branch representative have been involved with the follow up. The JAWA programme in Kono is to start in June with the recruitment of a branch volunteer. Follow-ups will be made by the JAWA staff, volunteer and branch representative.

Impact

- Reintegration of returnees and ex-combatants and reconciliation is accelerated in the project communities.

Constraints

- Pilot surveys in some new skills areas were not conducted due to lack of funds.

Coordination

- Staff and volunteers of the project attended inter-agency meetings in the various operational areas.

Community Animation and Peace Support (CAPS)

The Community Peace Consolidation Committees, leaders and members of 48 war-torn communities have integrated conflict transformation and peace building practices into their family and community lives. Processes to reconcile and heal individual and collective trauma have been developed and scheduled on a regular basis. Ex-combatants and returnees have been accepted and integrated into communal activities. Sustainable living standards have improved. Awareness on social issues has increased and good governance is strengthened. The SLRCS Profile and understanding of Red Cross mandate has increased in all 48 communities. SLRCS has attained expertise and recognition for the positive results of CAPS.

The Community Peace Consolidation Committees (CPCC) have been trained to address and resolve conflict through non-violent means and collaborative peace building process in their communities.

Conflict Transformation training workshops were organised for community volunteers in the 48 CAPS communities. The Community Peace Consolidation Committees (CPCC) participated and led discussions with community volunteers. Two thousand and eighty (2,080) men, women, and youth participated. The workshops, which were facilitated by the Community Animators and supervised by the Project Supervisors, covered the following topics:

- Conflict-an overview
- The Circle of Conflict
- Conflict Analysis Tools
- Conflict Resolution-Terms and Definitions
- Early warning signs
- Possible intervention strategies

The main objective of the training was to build the capacity of community volunteers in conflict transformation, so as to address potential root causes of conflict and promote reconciliation and peace building in their communities.

Each community has constructed peace huts as a place to resolve conflict and further peace building.

Two meetings were held with community leaders in each of the 48 communities to identify the needs and capacities of vulnerable individuals and groups. The process of identification and action point will be completed in May.

Festivals and tournaments have been organised within and between communities.

Regular drama and cultural performances were done in each community. Participation was high with an average attendance of seventy percent. Dramatic and Cultural performances served as group therapy for community people; providing a diversion that relaxed communities and reduced tension.

Each community has developed avenues for community members to safely share, forgive and be forgiven, and express their feelings related to their war experiences and its impact.

- Two former RUF ex-combatants returned to the Kpetema community in the Bumpah Chiefdom, Bo district. This was a significant event as Kpetema was one of the strongholds of the civil militias who fought against the RUF. Community people who have been sensitised to reconcile with former “enemies” welcomed their return. The return of the two will send positive signals to others, who still fear to return.
- Weekly discussions on topical news items on local radio were carried out. Two key news items assumed prominence in the discussions during the period. Generally people were fretful, but discussion and information helped them overcome their anxiety.

Each of the communities has achieved rebuilding at least 70% of their homes.

- The Mojajo community in the Bo district used the construction tools distributed last year to construct a four kilometre feeder road. For a very long time, this community was cut off from vehicular traffic. With the completion of the feeder road, vehicles are now linking Mojajo with the trunk road.

- In Kori chiefdom, collaboration took place with CARE Sierra Leone in giving out food for work for construction of a road (Abaneh to Konda 4 kilometers), a bridge on the Salina/Konda road, and community store at Lavulema.
- CARE was also contacted to rehabilitate wells that they installed years ago in Lavulema, Salina and Konda.
- Eighteen houses were burnt down in Kpatema in Lugbu Chiefdom. The CAPS Animators linked the Chief, the community to NACSA to obtain assistance, and helped in conducting the assessment of damage.

Each of the communities has been actively engaged in health and hygiene activities that reduce disease and accidents, and increase health and well being for all.

First Aid Training

Fifty-two people from the community were trained in Community Based First Aid (CBFA). Many of the CAPS communities are miles away from a clinic or any medical help. Community members often suffer and die from preventable and treatable accidents and ailments, such as, bloody diarrhoea and snake bites. Two people were chosen by each community to be trained in CBFA.

The sexually active population have been thoroughly sensitised on family planning options and sexual disease prevention.

The animators led focus group discussions on HIV/AIDS in nineteen communities. Social and economic effects of AIDS on a community were highlighted at the discussions. Men, women and youths participated in the discussions and condoms were distributed. There is a high frequency of polygamy and promiscuity within the communities thus making an outbreak of AIDS in those communities catastrophic.

60% of the vulnerable population in CAPS communities have developed a means to a sustainable livelihood.

- **Work groups:** One hundred and seventy four work groups were organised and strengthened to embark on agriculture. Fifty-five percent of the Ex-combatants formed work groups. The work groups have helped to get ex-combatants back into mainstream of the civil society.
- **Adult literacy:** The SLRCS supported functional literacy centres with books and learning materials in eight communities in the two project districts. So far, 194 (116 women and 78 men) adult learners have registered. Learning is done in English and Mende. Facilitators were identified and supported by the communities. Adult illiteracy is over seventy percent in most CAPS communities and the active participation of the students is evidence of their strong desire to overcome the handicap.
- **Food security:** 174 work groups in the 48 communities were supported with seeds (groundnut, inland valley swamp (IVS) and upland rice) and farming tools. The aim is to create seed banks in the communities, leading to agricultural recovery and food security. The main occupation in the CAPS communities is farming and 4,350 people (men and women) are involved in the work groups.
- **Skills Training:** Training in three areas of income generating skills was supported in eighteen communities in the two districts as follows:
 - Carpentry: 3 communities, 45 trainees (all male youths and most of them ex-local militia fighters).
 - Soap making: 12 communities, 271 trainees (all female, mainly single mothers and war widows).
 - Gara tie Dyeing: 3 communities, 23 trainees (all female, single mother and war widows).

All men, women and youth have participated in at least one sensitisation session on the Convention of the Rights of the Child, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law, and sexual violence.

These topics were introduced in the first few months of entering the communities. These and other topics are highlighted through a variety of radio programmes and often questions arise and discussions ensue around these subjects when the CPCC and Animators hold community meetings.

50% of the CAPS communities have formed Red Cross groups.

Active recruitment is planned later in the year.

A baseline survey and final evaluation have been conducted and reports written on progress and shared with Movement partners.

An impact assessment was conducted of the 2000 to 2002 phase of CAPS last year. Analysis of the results has been completed and the report is expected in July. A baseline survey of the new communities was completed in October. The reporting on the baseline will be completed in August.

Impact

- Reintegration of returnees and ex-combatants and reconciliation was accelerated in the project communities.

Constraints

- Some activities were not implemented in this quarter due to delays in accessing funds.

Coordination

- Project Officers attended inter-agency meetings at District and Regional levels.

Child Advocacy and Rehabilitation (CAR)

Four hundred and fifty children have been enrolled into the CAR projects in Waterloo, Kambia and Port Loko. The children have begun the process of healing their trauma and integration into mainstream activities. Child and human rights advocacy and sensitisation have been well promoted to the families and members of the children's home communities, so that support, guidance and acceptance of these children have increased. Through education and skills training, children have improved their health and hygiene status, general well being, and self-reliance capacities. Select home communities of the CAR children have received support to enhance their community life. The SLRCS staff teams have gained expertise in all aspects of programming, monitoring, evaluating and reporting for the CAR project.

Programme Management.

- The CAR programme began 2003 with three centres. The construction of the Port Loko and Kambia Centres is complete. Work on finishing of wells on both sites still remains to be done.
- Interviews for Port Loko positions were completed in January and staff began work in February.
- The Headman for Waterloo announced that two acres of land has been donated to the SLRCS by the community to build a permanent site and structure for the CAR program in Waterloo. Up to this point, the programme was renting a building. Construction of the site was included in the 2003 Appeal.
- Bilateral support for a fourth centre is being discussed with the SLRCS and the Spanish Red 1Cross.
- There were hundreds of children who turned up on registration days in each of the seven communities. The final selection was completed by the end of January.
- In Waterloo, the registration and verification of the third intake of CAR beneficiaries was completed. The full number of 150 children were enrolled, with the majority of them being war-affected girls.
- Project activities were put on hold as a result of differences with community people on the recruitment of the Project Supervisor. The impasse was eventually resolved after several meetings and project activities resumed in March.

100% of the CAR children have obtained knowledge to identify and reduce their post-traumatic symptoms.

Staff training in Waterloo was completed in January. Port Loko and Kambia will be receiving training in these topics in June. War Child, an NGO that works with trauma through drama, has been working with CAR Waterloo beneficiaries. The CAR Activists and their caseload beneficiaries work together with the War Child staff to address various issues that may be related to their past experiences. These sessions are conducted on a weekly basis over several months.

At least 80% of the CAR parents or guardians have increased their support to the CAR children.

Nearly all children have received increased support from their parents/guardians. Evidence of this is that nearly all CAR parents and guardians have attended parent meetings at the centre and in their communities. When conducting family visits on problems and issues arising between beneficiaries and their families, or in the child's progress at the Centre or in future plans, there is an interest in listening to concerns and generally good cooperation to address and resolve them.

The CAR staff, community groups and leaders have developed an open and collaborative relationship that has assisted in problem solving, sensitising, and advocating on issues affecting war-affected children.

As the CAR programme continues in each of these locations, the relationships are strengthened. Visits to the communities take place several times a week, if transport allows, and/or several times a month for the purpose of family visits, meetings with the leaders, or community sensitisation sessions. The leaders have been integral to instituting changes in attitude and behaviour in the community and even families.

Illiterate CAR children have learned to read, write and count.

The District Inspector from the Ministry of Education visited the Centre and was pleased with the curriculum. As part of his visit, he donated textbooks and a package of stationery for the use of the staff and beneficiaries.

Monitoring of the 300 graduates has continued.

In March, 80 graduates from 2001 and 2002 attended a meeting to report on their progress. All were continuing with their skills either through apprenticeships or cooperative enterprises, and a few with their own businesses. Two communities have offered land to construct a place for them to carry out their production. One-on-one visits will be held in the next quarter.

At least 80% of the 10 to 13-year-olds have entered and succeeded in formal school.

The remaining ten to thirteen year olds have been integrated into the regular school system. The Kambia District has a Community Response Education Program (CREPS) that other districts do not have. It is a condensed three-year academic program for over age learners and is organised by the Ministry of Education with support of the Norwegian Refugee Council. This will be an advantage for the CAR graduates who desire to begin or complete an academic education.

The CAR children have reported a reduction of non-acceptance behaviour towards them in their respective communities.

During one-on-one meetings with their Activists, nearly all of the CAR children reported improvements in how they were treated in all locations.

The home communities of the CAR youth have increased their knowledge on HIV and STDs prevention, sexual violence, human and child rights, trauma care, and conflict transformation.

In February, some twenty past CAR beneficiaries were trained as Youth Peer Educators. They conducted HIV/AIDS sensitisation sessions in the CAR communities.

90% of children trained in skills have graduated and continued with their trade.

The Waterloo location had its second graduation in December, with over 500 family and community members in attendance, a notable increase from 2001. The family members of the beneficiaries assisted significantly in the preparations prior to and on the day of the event. One hundred and thirty one beneficiaries graduated. The remaining nineteen were ten to thirteen year olds who were reintegrated into elementary school. The start up kits for the graduates was distributed early January in the presence of family and community leaders.

CAR staff members have achieved knowledge and skill competency in trauma counselling, case management, teaching and facilitation methodologies, facilitation of conflict transformation and peace building in communities.

- The Federation's Social Welfare Delegate ended a series of training in Skills and Approaches for Case Management and Counselling. In February, the Waterloo staff participated in a two-day training in Psychosocial Strategies Using Drama organised by War Child.

- In Port Loko, the newly recruited staff completed a ten-day orientation in two phases. At Headquarters, they were oriented regarding Red Cross ideals and operations, Code of Conduct, SLRCS policies and procedures, and completed administrative tasks. In Port Loko, they were oriented to the subjects of project goals and objectives, programme standards, challenges faced by war-affected children, The Convention on the Rights of the Child, criteria for beneficiary registration, funding and profiling, and results-based reporting.

The National Society has formulated standards, codes of conduct and policies related to the work with war-affected children and counselling in particular.

Each staff member needs to accept and sign ‘The Standards for Accountability of Humanitarian Aid Workers in Sierra Leone’ when starting or renewing their contracts. Each of the CAR and CAPS staff are oriented to these Standards, Codes of Conduct in their orientation sessions. More work is yet to be done.

Impact

- At the time of registration most of the beneficiaries could not read or write but seven months into the course, 90% of them can now read and write. All of the beneficiaries at the centre have progress in their respective skills.

Constraints

- The Kambia project vehicle experienced frequent breakdown.

Coordination

The Spanish Red Cross bi-lateral delegate arrived to begin work with the SLRCS on a new CAR centre. Meetings were held with Federation staff and the SLRCS to determine the modalities of working together including service agreements and programme coordination. Project staff attended Child Protection meetings at districts levels.

Organisational Development

Goal: The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement intends to further reinforce the National Society’s reputation as the lead humanitarian organisation in Sierra Leone.

Objective: The capacity of the National Society to deliver cost-effective and efficient programmes that support the most vulnerable population is increased.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Human resources skills and financial capacity and development at both branch and headquarters level has improved and national coverage is achieved.

The leadership, managerial and financial reporting skills of branch and headquarters staff are upgraded.

Directors, Coordinators, Officers of the headquarters staff and Regional Field Officers participated in a strategic planning workshop providing an opportunity to learn about strategic planning and SWOT analysis.

The financial resources of SLRCS are strengthened through improved income-generating skills.

Fundraising activities were undertaken in many branches during the first quarter through membership fees, clinic fees, special events such as a rag parade, and first aid training.

Branch Fundraising January – March 2003

Branch	Membership fees	Clinic fees	First Aid training	Other	Total
Bo	143,500	1,113,750	0	60,000	1,317,250
Kenema	44,000	1,705,500	676,000	77,300	2,502,800
Tonkolili	140,000	0	0	0	140,000
Bombali	0	0	500,000	0	500,000
W. Area	86,000	2,287,000	0	24,000	2,397,000
Total Leones	413,500	5,106,250	1,176,000	161,300	6,857,050

Total CHF	255	3,156	727	100	4,238
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*Amounts are in Leones

The SLRCS Headquarters fundraising activities were put on hold while management was restructuring the Fundraising Centre in Freetown.

The paid membership base has been increased by 2,200 and volunteer strength and skills have been increased.

In Koinadugu district, a ceremony was held in Kabala on March 28, 2003 to officially grant branch status and to open the new building. The 728 newly enrolled members, 75% of whom are women, were also given their membership certificates. In Tonkolili district, an official ceremony was held in Magburaka on March 29, 2003 to open the newly built branch office. Sensitization campaigns were carried out in Port Loko, Moyamba, Kambia, Tonkolili, Bo and Bonthe as part of the National Recruitment Campaign. The registered and enrolled members increased by 920 out of a goal of 2,200. A special emphasis has been placed on the recruitment of women and youth. For example, in Bo, ten Red Cross clubs were established in ten secondary schools.

Members Registered/Enrolled January – March 2003

Branch	Members Registered	Members Enrolled	Total	Grand Total To Date
Koinadugu	0	728	728	728
Port Loko	60	0	60	909
Kambia	60	0	60	608
Tonkolili	0	22	22	243
Bonthe	15	0	15	1731
Bo	35	0	35	536
Bombali	0	0	0	278
Kono	0	0	0	5221
Western Area	0	0	0	920
Kenema	0	0	0	501
Moyamba	0	0	0	769
Total	170	750	920	7,745

Note: Registered members are new members who have just joined the Society while enrolled members are registered members who have attended a two or three day enrolment class where they are taught about the history of the Red Cross, its ideals and principles as well as the activities of the National Society.

Two new branches would be established in Pujehun and Kailahun districts by the end of 2003.

The Field Officer from Kenema visited three chiefdoms in the Kailahun district to prepare the groups. In Pujehun district, the recruitment drive in preparation for Branch status has resulted in the enrolment of 156 male adults, 80 female adults, 202 male youth and 101 female youth for a total of 539 people. Arrangements for securing land in Kailahun and Pujehun districts is in progress.

A five-year strategic plan and a CAS document have been put in place.

A strategic planning workshop was co-facilitated by the Sierra Leone Red Cross and the Federation, on March 17-21, 2003 for key headquarters and field staff with some governance representation. The ICRC Cooperation Delegate and the Spanish Red Cross bi-lateral delegate also participated. The length and timing of this workshop prohibited a larger governance representation, therefore, a condensed version of this workshop is planned for May 10, 2003 for key governance volunteers with staff representation. A draft three year strategic plan will be developed based on these two workshops that will form the basis of a Partnership Meeting to be held May 20-23, 2003.

Impact

- The people of Pujehun and Kailahun Districts appreciate the presence of Red Cross after ten years of war.
- The sensitisation campaigns at branch level towards the national recruitment drive resulted in the registration and enrolment of more members during the quarter. A total of 920 new members were registered and enrolled.

Constraints

- Logistics and transportation, including higher fuel costs and maintenance, reduced the ability of the Field Officers to cover their territory. The HF radio system was a problem in Kono, Port Loko and Bonthe this quarter. A consignment of used clothing donated by the Swedish Red Cross did not arrive as anticipated in this quarter resulting in a delay of fundraising activity in the national fundraising centre.

Coordination

- The Canadian Red Cross Deputy International Programmes Director visited the SLRCS to discuss future capacity building initiatives and the possibility of a three-year grant from the Canadian government through CIDA.
- The SLRCS President introduced the HoD at the Managing Committee Meeting Chaired.
- The Organizational Development Delegate ended his mission one month early due to family circumstances.
- Bi-weekly Movement Tripartite meetings took place with the addition of a task force set up to write an MOU for coordination mechanisms for the future transition from ICRC as Lead Agency.
- The HoD travelled to Dakar, Senegal for a quarterly West and Central Africa Management Team meeting.

International Representation

Goal: Federation representation and lobbying at regional and international levels promote the Federation, its membership, its values and its programming.

Objective: Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement activities and successes in Sierra Leone are profiled internationally and locally.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Media coverage, locally and internationally, for the Federations programmes has been ensured and the Federation has been represented at UN/NGO coordination meetings in country.

Federation/SLRCS projects have been featured, at minimum, in four international media articles.

Profile pieces were written for the JAWA programme and circulated to donor national societies.

World Disasters Report 2003 was successfully launched.

The report was not launched in this quarter.

SLRCS/Federation have attended all major UN/NGO coordination meetings.

- The HoD attended the UNOCHA Liberian refugees contingency planning meeting to introduce the Federation's role and investigate potential roles for the SLRCS.
- The SLRCS regularly attends UNHCR coordination meetings with regards to Sierra Leonean returnees and services provided in refugee camps.
- The HoD attended bi-weekly International NGO meetings.
- The HoD attended the UNAMSIL security briefings that previously had been attended only by the ICRC.
- The HoD met with the American Ambassador to Sierra Leone for an introductory meeting and to become familiar with any potential funding opportunities.
- The Social Welfare Delegate met with representatives of USAID to assess funding possibilities.
- The Secretary General attended the ICRC organised international conference on the **Missing** that was attended by experts from governmental and non-governmental organisations in Geneva from February 19 – 21, 2003.
- The Communication/Tracing Coordinator attended the Commonwealth Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on International Humanitarian Law in London, United Kingdom from February 26 – 28, 2003.

Impact

- The Federation was better represented within the International community and was able to coordinate activities and gather information more effectively.
- Donor National Societies were very appreciative of the profile pieces on JAWA, and asked for additional programmes to be profiled in the future.
- The Secretary General said he found the conference extremely useful, as the issue of the Missing is very relevant to Sierra Leone.
- The Communication/Tracing Coordinator said the Conference was very useful and has motivated him to intensify the promotion of IHL to various target groups in the country.

Constraints

- None.

For further information please contact:

- Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, slrcs@sierratel.sl telephone 232-22-229-854/222-384, fax 232-22-229-083
- Jacquelyn Wright, Head of Delegation, ifrcsl01@ifrc.org tel. 232-22-22-77-72 fax 232-22-22-81-80
- Mark Willis, Senior Regional Officer, mark.willis@ifrc.org tel. 41-22-730-4222

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. 01.28/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

05.06.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3'444'615		49.9%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				879'381		
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		120'000	USD	163'140	29.04.03	ASSISTANCE TO RETURNED REFUGEES
BRITISH - RC		50'000	GBP	112'125	31.01.2003	CAR PROGRAMME
BRITISH - RC		75'000	GBP	168'188	31.01.2003	CBHP
BRITISH - RC		35'000	GBP	78'488	31.01.2003	CAPS PROGRAMME
BRITISH - RC		10'000	GBP	22'425	31.01.2003	GENERAL DELEGATION COSTS
BRITISH - RC		15'000	GBP	32'220	20.03.03	CAR PROGRAMME
BRITISH - RC		42'990	GBP	92'321	02.04.03	CBHP
BRITISH - RC		19'961	GBP	43'295	15.04.03	HIV/AIDS
BRITISH - PRIVATE/RC		26'149	GBP	56'717	12.05.03	CAPS PROGRAMME
CANADIAN - RC/PRIVATE		18'000	CAD	16'699	09.12.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'664'999	CHF	48.3%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CANADA	DELEGATE(S)			10'841		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			42'546		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				53'387	CHF	1.5%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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