

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

SIERRA LEONE

14 April 2004

In Brief

Appeal No.: 01.28/2003 ([Click here to access the 2003 Appeal](#))

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

Appeal coverage: 85.3% ([Click here to access the Final Financial Report](#))

Appeal 2004: Sierra Leone no. 01.26/2004 ([Click here to access the 2004 Appeal](#))

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Overall analysis of the programme

The eleven-year conflict in Sierra Leone has caused destruction resulting in immense suffering and devastation to the country. However, there is renewed hope that peace has finally returned to Sierra Leone. The country is now headed for peace recovery following certain achievements which include; the disarmament process, completion of reintegrating the former fighters and peaceful presidential and parliamentary elections in 2002 with crucial support from the peacekeeping force UNAMSIL. In 2003, the political situation in Sierra Leone was stable and most activities had returned to normal.

Regional instability in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire still threatens peace and recovery in Sierra Leone. The fighting in Liberia intensified during the early part of 2003 and border areas continued to be a threat due to refugee influx and presence of armed fighters. The peace agreement signed later in the year gives hope for the future. However, tens of thousands of Sierra Leoneans remain displaced outside the country while there are still 70,000 Liberian refugees in the Sierra Leone that require emergency support.

Sierra Leone; Appeal no.1.28/2003; Annual Report

Although the progress made in peace and recovery in Sierra Leone is encouraging, there still remains much to be done to improve the lives of the most vulnerable and to put in place plans for sustainable development. According to the UN Human Development Index, Sierra Leone is again last out of 174 countries on the scale: maternal mortality (1,800 / 100,000), infant mortality (170 / 1,000 live births), under-five mortality (286 / 1,000) and life expectancy (37 years).

In 2003, the [Sierra Leone Red Cross Society](#) focused on providing primary health care services with an aim to address the following issues; the urgent needs of over 106,000 of the most vulnerable populations of women and children in ten districts, community-based health services in 104 communities, water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS, training of traditional birth attendants, community sensitization campaigns for serious health issues such as Lassa fever and promoting immunization for other vaccine preventable childhood diseases. The national society in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) played a key role in sensitizing communities, in a countrywide effort to immunize 577,402 children against measles.

In terms of recovery and reintegration, the Sierra Leone Red Cross continued for the third year to meet the needs of children, amputees and of communities most highly affected by the war. The Child Advocacy and Rehabilitation programme assisted 450 war-affected children aged 10-18 years in three centres. The Community Animation and Peace Support programme benefited 48 new communities in the Bo and Moyamba Districts adding to the 48 communities who participated the year before. The Job Aid for War Amputees assisted over 125 amputees in six districts to become more self-reliant with finding jobs, developing new marketable skills and assisting with micro-credit enterprises.

The Sierra Leone Red Cross improved skills in Disaster Management of staff and volunteer action teams throughout the country. Over 130 volunteers in 13 action teams in five branches were trained using a newly developed disaster management curriculum. Other preparedness activities included training staff and volunteers in the VCA tool and conducting a pilot VCA in the Western Area. Also, there were discussions with the Office of National Security on possibilities of SLRC assisting the government to develop their national disaster management plan. In terms of response, approximately 50,000 Sierra Leonean returnees were assisted upon their arrival at three entry points with basic food and water and first aid services. The Bo, Kenema and Western Area branches continued to provide health, tracing and social welfare services to Liberian refugees based in eight camps and in the urban areas with a population of over 63,000.

The national society took important steps towards developing their organization to become a truly well-functioning national society capable of addressing the challenges of sustainable development in Sierra Leone. The highlights include; the development of a draft three-year strategic plan, the signing of an MoU for Development Cooperation with the Federation, a membership drive to recruit new members, the official opening of a branch in Koinadugu District, the opening of three new branch office buildings, the opening of two new CAR centres in Port Loko and Kambia, and preparations for two new Branches in Pujehun and Kailahun.

Many thanks to the British, Canadian, Swedish, Netherlands, Norwegian, Swiss, American and Finnish governments, who gave direct multi-lateral contributions through the 2003 Appeal, as well as the American government through the Population Refugee Movement programme, and two bi-lateral national societies; the Spanish Red Cross and the Danish Red Cross, for their continued commitment to the Sierra Leone Red Cross and its programmes. The ICRC also provided significant technical and financial assistance to the programmes of the national society.

Health and care

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

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

Community-Based Health Care Programme (CBHP)

Expected result

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

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

In 2003, 440 new volunteers in ten operational branches successfully completed CBFA training and 25 first aid kits were distributed. Also, 200 volunteers completed a three-day CBFA refresher course. Ten branches of Sierra Leone Red Cross marked [World First Aid Day](#) on 13 September 2003 through community sensitization on First Aid in Community Health and Care.

- **Cholera Preparedness training and kits were supplied to 300 community volunteers.**

Cholera preparedness training, focusing on the management of diarrhoeal diseases was organized for 300 volunteers in 60 communities from ten branches. Three hundred (300) demonstration kits were distributed for community teaching on home management of diarrhoea and the preparation of oral rehydration salts.

- **The nine Sierra Leone Red Cross clinics have treated 120,000 patients, mostly women and children.**

Generally, 106,121 patients benefited from health care services at the Sierra Leone's Red Cross' eight clinics, including the two mobile clinics; 54,450 under-fives, 14,478 pregnant women, 1,904 lactating mothers, 31,289 older children and adults (*see table 1 below*). Immunization for children and mother's was carried out; 20,348 children were immunized against childhood vaccine preventable diseases and 11,804 pregnant and childbearing age women were also immunized against tetanus. Besides immunization, the clinics conducted growth monitoring for 30,128 children (*see table 2 below*). Health discussions on various topics were conducted at the clinics reaching 106,249 beneficiaries, another 84,771 beneficiaries were reached through community level health discussions in the 104 communities. The clinics were very beneficial in detecting obstetric complications and other emergencies which were then referred to other hospitals. This helped save a lot of lives. There were no cases of maternal or neonatal tetanus reported at the clinics. Routine services in antenatal/postnatal care, family planning, free essential drugs, treatment of minor ailments, growth monitoring, health education, referrals, home visits and immunization of under-fives and pregnant women were provided to the population. Follow up/defaulting tracing in the communities, data collection analysis and dissemination were also done in 2003. One school clinic in Mattru was closed and handed over to the MoH. In the fourth quarter of the reporting period, construction of a health centre in Bonthe begun; it is anticipated to be completed in 2004. Plans for a health post in Bo were postponed due to difficulties in securing a suitable site. However, the programme in collaboration with WFP assisted 850 beneficiaries with supplementary food supplies in the area (Bo). The beneficiaries included, under-fives, pregnant and lactating women.

Table 1

CLINIC ATTENDANCE FROM JANUARY – DECEMBER 2003

Clinic	Under fives	Antenatal	Postnatal	General	Total
Bonthe Static	2,650	361	188	2,062	5,261
Bonthe Mobile	3,017	585	22	2,884	6,508
Mattru	2,851	612	87	2,705	6,255
Bo	10,099	2,837	571	5,597	19,104
Kenema	6,680	1,993	363	3,510	12,546
Bombali	14,320	8,208	293	2,192	15,013
Lungi	5,172	1,626	240	2,500	9,538
Kambia	3,948	1,189	53	3,380	8,570
Western Area	5,444	1,063	87	5,950	12,544
Car/ W. Loo	269	4	-	509	782
Total	54,450	18,478	1,904	31,289	106,121

Table 2

GROWTH MONITORING JANUARY – DECEMBER 2003

Clinic	New cases	Revisit	Total	Gained weight	Static weight	Lost weight
Bonthe Static	1,609	1,254	2,863	730	347	177
Bonthe Mobile	1,716	1,264	2,980	836	270	158
Kenema	1,107	1,329	2,436	940	226	163
Western Area	618	1,604	2,222	1,166	272	166
Mattru	1,560	1,691	3,251	1,305	140	246
Bombali	2,323	4,685	7,008	4,328	142	215
Lungi	988	484	1,472	338	89	57
Bo	951	3,856	4,807	3,496	131	229
Car/ W.Loo	2	10	12	8	1	1
Kambia	1,566	1,511	3,077	1,351	23	137
Total	12,440	17,688	30,128	14,498	1,641	1,549

- **Three hundred and twenty (320) new and 300 existing Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) have received training and TBA kits. Thirty (30) communities have constructed TBA houses.**

One hundred and eighty-five (185) traditional birth attendants (TBAs) were trained on Basic Safe Motherhood practices and provided with delivery kits to ensure safe and clean deliveries. The programme now has a total of 803 TBAs who accompany the pregnant women from their communities to the health centres for proper antenatal care. A total of 1,090 live births were recorded in five branches. The programme constructed 20 delivery houses for the TBAs in remote communities to ensure safe and clean deliveries.

Constraints

The national society had targeted to reach 320 new and 300 existing TBAs. However, due to the limited funding of the CBH programme, some activities were not effectively carried out; the number of TBA training and delivery houses was reduced.

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- **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.**

Safe and clean water was provided to 56 communities; 200 wells were regularly chlorinated on Bonthe Island, five completed in Tonkololi while seven are still under construction. Moreover, good sanitation was provided with the construction of 100 VIP latrines.

- **A successful campaign, focussing on Lassa fever as well as meningitis and measles, was carried out to sensitize 60,000 beneficiaries in prevention, good sanitation and control of the Lassa fever vectors.**

Following a rampant spread of the Lassa fever in the refugee camps and some host communities in Kenema and Bo, the community social mobilization in collaboration with the MoH, UNHCR and MERLIN carried out open air campaigns, house-to-house visits and street campaigns in the affected areas. The campaigns reached 38,284 beneficiaries. The national society also carried out awareness campaigns after the outbreak of Yellow fever in Tonkolili and the neighbouring districts. The campaign aimed at early case identification for proper management of the disease. There were a total of 84,771 house-to-house visits conducted in 104 communities which resulted into increased awareness on the immunization. There was increased immunization coverage and reduced incidences of vaccine preventable diseases.

In October and November the Sierra Leone Red Cross in collaboration with the District Health Management Teams carried out a nation-wide measles campaign. About 1,140 volunteers were responsible for community social mobilisation activities in the campaign to motivate mothers to immunize their children. A total of 577,402 children were immunized against measles 15,959 received Vitamin A and 142,090 received measles vaccines for the first time in 471 communities in 10 districts.

The national society also carried out more activities linked with the [Africa Malaria Day](#) in April, World First Aid Day in September and the measles campaign in October and November as well as [World AIDS Day](#) in December. The activities were facilitated by the Mothers Clubs members, first aiders and youth peer educators.

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

Mothers' Clubs which are networks formed for; safe motherhood, water and sanitation, backyard gardening, nutrition education, promotion of child survival activities and hygiene promotion, expended through out the year. There are 83 mothers' clubs with a total of 1,779 members. The nutrition education was effective as observed in the type of local weaning foods and family diets served in the communities. With the participation of all members in various activities of sensitization and implementation, the following achievements have been recorded: reduction of anaemia cases among pregnant women, improvement of nutritional status for pregnant and lactating women as well as children below five years and improved cultivation patterns. There were 104 gardens were prepared and cultivated with various crops such as ground nuts, yams, cassavas, potatoes and green vegetables. The yields varied due to heavy rains.

The Mothers clubs held a congress for 100 mother's club leaders at the School of Hygiene focusing on leadership skills. The theme of the congress was "Roll Back Malaria to Protect Women and Children"

Constraints

There was late distribution of seeds and tools leading to a poor harvest besides the heavy rains.

Table 3

CBHP VOLUNTEERS BY CATEGORY AND OPERATIONAL AREAS

Branches	Operational Communities	Mothers Club	Mothers Club Members	TBAS	CVS First Aiders	Youth Peer Educators	Adult Peer Educators	Total Volunteers
Kenema	19	19	379	120	53	-	-	-
Kambia	11	4	40	34	97	80	40	290
Moyamba	6	6	65	40	120	100	30	355
Bo	5	5	135	120	168	60	20	503
Tonkolili	9	7	220	40	-	76	58	-
Bonthe	13	13	363	100	80	120	20	683
Bombali	14	7	129	60	71	20	20	300
Western Area	10	10	188	139	757	205	260	1,549
Kono	10	5	163	100	125	60	-	-
Port Loko	7	7	97	50	80	50	50	327
Total	104	83	1,779	803	1,551	771	498	4,007

HIV/AIDS

The national society stepped up their activities to create awareness, to address prevention of HIV/AIDS as well as advocating against discrimination. A total of 16 drama groups in ten branches reached over 80,000 beneficiaries through monthly performances. A total of 440 youth and 440 adult peer educators, and 480 societal heads in eleven branches conducted outreach activities. Also 300 commercial sex workers were trained in five branches and a total of 5,000 pieces of condoms were distributed for social marketing.

Expected Results

The capacity and activity of Sierra Leone Red Cross to create awareness on STIs and HIV/AIDS have been increased with more volunteer groups actively advocating for HIV/AIDS prevention and discrimination through drama, peer education, distribution of condoms and media messages.

- **Drama groups have been established in four branches, bringing the total number of active drama groups to 12. Two 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.**

Four drama groups, composed of youth peer educators, were trained and equipped with musical instruments and costumes in Bo, Lungi and two in Western Area branch bringing the total number of groups to 16. Monthly performances presented in schools and communities in ten national society branches reached over 80,000 beneficiaries. This has resulted in a demand for drama groups in schools where the project has not been established.

- **Each of the 11 branches has trained 40 youth and 40 adult peer educators who regularly work with school classes and communities on HIV/AIDS information and prevention, resulting to an increase in the HIV/AIDS awareness among the targeted population.**

A total of 440 adult and 440 youth peer educators and 100 branch executive staff were trained in ten branches on STI/HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention to carry on the outreach activities. Youth and adult peer educators conducted weekly and/or monthly meetings to coordinate activity plans and exchange experiences.

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

A total of 480 societal heads, some of whom are also TBAs, who practice female genital mutilation (FGM) and have strong influence on women and young girls, were trained on STI/HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention as well as First Aid. A further 440 community resource persons were trained to help create awareness and reduce stigma and discrimination in their communities. They included religious leaders, tribal heads, teachers and traditional healers.

To evaluate the impact of some of these community activities, a baseline survey on STI/HIV/AIDS was conducted in the Western Area, Bo and Kenema branches to ascertain the knowledge, attitude, practice and behaviour of youths and young adults in some of these communities. The results of that survey indicate that there is an increased knowledge on STI/HIV/AIDS, increase in condom acceptance and usage and that all TBAs have accepted the use of gloves to carry out deliveries.

- **Three hundred (300) commercial sex workers have completed a three-day course in HIV/AIDS prevention and are actively promoting safe practices in their environment including distribution of condoms.**

A total of 300 commercial sex workers were trained on STI/HIV/AIDS prevention in five branches including Western Area, Kenema, Bo, Tonkolili and Bombali. The goal of the training was to empower commercial sex workers to become peer educators and promote the use of condoms. Condoms are now being purchased and distributed through a social marketing system to ensure easy accessibility and availability of reasonably priced condoms. A total of 5,000 pieces of condoms were distributed to ten branches at a cost of Le 200 (ten cents USD) for three pieces.

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

Sixty radio programmes were aired in Bo, Kenema, Kono, Bombali and Western Area. These were monthly programmes featuring both panel discussions and phone-in sessions while in Freetown, 24 television programmes were aired. An estimated 60,000 people were reached through these methods. Also, radio and TV jingles were aired in conjunction with World AIDS day programmes in November and December in four common languages. A quiz competition was also held in selected schools in ten branches as part of World AIDS day commemoration.

- **The national society 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).**

The Sierra Leone Red Cross is a member of the National AIDS Control Task Force and collaborated with them to commemorate World AIDS day as well as to assist in the facilitation of workshops. Other linkages were made with the Council of Churches of Sierra Leone, ICRC, WHO, UNICEF, MERLIN and AFRICARE. Social marketing of condoms was done in collaboration with CARE International.

Disaster Management

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

Objective: The capacity of the Sierra Leone Red Cross to provide timely and effective response to disaster victims has been strengthened.

Expected result

Sierra Leone Red Cross has played a major role in any occurring disasters.

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

Five basic Disaster Management training sessions, each lasting six days, were held for 130 volunteers representing 13 Action Teams of the Kono (four teams), Kambia (two teams), Port Loko (two teams), Moyamba (two teams) and Tonkolili (two teams) branches. The training provided the base for volunteers to identify hazards in high-risk areas and vulnerable populations in relation to their capacities.

Another training covering First Aid Emergency Preparedness was held for 25 national society staff in Freetown and for 100 Action Team volunteers of Kailahun, Daru and Segbwema.

A ten-day Special Relief and Disaster Management Training workshop organized jointly by the disaster management and coordination (DMC) division of the Federation Geneva Secretariat, Regional Delegation for West Africa and Ghana Red Cross was held in Accra, Ghana from May 31 to June 10, 2003. The training workshop formed the basis for the establishment of the Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT) for West Africa Region. Twenty-six (26) national societies' staff and volunteers with specialized skills participated in the sessions including the disaster preparedness officer and four others from the Sierra Leone Red Cross.

- **Storage facilities have been identified or constructed at headquarters and at branch level. Fifty (50) non-food-item sets are available at branch level for immediate emergency intervention to disaster exceeding the local capacity.**

A warehouse in Freetown was maintained for storage of non food items (NFI) stock. Ten branches were supplied with 50 sets of NFI sets including plastic sheets, blankets, mats, buckets, kitchen sets and soap.

Table 4: Distribution of non food items

Items	Opening Stock at the central warehouse as at 1.01.03	Stock received during reporting period	Transferred to the branches	Losses	Stock at the central warehouse as at 31.12.03
Blankets	8,634	Nil	1,726	Nil	6,908
Plastic sheets	1,819	Nil	1,215	Nil	604
Used Clothes	213	Nil	104	Nil	109
Plastic mat	7,959	Nil	1,218	02	6,739
Kitchen set	1,953	Nil	355	Nil	1,298
Soap	2,007	Nil	695	01	1,331
Plastic buckets	2,590	Nil	697	Nil	1,893
Jerry Cans	320	Nil	78	Nil	242

- **Guidelines have been issued for release of emergency stocks.**

A working document has been provided to give guidelines for response to natural and man-made disasters at branch level. The national society branches provided NFI kits to 1,061 families representing 5,340 beneficiaries.

Sierra Leone; Appeal no.1.28/2003; Annual Report

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

The disaster management database is operational containing vital information on hazards and risks, including Early Warning Systems and the Federation DMIS. To help develop and maintain its own disaster management database of action teams, resources and hazards in vulnerable communities, the Sierra Leone Red Cross with support from the Federation, recruited a DM delegate to sharing resources, information and expertise.

- **All branches have radio communication sets linking them to the national society's headquarters.**

With the installation of an HF radio in Kabala, every branch, except Western Area based in Freetown, has radio communication sets linking them to the national society headquarters through the support of the Federation staff expertise and management. The Federation Radio Operator has been active in upgrading and replacing crucial equipment for each branch.

- **In preparation for a National Disaster Management plan, VCAs have been conducted at 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 the national society being one of the major actors.**

The Sierra Leone Red Cross has a clearly defined role in disaster preparedness that has been identified by government and coordinates closely with other agencies/NGOs in disaster preparedness and response through the support of the Federation and the ICRC.

With the arrival of a Federation Disaster Management Delegate in October, the process of collaborating with the Office of National Security (ONS), tasked with Disaster Management for the Sierra Leone Government, has begun and a working group was formed to formulate a strategy for developing a National Disaster Management plan.

A two-day planning session on VCA was conducted in December for 12 Western Area branch volunteers. This was followed by a six-day practical field exercise, which commenced on December 20 in five communities in the Western Area. One lesson learned was that the national society has an inadequate diversity of professional backgrounds to enable the formation of a multidisciplinary team that would develop proper methodology to carry out a VCA. It is clear that additional technical support is required to conduct proper VCA's at the community level.

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

A total of 49,272 Sierra Leonean returnees have been assisted on their arrival. The Sierra Leone Red Cross received and registered these returnees at Queen Elizabeth II Quay in Freetown, Pamlap border and the Freetown International Airport, Lungi. They were given bread, sardines and potable water upon arrival on a weekly basis by the Society. Thirty-two of them who were either fainting or had minor wounds were provided with first aid services. The national society's Kambia branch was the only organization that provided services at the Pamlap border as all other humanitarian agencies concentrated on the Port Loko Way Station.

A joint needs assessment on population movement was conducted in June with the assistance of a Federation delegate and the Liberian Red Cross. The areas covered were confined to the eastern border which neighbours Liberia. The assessment established that although most needs are catered for, the Sierra Leone Red Cross could provide used clothing and first aid to the returnees crossing the border. As a result, First Aid training was provided for action teams along the border with the support from the ICRC. Bo and Kenema branches provided local assistance at the refugee camps.

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

Six action team volunteers of the Western Area branch provided first aid services along the Lumley/Aberdeen beach axis in Freetown on weekends and holidays assisting a total of 135 casualties. It has become evident throughout the year that additional first aid posts are needed at the extreme ends of the beach for prompt response to all casualties.

Constraints

Mobility for provincial activities such as trainings, workshops and VCA's is a problem as there is only one motorbike assigned to the programme.

Humanitarian Values

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

Objective: The Sierra Leone Red Cross enhances the economic and social status of war-affected children, amputees and vulnerable communities, increasing the ongoing peace building process.

Expected results

Job Aid for War Amputees (JAWA)

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

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

Ten amputees were enrolled into tailoring training in Kono in October and progressed steadily during the year. Moyamba was identified as the second location for skills training and micro-credit support, but due to some operational handicap on the side of the Moyamba branch, support was not started there.

Table 5: Number of amputees trained in tailoring by location

Six (6) Branches	Graduated 2003		Enrolled 2003		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Freetown (Western Area)	10	1	8	2	21
Lungi (Port Loko)	3	1			4
Bo	8	2	8	2	20
Kenema			9	1	10
Kono			9	1	10
Makeni	10				10
Total	31	4	34	6	75

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

20 amputees were enrolled in gara tie-dyeing as follows; 10 amputees (6 male & 4 female) in Makeni, started training in January and graduated in September and 10 others (7 male & 3 female) at the Aberdeen amputee camp were enrolled into gara tie-dyeing and soap making, in October. The training is expected to last for six months, and will graduate in April 2004.

Table 6: Number of jobs secured for amputees

Location	Employing Organization	Number of jobs	Beneficiary Gender	Type Job
Freetown	Mount Everest Security Agency	3	Male	Security
Bo	Mount Everest Security Agency	2	Male	Security
Bo	Islamic Call Society	1	Female	Receptionist
Makeni	Parley Brothers	4	Male	Tailor
Makeni	DFID	1	Male	Security
Job Total		11		

- **Eighty (80) beneficiaries have received micro-credit loans to begin their enterprise.**

Ten male amputees from Makeni, received financial support to start goat and sheep rearing.

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

Project volunteers and staff held regular counselling sessions with amputees in all project locations, to identify the levels of trauma and assist amputees with coping mechanisms. Seventy percent of the beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with this support. They value the staff and volunteers as people they can trust to show understanding of their plight and share options to cope with everyday challenges.

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

There have been no evaluations undertaken to verify if the project has reduced street begging.

- **Community leaders have introduced and helped mobilized support for JAWA amputees.**

Sensitization meetings were held for community leaders to enlist their understanding on amputee issues and enhance their support. Support in some communities was encouraging. Amputees were helped to resettle by assisting them with utilities like water.

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

There were regular monthly meetings which provided a valuable forum to coordinate efforts with other agencies and to highlight the efforts being made at the community level.

Constraints

Funds were not readily available within the first two-quarters of the year, 2003. As a result, some planned activities were not implemented.

Community Animation and Peace Support (CAPS)

2. The Community Peace Consolidation Committees, leaders and members of 48 war-torn communities have integrated conflict transformation and peace building practises 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 of social issues has increased and good governance has been strengthened. The national society profile and general understanding of the Red Cross mandate has increased in all 48 communities. The Sierra Leone Red Cross has attained recognition as well as increased expertise 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.**

The CPCCs were trained in peace building techniques. Together with animators, the CPCCs raised awareness on domestic violence and human rights. They mediated in domestic conflicts and were successful in bringing back together couples that were separated especially as a result of the war. The CPCCs role were not only limited to awareness raising and mediation, some took action in advocating for the needs and support of vulnerable people (the blind, war widows, orphans), in their communities.

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

All 48 new communities constructed peace huts in the first quarter, from their local resources. On the whole the peace huts visibly represented the community's peace and development aspirations.

The peace huts were used for various purposes, including; as focal points for the resolution of conflicts, planning community/group activities, for focus group discussions on issues of community/national concern e.g. health talks, disease outbreaks, human rights and other issues that affect the community and meeting places for radio listening.

- **Festivals and tournaments have been organised within and between communities.**

Annual Peace and reconciliation festivals took place in four locations in the Bo and Moyamba Districts in December. The festivals attracted participation from all 48 new communities and 26 former communities supported last year. Agricultural produce and local handicrafts were exhibited during the festivals. The festivals were held on the theme "Harvesting the Peace".

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Inter-community football competitions were held to bring communities together. One inter-community schools athletics was held at Konda in the Kori chiefdom, Moyamba District. Five primary schools participated from five communities. This athletic event attracted over 1,000 spectators from five communities.

- **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.**

Seven ex-combatants from the former RUF, returned to four communities in the Bo District. All of the CAPS communities in both Bo and Moyamba Districts were occupied by Kamajors (the civil defence force that fought against the RUF). Gross human rights violations were committed in the communities by the kamajors leading to a lot of acrimony in the communities. Sensitization meetings were held to bring kamajor fighters and all other fighters into the mainstream of society.

Community games were organized, bringing ex-combatants and other community youths together. Other regular experience sharing sessions were held to give people the opportunity to tell their stories. These sessions brought reconciliation among conflicting communities. The CPCCs and Animators facilitated these sessions.

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

Building tools including wheelbarrows, shovels, head pans, pick axes and brick moulder were distributed in all 48 new communities. The tools were in a pool and community members had access to them. The tools were used to reconstruct dwelling houses and on communal projects like road maintenance, construction of water wells and latrines. On average, the number of dwelling houses rehabilitated or built increased by 80% during the year.

- **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.**

Most of the CAPS communities are remote and lack health centres. Animators in collaboration with the health coaches in the branches carried out regular health and hygiene talks. The CBHP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, trained traditional birth attendants in three communities. The TBAs are the only people that do delivery in the communities without health clinics.

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

The Animators and CPCC members carried out regular sensitization on HIV/AIDS and STIs. Health coaches in the Bo and Moyamba branches gave back up sensitization on STIs and family planning. No study or evaluation has been carried out to determine a change in sexual behaviour.

- **Sixty (60%) of the vulnerable population in CAPS communities have developed a means to a sustainable livelihood.**

Adult literacy classes: Classes were conducted in 15 communities and total of 517 people (256 men & 261 women) attended regular classes for a minimum of seven months. 40% of the participants can now read and write basic Mende language. Skills training for income generation were supported in 18 communities. The skills areas included carpentry, soap making and gara tie-dyeing. Four hundred and ten (410) people, mainly women, participated. Trainees were drawn from ex-combatants, war widows and single mothers. All of the trainees (92%) in gara-tie-dyeing were fully skilled after six months of training and started production for market.

Food Security: Work groups were formed in the communities and given seeds and farm tools. There were a total of 3,001 people (1,361 men and 1,640 women) made up the 91 work groups in 48 communities. The groups were given a variety of seeds including inland valley swamp rice, groundnuts, upland rice, vegetables, and potatoes. The farm tools included straight and curved machetes, ploughing holes and weeding holes. Harvest in most communities was good and seed banks have been created for the next planting season.

Water and Sanitation support: 10 communities were assessed for water and sanitation support. A supplementary budget was submitted to the ICRC for the construction of 10 water wells and 10 latrines. Sensitization for total community participation and support was done and construction work will start in January 2004. The communities supported suffered perennial water shortage, resulting in frequent outbreaks of water borne disease like typhoid, cholera and blood-spattered diarrhoea.

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- **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.**

Communities were supplied with wind up radios. Regular local radio listening was done in the communities. Discussions followed such listening on topical issues. The discussions were sometimes spontaneous and at other times they were planned and facilitated by the CPCC and Animators.

Community workshops were held to enlighten the community members on the following issues; the Convention of the Rights of the child, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law and Sexual violence. Awareness on these Human Rights instruments increased in the communities and there was a marked decrease in violations.

- **Fifty percent (50%) of the CAPS communities have formed Red Cross groups.**

Red Cross dissemination was done in the communities in collaboration with Communication Tracing Activists (CTAs) in the implementing branches of Bo and Moyamba. A better understanding of Red Cross principles and ideals was achieved in the communities. As a result of this improved understanding, Red Cross groups were organized in 28 communities, 10 in Moyamba and 18 in Bo District.

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

The national society issued monthly, quarterly and half-yearly reports through the Federation. Some Movement partners also received progress reports on projects. A final evaluation was not completed.

Impact

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

Coordination

The national society upheld its coordination values. Through out the year, improved cooperation and networking was witnessed among other agencies, including UNAMSIL, NaCSA, WFP, UNOCHA, OXFAM and DFID. The national society also had good relations with bi-lateral national societies PNS representatives from the British Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, German Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross visited one CAPS community in the Baoma chiefdom, Bo district.

The social welfare delegate completed her assignment after three years with the national society while two CAPS functionaries completed a three-month conflict Transformation course in the UK. The course – “Responding to Conflict (RTC)” - was funded by the British Red Cross.

Constraints

Although fully funded, some activities were not implemented due to late arrival of funds.

Child Advocacy and Rehabilitation (CAR)

3. Four hundred fifty (450) children have been enrolled in the CAR projects in Waterloo, Kambia and Port Loko. The children have begun the healing process their trauma and integration into mainstream activities. Child and human rights advocacy and sensitization have been well promoted to the families and 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, self-reliance capacity and their general well being. Select home communities of the CAR children have received support to enhance their community life. The national society staff teams have gained expertise in all aspects of programming, monitoring, evaluating and reporting for the CAR project.

- **One hundred percent (100%) of the CAR children have obtained knowledge to identify and reduce their Post-traumatic symptoms.**

Four hundred and fifty children were enrolled in the three CAR centres, Waterloo, Kambia and Port Loko. In each centre, Activists provided counselling support to their assigned beneficiaries twice monthly. In Waterloo, five group-counselling sessions were also conducted. Regular visits were made to beneficiaries' homes to follow up

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on issues with their parents/guardians. Monitoring of the 300 graduates also continued throughout the year. In addition, weekly recreational activities, drama and cultural activities were regularly organized at the three centres. These activities helped the children to overcome their withdrawal habits and express themselves freely.

- **Illiterate CAR children have learned to read, write and count. At least 80% of the 10 to 13 year-olds have entered and succeeded in formal school.**

The beneficiaries at the three centres made progress in literacy and numeracy. The children were put into four levels of literacy and numeracy;

- Level 1: 10-13 year old children that have never been to school.
- Level 2: children who started primary school but could not continue due to the war.
- Level 3: children who started secondary school but could not continue due to the war.
- Level 4: children who stopped in form two and above and could not continue due to the war.

The 10 – 13 years were enrolled into primary schools in September. Progress in reading and writing was made at all the centres. At the time of graduation, 95 % of beneficiaries at the Waterloo and Kambia centres could read and write, count and also do basic additions and subtractions. In Port Loko, progress was also made with the continuing beneficiaries. Children, who have never been to school, could read simple sentences, count numbers, recite and sing the national anthem after eight months at the centre.

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

Community sensitization was regularly done to ensure support to the children from their parents and guardians. The sensitization was done through home visits, parents and guardians meetings/workshops and community fora for child protection. The issue of the child belonging to the community and therefore the community taking responsibility for the child's development and protection was stressed. The understanding of the issues faced by children affected by the conflict was enhanced.

There was a positive response to the sensitization. All 10-13 year old children enrolled in primary schools received the blessings of their parents and guardians. Many of the parents contributed towards school charges. Parents fully supported their children in activities like sports and graduation ceremonies. However, the parents raised the issue of poverty as an obstacle to providing support to their children in other areas. They therefore appealed to the Red Cross to assist in building their economic capacity.

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

There were community sensitization campaigns held in the community to increase community awareness of the plight of children affected by the conflict and help the children reintegrate in the communities. Furthermore, four workshops were conducted for 191 teachers on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which gave them the opportunity to learn about the CAR project and to share ideas on the CRC and the way forward in their communities. Six more workshops were conducted for 445 community leaders focusing on CRC, Gender and Development, Leadership Training, HIV/AIDS and reintegration for children affected by the war.

Twenty Community Teachers Association (CTA) meetings were held with enthusiastic attendance underscoring the interest of the parents and guardians in the welfare of their children. CAR staff, community groups and leaders have developed an open and collaborative relationship that has assisted in problem solving, sensitising, and advocating on issues experienced by war-affected children.

Other activities were carried out in promotion of CAR, for instance, each centre commemorated the "Day of the African Child" on 16 June. The biggest event took place in Kambia where the CAR staff organized drama and sports competitions for schools and NGOs in the township. The event attracted over 500 people. Moreover, drama, singing and traditional dancing groups were formed in each centre. The groups had regular performances at the centres and in the communities.

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- **The CAR project is supporting selected communities to enhance their socio-economic status .**

In Waterloo, communities received support in pig rearing whereas in Kambia, two communities, Massaneh and Tawuya, received support in livestock restocking with 12 pairs of goats and 12 pairs of sheep and 20 bushels of groundnuts, and received technical assistance, especially in vaccinating the animals and gave advice on upkeep of the animals from the Ministry of Health.

In Port Loko, community support was given in four communities, Melekuray, Maforkie town, Buya Romende and Dibia. Support was in the form of 20 bushels groundnuts and 50 bushels of seed rice.

A local NGO, National Wide Relief Organisation, provided fertiliser for the crops. WFP provided each community with 90 bags bulgur wheat, 15-carton oil, and 15 bags lentils as food-for-work.

One of the supported communities, Buya Romende, has allocated land and started making bricks for a Red Cross office, which could also be used as workshop for beneficiaries upon graduation.

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

Weekly sessions on STI/HIV/AIDS prevention, sexual reproductive health, family life education, health and hygiene are conducted for the children at each of the centres. 50% of the children reported they had unprotected sex during the war.

Youth Peer Educators Clubs were formed at all three centres and they were active in sensitization programmes, especially on HIV/AIDS. They performed skits and drama on HIV/AIDS and Child Rights in the Communities and in schools. The performances increased the confidence level of the beneficiaries and created a forum for positive engagement with the communities and enhancing their reintegration into their communities.

- **Ninety percent (90%) of children trained in skills have graduated and continued with their trade.**

At the Waterloo Centre

- 136 beneficiaries completed skills training and graduated in December, as given below.
- Classes were conducted on literacy, numeracy, religious and moral education, arts and crafts.
- A two-week class was conducted in entrepreneurial skills and cooperatives.
- 13 beneficiaries aged between 10-13 years effectively went through literacy and numeracy classes. After final assessment, they were enrolled into primary schools.

At the Kambia Centre

- 137 beneficiaries completed skills training as given below.
- In all of the skills, trainees were assessed to be above average and most of them were apprenticed to establishments in the Kambia Township.
- Five of the beneficiaries' aged 10-13 were enrolled into primary schools.

At the Port Loko

- 130 beneficiaries completed skills training as given below.
- At the end of eight months at the centre, progress made by the beneficiaries was assessed as satisfactory. Graduation is scheduled for March 2004.
- 18 of the beneficiaries' aged 10-13 were enrolled into Primary schools.

Table 7: Number of children trained in various skills in each centre

Skills	Waterloo		Kambia		Port Loko		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Tailoring	2	28	5	15	14	11	75
Gara Tie-dying	0	67	0	38	1	26	132
Brick Build/ Concrete	39	0	21	2	26	0	88
Carpentry			24	1	26	1	52
Baking			3	10	5	20	38
Cane Craft			12	6			18
Total	41	95	65	72	72	58	284

- **Mothers of CAR children have increased their knowledge on mother and child health and care, reliable family planning practises, nutrition and disease prevention practises.**

Training was done for the mothers. Health and hygiene was part of the core curriculum taught at all of the centres. Part-time nurses at the three centres conducted weekly sessions on family planning, childcare and hygiene. Special sessions were organized for girl mothers and treatment was also given to their children.

- **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 completed staff training at all CAR centres including the human rights and gender training. A workshop was conducted for ICRC tracing staff, in Kenema and Freetown offices. The training was on interviewing techniques and approaches of children and family tracing and reunification.

A weeklong training on gender and human rights was organized for all staff. 10 staff from the three centres, attended a day's workshop on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, organized by UN OCHA.

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

The national society started the process of developing standards, codes of conduct and policies related to war-affected children. In the interim, the national society sensitized staff on an inter-agency code of conduct for aid/humanitarian workers especially those working with children. This inter-agency code was enforced in the national society, and the document, when finalized will complement that of the inter-agency.

Impact

- At the time of registration, most of the children could not read or write but eight months into the programme, over 90% were able to read and write.
- 95 % of beneficiaries made progress in their respective skills training.
- Attitudes towards beneficiaries improved greatly. There were few and isolated incidences of harassment or rejection of the beneficiaries at the end of the year.
- The following visitors were received at the centres; UNICEF, WAR Child, Save the Children UK, UNAMSIL, Special Court Working Group, Ministry of Education, NCDDR, NACSA, Military Observers, Participating national societies; British Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, German Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Federation representatives and ICRC.

Constraints

- There were delays in accessing funds affected timely implementation of some activities.
- The harsh environment hampered the completion of the water wells dug in Kambia and Port Loko. Water was transported to the centres with the assistance of UNAMSIL.
- Mini-vans purchased for the programmes are inadequate for the task due to difficult road conditions resulting in a high cost of maintenance and significant periods of time without transport.
- Final permission for acquiring land delayed the building of a permanent CAR centre in Waterloo.

Organisational Development

Goal: The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement intend 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.

Expected results

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

Planning and Reporting:

Directors, Coordinators, Officers of headquarters and regional field officers participated in a Strategic Planning workshop providing an opportunity to learn about strategic planning and SWOT analysis.

Two members of the Sierra Leone Red Cross and two Federation staff members attended a Project Planning Process (PPP) workshop in Accra, Ghana in August. This team then facilitated a mini-PPP workshop in September with the national society's management and coordinators, and governance volunteers responsible for planning. This training prepared staff to write their annual plan for 2004 including the plans for the Federation Appeal.

A half-day workshop was held with headquarters staff on the format and expectations for Federation reporting.

Financial Management Development Project:

The Federation and the national society undertook a "diagnostic assessment" of the Financial Management system of the national society with the assistance of a local consulting firm. PCL International provided a written comprehensive report that included regional branch points, and elements of administrative and logistics processes. The report, presented to the national society's governance and staff, the Spanish Red Cross and Danish Red Cross, the ICRC and the Federation, recommended a three phase approach to improving the manual financial management system leading up to a full computerization of the financial system and the processes connected with it. Phase I and II, which contained basic computer training for approximately 50 staff, and an on-the-job training consultant to analyse and improve the system, were initiated simultaneously. These phases will be complete in early 2004 leading into Phase III, which is the computerization of the systems and appropriate training and procurement of equipment.

Workshops

- Two field officers workshops were held in Freetown and Kabala to discuss issues affecting their branches.
- Two Youth workshops were held in Freetown providing an opportunity for the youths from the various branches to learn leadership skills, organize their branch groups and discuss issues affecting their groups.

Governance Meetings

In accordance with the statutes of the Sierra Leone Red Cross, three levels of meetings were held for governance throughout the year. The managing committee met early in 2003 and the Central Committee and the Annual General Meetings were held in October.

External Training

The director of programmes and operations attended the first organisational development workshop in June 2003 in Alicante, Spain; the Secretary General attended the next workshop offered in September.

- **The financial resources for Sierra Leone Red Cross are strengthened through improved income generating skills.**

Fundraising activities were undertaken in some branches as listed below through membership fees, clinic fees and special events. Much more assistance is needed to develop the national society capacities to fundraise at the branch and headquarter levels

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

Sensitization campaigns were carried out in all the branches as part of the national recruitment campaign for 2003. Special emphasis was put on the recruitment of women and youth. The target was for each of the ten branches to recruit not less than 220 new members per branch giving a total target of 2,200. This target was exceeded due to the successful campaign and a total of 2,294 new members were registered.

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

Koinadugu District was accorded branch status in Kabala on 28 March, 2003 during the grand opening ceremony of the newly constructed branch office. This branch, also the site of the of a new Child Advocacy and Rehabilitation Centre, was constructed in 2003 and utilized to initiate the CAR programme in this district. This programme has helped the new Branch to develop and establish a community presence. Two more newly constructed branch buildings officially opened in Moyamba on 9 August 2003 and in the Tonkolili District in Magburaka on March 29, 2003.

Steps were taken to establish branches in Pujehun and Kailahun including support to build the physical structures thanks to land donated by the local authorities to the national society. Efforts to sensitize the communities and the design and tendering process were continued throughout the fourth quarter. The Pujehun branch tender was awarded in the fourth quarter but will begin in early 2004. Apart from the buildings, both districts now have the appropriate number of groups formed to meet the branch status criteria.

A five-year strategic plan and a CAS document was put in place in March, 2003 with support from the Federation, ICRC and PNS partners. It was presented at the Partnership Meeting held 20 to 22 May 2003. The CAS document was not completed in 2003; however, the Partnership Meeting in May outlined areas of future commitment on behalf of the national societies present: British Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, German Red Cross, and ICRC.

The Federation, the Sierra Leone Red Cross and the ICRC completed and signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation that was also presented at the Partnership Meeting held in May. This MoU marks the official end of the ICRC "Lead Agency" role in Sierra Leone and has provisions for Participating National Societies to also sign on and participate in the co-ordination mechanisms. Furthermore, it provides an overall definition of roles and responsibilities and describes the process of coordination at various levels. The Federation also worked on "Service Agreements" with the two bilateral national societies (Spanish Red Cross and Danish Red Cross) and agreed on modalities for cooperation in 2003 and early 2004.

Constraints

Branches have a low revenue fundraising base and lack trained personnel for fundraising activities.

International Representation

Goal: The 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.

Expected result

Media coverage, locally and internationally, for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's programmes has been ensured and the Federation has been represented at UN/NGO coordination meetings in country.

Progress/Achievements

- A Federation information delegate wrote two articles for the Red Cross/Red Crescent magazine and several others for the Federation website.
- Finnish journalists profiled the national society's programmes, particularly to support the refugees and Sierra Leonean returnees fundraising campaign in Finland.

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- Swiss journalists profiled the CAR programme to support a fundraising campaign in Switzerland called the “Solidarity Chain”.
- The national society, the Federation and ICRC members were in attendance on 31 July at a launch of the Federation World Disasters Report 2003.
- During the launching of the World Disasters Report by the Sierra Leone Red Cross, the Head of UN OCHA¹ urged those present, including Sierra Leone government and other organizations, to support the Red Cross in its strides to help disaster victims.
- Sierra Leone Red Cross/ the Federation attended all major UN/NGO coordination meetings.
- The European Union office and the Lebanese Embassy were also visited.
- The Country Coordination Mechanism in Sierra Leone named the national society as the “Principal Recipient” for the Global Fund, which focuses on Tuberculosis in Sierra Leone.
- A four-person team, including the national President, the Secretary General, the National Youth Chairperson and a government of Sierra Leone representative, attended the General Assembly and International Conference in Geneva.
- May month activities were held to celebrate World Red Cross Day which included Founders’ Day was celebrated on 8 May at the headquarters. There was a launching of the month on Radio and TV as well as a Christian and Muslim thanksgiving Service

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¹ OCHA – (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs