

# 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

## MALAWI

26 July 2004

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 181 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 01.14/2004; Programme Update no. 2; Period covered: January to June 2004;**  
**Appeal coverage: 6.5%; Outstanding needs: CHF 2,742,079 (USD 2,144,762 or EUR 1,779,415).**  
[\(Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\).](#)

**Appeal target: CHF 2,933,344 (USD 2,203,000 or EUR 1,888,200)**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: n.a.**

**Programme summary:** Please note that Programme Update no. 1<sup>1</sup> dated 8 July 2004 was issued as a Focus on Water and Sanitation. This current Update reports on all remaining sectors.

In disaster management, Malawi Red Cross Society<sup>2</sup> is running a care and maintenance refugee support programme in Draleka refugee camp which hosts 10,000 refugees.. Another camp hosting 1,000 refugees was opened in Neno district. The national society is also distributing food for the chronically ill, and providing supplementary feeding for malnourished children under five and for lactating/pregnant mothers as part of the C-SAFE<sup>3</sup> programme.

The national society's OD programme is concentrating on resource mobilization and finance development. The programme activities were started late due to financial constraints.

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*This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer to the Malawi Annual Appeal<sup>4</sup> no. 01.14/2004 to access the detailed logframe documents).*

<sup>1</sup> Programme Update - [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual04/01140401.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/01140401.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Malawi Red Cross - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=110>

<sup>3</sup> C-SAFE - Consortium for the Southern Africa Food Security Emergency

<sup>4</sup> Annual Appeal - [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual04/011404.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/011404.pdf)

## Malawi; Appeal 01.14/2004; Programme Update no. 2

*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct<sup>5</sup> and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response<sup>6</sup> in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

### **Operational developments**

Like other Southern African countries, Malawi is prone to disasters such as floods, droughts, epidemics, HIV/AIDS and population movement. An example of the latter is the flight of refugees from countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Rwanda and Somalia to Malawi.

As a result of the experience gained from the previous response to disasters, Malawi Red Cross has for many years been chosen by the government and UN agencies to implement food aid programmes and distribute farm inputs to vulnerable families during droughts. With this vast experiences and lessons learnt, Malawi Red Cross was able to develop its disaster preparedness policy and plan - a blue print on which activities are drawn.

The national society has also recognized other areas of disaster management that need to be strengthened. In the last five years, the Malawi Red Cross has been involved in capacity building efforts in community-based health, water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS prevention and care. During the reporting period the national society carried out food security operations in Mzuzu, Salima and Machinga to address the immediate and long-term needs of the vulnerable. The national society also completed implementing the WFP funded food-for-work activities in Chitipa and Karonga districts. Currently, food-for-work activities are being implemented in Rumphu, Nkhotakota and Ntchisi districts.

Food insecurity affects approximately 10% of the Malawi population. In response, Malawi Red Cross, in collaboration with the Government, is implementing irrigation projects in selected farming communities in four districts of Mwanza, Ntchisi and Mchinji. The national society distributed 1,000 treadle pumps and complementary packs of improved varieties of maize and vegetable seeds to 1,000 households (approximately 5,500 beneficiaries). The approach involves appropriate beneficiary selection, training on the use and maintenance of the irrigation pumps, distribution of the pumps and follows up on proper utilization.

In organizational development (OD), the national society is focused on management review, branch development volunteer management and implementation of the resource development plan as well as the development of its Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS).

### **Health and Care**

#### **HIV/AIDS**

**Goal: The lives and general health conditions of vulnerable communities in Malawi are improved.**

**Objective: HIV/AIDS: The spread of HIV/AIDS is reduced among 100,000 youths and the quality of life of 6,000 PLWHA<sup>7</sup> and 25,000 orphans and vulnerable children is improved by the end of 2007.**

#### **Progress/Achievements**

The Malawi Red Cross' HIV/AIDS programme is supported by the American Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross and the Federation; the activities being reported on were implemented with funds received from these partners.

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<sup>5</sup> Code of Conduct - <http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/conduct/code.asp>

<sup>6</sup> Humanitarian Charter - <http://www.sphereproject.org/>

<sup>7</sup> PLWHA – Persons living with HIV/AIDS

## **Malawi; Appeal 01.14/2004; Programme Update no. 2**

### **Expected results**

#### **6,000 PLWHA have access to Malawi Red Cross home-based care (HBC) services**

The Malawi Red Cross continued to provide HBC services to 3,400 clients. About 120 clients were registered during the reporting period. Approximately 510 care facilitators were active during this period giving psychological support during home visits. Four projects in Nkhotakota, Dedza, Ntchisi and Nkhata Bay districts received HBC kits. An assessment on HIV/AIDS programme operations in Dedza, Balaka and Karonga was conducted.

The Malawi Red Cross HIV/AIDS programme monitoring tools were reviewed and indicators from the newly developed National AIDS Commission framework were incorporated. The national society conducted a monitoring workshop for new district project officers in Dedza, Balaka and Karonga districts. The workshop focused on the Malawi Red Cross' HBC monitoring tools and the National AIDS Commission's activity reporting format. District project officers for Balaka and Dedza district were supported by the project coordinator to establish the volunteer coaching structure.

#### **6,000 most vulnerable PWHLA and 25,000 OVC<sup>8</sup> receive nutritional support through food security initiatives**

Three support groups with 39 members have established nutrition gardens, sewing project and paraffin selling. A total of 30 clients on antiretroviral (ARV) treatment within the programme are benefiting from the nutritional gardens in supplementing their diet.

Food was distributed to approximately 2,500 chronically ill clients including OVC in Nkhotakota, Ntchisi and Karonga. The project is taking care of 2700 OVC and most of these benefited from material for school and community-based child care centres (CBCC) funded by the American Red Cross. Five CBCC centres in Mchinji received 125 bags of Maize flour, benefiting 500 children aged between three and six years funded by the Chinese Embassy.

The HIV/AIDS coordinators attended a National Orphan Care Policy and Early Child growth and development Launching Ceremony in Mchinji district where some OVC received blankets. The Mwanza project bought iron sheets and cement to rehabilitate three CBCC centres.

#### **Knowledge, attitudes, practices and behaviour of 100,000 youths OVC (10-24 years) are improved through in- and out- of-school youth peer education by the end of 2007**

The Malawi Red Cross has 132 active peer educators and these reached 3,700 people in the community. Approximately 5,000 condoms were distributed to the communities by the volunteer and peer educators.

### **Impact**

The Malawi Red Cross HBC project is making a difference among the HIV/AIDS affected and infected people. The food component has supported the intake of ARV and the quality of life for clients has improved. The CBCC centres have brought hope for the OVC through the recreational activities brought to their communities.

### **Constraints**

Lack of funding for the annual appeal is hindering progress in the implementation of the planned activities. This had a de-motivational aspect to volunteers and staff operating with minimal funding. Food insecurity has a negative impact on volunteers for the HBC and CBCC projects as they find it difficult to carry out their work due to hunger. In Nkotakotata district, the Federation funded projects are facing transport problems thus hindering smooth distribution of food and other relief items.

Prevention intentions still require strengthening. More peer educators need to be trained and more condoms need to be distributed to cater for a wider population in order to realize impact. An impact assessment is being done to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities.

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<sup>8</sup> OVC – Orphans and other vulnerable children

## **Disaster Management (DM)**

**Goal: The vulnerability of communities in disaster-prone areas is reduced.**

**Objective: The capacity of Malawi Red Cross in providing appropriate and timely assistance to communities threatened or affected by disasters is increased by 2007.**

### **Progress/Achievements**

The Malawi Red Cross DM programme has not attracted any funding through the appeal and therefore planned activities have not been implemented to the level expected. The planned expected results are:

- Malawi Red Cross capacity in disaster management is strengthened and exhibits minimum standards of well-prepared society.
- The long-term food security of 5,500 beneficiaries in Mwanza, Karonga, Zomba, Mchinji and Dowa districts is improved through a combined small-scale irrigation and seeds assistance by 2007.

Despite the low appeal coverage, the ICRC funded two training workshops in disaster management and safer access for before, during and after an emergency. The training targeted all 28 branches of the Malawi Red Cross and aimed at equipping action team leaders towards the provision of first aid and gaining safer access during emergencies. The workshops also empowered the volunteers to respond swiftly and with integrity. This was reflected in the Red Cross response during the presidential and parliament elections held in May 2004.

A total of 21 staff members from the national society also received emergency preparedness and response training that included first aid during emergencies so that they could effectively support the action teams with first aid coverage during election period. The ICRC also supported the national society's emergency preparedness and response efforts through provision of first aid kits, Red Cross flags, basic medicines, stretchers and bandages.

In order to have an efficient and effective HF/VHF radio communication network, the national society received technical assistance from ICRC in the installation and repair of both base and mobile radios. Luwani refugee camp in Mwanza was among the new areas covered by HF radio communication, bringing the total number of base stations to ten. The radios have facilitated easier communication and improved the call-out system for the national society.

Food security activities implemented through partnerships with bilateral partner national societies (PNS), WFP and in collaboration with other programmes such as water and sanitation (WatSan), HIV/AIDS and health, have facilitated the improvement of the lives of the most vulnerable. The Government of Malawi has been offering its technical support to the treadle irrigation projects of the national society in Mwanza, Karonga, Zomba, Machinga, Nkhonkhotakota and Mchinji districts.

The Malawi Red Cross, in collaboration with WFP, was able to reach a total of 12,960 PLWHA and OVC in the same districts. Each beneficiary was given a monthly ration of 50 kg of maize meal, 7.5 kg of corn soya blend, 5 kg of beans and 4 litres of cooking oil. Under the same programme, 42,000 people benefited from the food-for-work programme; 71 km of road were rehabilitated in Chipita and Karonga districts. The ten rehabilitated feeder roads facilitated the socio-economic development of the population in these areas.

Similar projects to the WFP programme were carried out through the C-SAFE, an American Red Cross-funded project that targeted 14,400 PLHWA and OVC in five districts (Chitipa, Karonga, Rumphu, Ntchisi and Nkhonkhotakota).

During the reporting period the refugee programme activities were implemented as per plan and adhering to the SPHERE minimum standards and the code of conduct. Through this programme WFP is providing food while UNHCR is providing the funds for operating and capital costs. The Malawi Red Cross is involved in providing psychological support services and conducting actual distributions of the food to the refugees.

## **Malawi; Appeal 01.14/2004; Programme Update no. 2**

### **Impact**

The first aid action teams were able to provide swift and appropriate first aid to the victims of political violence during the elections in an impartial, humanitarian and neutral way. The repair and installation of HF radio communication network has improved the call-out system of the national society as well as improving the communication system of the national society. The food security programmes implemented by the Malawi Red Cross have improved the lives of the most vulnerable, and at the same time improved the socio-economic development of the population through rehabilitation of the feeder roads that have led to easier access of markets and major social services.

### **Constraints**

Due to lack of funding the disaster management sector could not significantly enhance the national society capacity in disaster preparedness and response. Insufficient funding to support the national DM coordinator and the plan of action for 2004 has meant that only limited disaster management activities have taken place.

## **Organizational Development**

**Goal: The lives of the most vulnerable people in Malawi are improved as Malawi Red Cross works towards a well-functioning national society.**

**Objective: Malawi Red Cross capacity to design and implement their strategic directions is improved**

### **Progress/Achievements**

#### **National society capacity building**

The Malawi Red Cross management review is now at an advanced stage with the technical and financial support from DRC for the selection of the consultant as well as the development of the terms of reference.

#### **Branch development**

Training in financial management was conducted for four districts regarding income generating projects such as maize mills. The districts of Kasungu, Mzimba, Dowa and Chiradzulu each have a maize mill.

#### **Finance Development:**

The Malawi Red Cross has employed a finance development officer for a period of one year with a provision of extending for another six months depending on work progress. His main functions are: to review and update the current financial procedures; to review the current roles and responsibilities in the finance department and come up with the recommendations; review and update the current financial controls; recommend the accounting systems that will suit the national society operations; and finally train staff and volunteers at every level on the new recommendations.

#### **Resource Development**

The Malawi Red Cross is currently constructing an extra office block which will be let out to the public. The national society anticipates realising over six million Malawi Kwacha (local currency) per year on rentals. The work will be finalised in two months from now and funding for the construction has been sourced locally.

The national society continues to get funding from Spanish Red Cross for the maize mills projects. The maize mills were given to divisions for income generating activities to assist them in their operations. So far three maize mills have been installed and are functioning very well. Three more mills have been bought and are waiting installation.

The Malawi Red Cross is also rehabilitating the training centre with funding from Netherlands Red Cross. The centre is also used by other non-governmental organizations for trainings and workshops. The income realised is used by the national society to support its activities.

## **Malawi; Appeal 01.14/2004; Programme Update no. 2**

### **Marketing and fundraising**

The Malawi Red Cross has employed a marketing and fundraising coordinator who is responsible for selling the activities and proposals of the national society to various donors. The coordinator will also coordinate local fundraising activities.

### **Impact**

The national society has widened its fundraising base, which will enable it to respond to the needs of the vulnerable people in Malawi, through strengthened local structures.

### **Constraints**

The poor response towards the national society's 2004 OD appeal has created a draw back in the implementation of the OD related activities during the first half of 2004.

[Contributions List below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

APPEAL No. 01.14/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/07/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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## CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,933,344		6.5%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				31,864		
IRISH - RC		101,175	EUR	159,401	16.03.04	WATER/SANITATION PHASE II
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				191,265	CHF	6.5%

## KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

## ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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