

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

MALAWI

30 April 2005

In Brief

Appeal No.: 01.14/2004 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/011404.pdf

Appeal target: CHF 2,933,344 (USD 2,203,037 or EUR 1,888,216)

Appeal coverage: 6.5% ([Click here to access the final financial report](#))

Appeal 2005: Malawi no. 05AA011 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA011.pdf

This Annual Report reflects activities implemented over a one-year period; they form part of, and are based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. 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 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's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For further information specifically related to this Annual Appeal please contact:

- **In Malawi:** McBain Kanongodza, Secretary General, Malawi Red Cross Society, Lilongwe; Email mrcs@eomw.net; Phone +265.1.775.290; Fax +265.1.775.590
- **In Zimbabwe:** Françoise Le Goff, Federation Head of Southern Africa Regional Delegation, Harare; Email ifrczw02@ifrc.org; Phone +263.4.70.61.55; Fax +263.4.70.87.84
- **In Geneva:** Terry Carney, Federation Regional Officer for Southern Africa, Africa Dept.; Email terry.carney@ifrc.org; Phone +41.22.730.4298; Fax +41.22.733.0395

Overall analysis of the programme

Like other southern African countries, Malawi is prone to disaster such as floods, droughts, epidemic, HIV and AIDS and population movement. As a result of the experience gained from the previous response to disaster, Malawi Red Cross 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 experience and lessons learnt, the Malawi Red Cross Society¹ was able to develop its disaster preparedness policy and plan – a blueprint from which activities are drawn.

The Malawi Red Cross has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with WFP to implement food distributions to tuberculosis (TB) and chronically ill HIV and AIDS patients in Salima and Karonga district. The vulnerability assessment committee also recommended to WFP to implement food-for-work development projects in the same districts. The national society has been monitoring the food security project which is supported by the Federation. There is active involvement of government and the Malawi Red Cross divisions or volunteer groups in terms of proper use and maintenance of the irrigation pumps. In Mwanza, Karonga, Zomba, Mchinji and Dowa districts beneficiaries have increased food production from winter cropping enabled by the small scale treadle pumps irrigation project.

¹ Malawi Red Cross Society – <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=110>

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A detailed assessment of the water and sanitation project area in Mchinji district, Mduwa territorial area, based on the demand for water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion and income received at the time of the assessment redefined the appeal objective and expected results. The income of CHF 157,000 was well below the Appeal budget of CHF 279,000; as a consequence, the number of project beneficiaries was reduced from 30,000 to 23,000. However, the income carried over from 2003 has been used to complete water and sanitation activities for the respective year. Regional support has been given on resource mobilization, project design and budgeting, procurement, technical issues and monitoring. Two support missions were made to the project by the regional water and sanitation delegate. The water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion project coordinates with the Malawi Red Cross HIV and AIDS interventions in this district. The water and sanitation team has completed the outstanding work from the 2003 project in Nkhotakota district and the 2004 project implementation began in June and is likely to be completed in 2005.

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With support from the regional delegation and bilateral partners (Danish Red Cross and American Red Cross), the national society conducted a management review and analysis (August-September 2004). The review team consulted and interviewed governance and management at headquarters and district level, volunteers and stakeholders such as the government officials, auditors and supporting partners. The review concentrated on four organizational development main areas of governance and management, departmental structure and division, operational and financial management and human resource development. The results of the review were discussed in December 2004 with the Federation, ICRC and interested partners. Plans are already underway for the development of the national society strategic plan. Two of the board members were assigned to assist with the development of a volunteer management policy.

Health and Care

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

Health and Care: HIV and AIDS

Objective: The spread of HIV/AIDS is reduced among 100,000 youths and the quality of life of 6,000 people living with HIV/AIDS and 25,000 orphans and vulnerable children is improved by the end of 2007.

Progress/Achievements

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

The Malawi Red Cross focused mainly on consolidating the 12 home-based care (HBC) projects supported by the Federation, American, Danish and Icelandic Red Cross Societies. A total of 529 care facilitators were trained and provided care and support to 3,361 clients and 3,600 orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS (OVC). Clients and OVC received food parcels, blankets, hygiene kits, second hand clothes, psychological support and visits from the care facilitators. Additionally, the Spanish Red Cross Society is supporting the implementation of income generating activities (IGA) where the revenue generated is thereafter used to support OVC. The Red Cross volunteers conducted a total of 47,184 home visits and 28,352 health education talks. In support of the HBC clients, seven support groups have been established, also engaged in self-help projects such as nutrition gardens, poultry and bee keeping for honey.

A total of 437 clients were referred for voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) at government clinics. The water and sanitation project was integrated with Mchinji HBC project where 85 boreholes were rehabilitated and seven new boreholes drilled. Spanish Red Cross Society funded the drilling of ten boreholes in the Chiradzulu HBC

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project. All clients in the HBC project received bed sheets and 163 clients are on anti-retroviral treatment (ART) provided by the government.

25, 000 OVC have improved quality of life through community- based orphan care approach by the end of 2007

The Malawi Red Cross established 40 community-based child care centres (CBCC) for children aged 0–7 years old. The 3,114 children enrolled in this initiative receive a meal per day, taught basic alphabet and numeric, conduct recreational activities, growth monitoring, and record keeping are taken care of by trained volunteers. The national society collaborates with UNICEF and the government in the implementation of this intervention. There are seven prevention projects established by the Malawi Red Cross targeting in and out of school youths. A total of 228 youths have been trained as youth peer educators and have reached 36,000 other youths with prevention messages. An additional 5,320 adults were also reached in the community through awareness campaigns in the form of drama.

A total of 36 volunteers were trained in early childhood development and psychosocial counselling and 100 volunteers trained in child care. Some six CBCC were assisted with construction materials and 36 given kitchen materials and educational/recreational materials. The National AIDS Commission approved funding for establishing memory work projects in four districts.

The rights of PLHIV and OVC are advocated for

In 2004, 36 anti stigma and discrimination campaigns were conducted in 12 districts reaching more than 35,000 people. Various methods were used to encourage open discussions in the community around stigma and discrimination with the involvement of community leaders and PLHIV. Throughout the year, 276 community leaders and 42 extension workers (government staff working at districts level e.g. in community development and agriculture) were trained on HIV and AIDS issues. Information, education and communication materials amounting to 22,475 pieces on anti-stigma and discriminations messages were distributed. In Mchinji support group members have been conducting a community outreach programme educating people on HIV and AIDS.

The four established support groups also provide psychosocial support for HBC clients, who are mainly the members. Stigma and discrimination is also addressed through the support groups as the clients and volunteers feel empowered to disclose their status and speak openly regarding “positive living”.

Knowledge attitudes, practices and behaviour of 100,000 youth and OVC aged 10-24 years are improved through in and out of school youth peer education by the end of 2007.

By end of year, 24 youth clubs were established with 3,600 OVC participating in youth club activities. The youths organized 36 open days to reach out to the general community with HIV and AIDS prevention messages. Approximately 41,200 condoms were distributed by the youth. In total 6,692 youths participated in “Together We Can” youth peer education where 1,372 completed the training using the manual while 5,320 youths are yet to complete in 2005. A total of 228 youths were trained as youth peer educators and reached 36,000 youth. In addition 33 youth peer educators were trained in community social mobilization and reached 5,320 adults in the communities.

Impact

The HIV and AIDS project is recognized by the National AIDS Commission; the Malawi Red Cross is a member of the National Technical Working Group on HIV and AIDS, Impact Mitigation Technical Working Group and a member of the National OVC Task Working Group. Through anti stigma and discrimination campaigns by the Red Cross volunteers, it is no longer a shame to belong to a HBC project and communities have been mobilized and are motivated to support HBC clients.

Constraints

Most households with HBC clients are affected by food shortages. Even when there are food parcels, the funding is inadequate to buy food to last during the lean period when the crops are not ready. There is need for transportation in the five districts of Nkhatabay, Mchinji, Blantyre, Zomba and Lilongwe which also requires computerisation. The project with activities such as distribution of HBC supplies and material support for OVC is

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affected by a critical shortage of transport and for this reason, vehicles are urgently required for the four projects of Mchinji, Blantyre, Zomba and Lilongwe.

Most of the projects did not have enough HBC supplies to support the work of the volunteers due to erratic funding from the donors. HBC supplies are expensive and it is very difficult to maintain consistent replenishment of volunteers stocks. It is very stressful for the volunteers to try and perform their demanding work without adequate supplies. Understaffing at national level still remains a challenge. There is need for additional staff to deal with monitoring and evaluation, OVC and prevention issues.

Health and Care: Water and Sanitation

Objective: Sound, sustainable environmental services are established for 120,000 vulnerable people in 11 districts by 2008 in water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion.

Progress/Achievement

Hygiene promotion/ sanitation promotion volunteers effectively cover target population of 30,000 by year 2005

A total of 44 people have been trained in hygiene promotion in Mchinji district. In Mduwa area 40 community volunteers, six sanitary platform (SanPlat) latrine slab casting artisans and eight government extension workers were also trained in SanPlat latrine slab casting, hygiene promotion, water and sanitation problem solving, planning and reporting. The main focus for the hygiene promotion was in 20 villages (approx. population 5,000) where the national society has HBC clients

Sustainable sanitation promotion (hardware) unit established in Mduwa territorial area that distributes no less than 1,000 SanPlats to households who build adequate traditional latrines by 2005

There were two construction hardware units established in Mduwa and have produced and distributed 500 SanPlats to households who built or who already had reasonable traditional latrines. A total of 300 of the SanPlats were distributed to HBC clients. The SanPlats enable the beneficiaries to keep their latrines hygienic.

110 viable, fully functioning and adequate community managed water supplies in low-income villages by 2005 (50 handpump rehabilitations, seven new boreholes fitted with handpumps)

In 2004, 85 boreholes were rehabilitated and seven new boreholes drilled in Mduwa. Of these 85, 20 required major work.

57 community based operation and maintenance and cost recovery systems established and functioning by 2005

The 24 village water committees with 240 people were trained in the villages not reached before. The other water committees were given support to increase their maintenance capacities, for example 72 pump maintenance technicians were trained in community-based operations and maintenance.

Water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion projects efficiently and effectively implemented using demand responsive community managed approaches by 2005.

Monitoring by the regional water and sanitation delegate showed generally good quality works. Considering the project only began in June the achievements have been gained rapidly.

Increased resources for water/ sanitation and hygiene promotion projects, and contribution to sector policies, best practices, coordination and cooperation by 2005

The project manager is an active member of the National Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council where lessons learnt and best practices are shared and advocated for amongst different players in the water and sanitation sector in Malawi, the lead is the Ministry of Water Development.

Income received and expenditure is approximately 10% higher than in 2003. Additionally funding was pledged for a new vehicle for the project in 2004. If this is considered, income is 40% more than in 2003.

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Assistance to Bilateral water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion projects

The water and sanitation department assisted bilateral projects funded by the Spanish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Danish Red Cross, by supervising drilling and construction works, by contracting of drilling companies, by the preparation of drilling contracts and by the training of water point committees. Over 93 boreholes fitted with hand-pumps have been constructed in these projects and water point committees trained in community management.

Impact

Better access to safe water and sanitation not only leads to improvement in health, but also saves time and energy and enhances livelihood opportunities. Approximately 23,000 people now have access to safe water within a 30-minute round trip from their homes and with a capacity to ensure 15 litres of water per day per person.

Constraints

Federation and national society financial procedures continue to delay the project to a minor extent. Both organizations are working to improve these systems. The national society requires support to improve its ability to measure expected results and impact against the indicators outlined in the logical framework.

Disaster Management

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 disaster management programme did not attract any funding through the appeal and therefore planned activities were not implemented to the level expected. Despite the low appeal coverage, the ICRC funded two training workshops in disaster management and safer access to victims before, during and after an emergency. The training targeted all 28 branches 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 an effort to improve the quality of service provided to about 6,100 refugees in Dzaleka and Luwani Refugee camps, 17 members of staff and partners underwent SPHERE training. The training was conducted 13–17 December 2004 with the thrust of reinforcing the national society's capacity to respond to disasters appropriately and effectively using SPHERE as a benchmark for measuring the quality of service provided. The participants were drawn from different backgrounds; logistics, information, tracing, health, water and sanitation, relief, finance, mid/top programmes/management, agronomy, counselling, HIV and AIDS, government of Malawi, principal mitigation officer in the Department of Poverty and Disaster management affairs. Through this programme WFP provided food while UNHCR provided the funds for operating and capital costs. The Malawi Red Cross was involved in providing psychological support services and conducting actual distributions of the food to the refugees.

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.

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Food security activities were implemented through partnerships with bilateral partner national societies, WFP and in collaboration with other programmes; water and sanitation, HIV and AIDS and health and care. The government offered technical support to the Malawi Red Cross treadle irrigation project in Mwanza, Karonga, Zomba, Mchinji and Dowa districts. The Malawi Red Cross signed a memorandum of understanding with WFP for supporting 25,300 people from July to December 2004. The programme targeted HIV and AIDS and TB patients and food insecure households to participate in food-for-work projects in Salima and Karonga districts. The food security programmes implemented included community forestry, growing fruit trees, irrigation canal excavation, seed multiplication and rehabilitation of roads. A total of 1,078 households benefited from the construction of irrigation canals that are able to support 30 hectares of productive land.

Impact

The SPHERE training conducted for Malawi Red Cross staff and partners facilitates improved service provision to refugees in line with the Humanitarian Charter and SPHERE minimum standards in disaster response. 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/VHF 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, construction of irrigation canals, community forestry, multiplication of seed, growing of fruit trees and, rehabilitation of the feeder roads that have led to easier access of markets and major social services.

Constraints

Lack of funding for disaster management interventions has prevented the national society to significantly build capacity in this core area. Insufficient funding to support the national disaster management coordinator and the plan of action for 2004 has meant that only limited disaster management activities took 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 strategic plan

The national society began dialogue with all partners involved in the review of the strategic plan. Programme officers have been preparing for this review which is aimed at redesigning the direction of the national society, with more focus on food insecurity. A strategic planning workshop was scheduled for December 2004 to finalize the document, but could not take place: the plan of action in response to the management review recommendations was being finalized.

National society capacity building

The management review has now been completed by a local consultant, Management Services International and held meetings with the national executive board, management, Federation and partner national societies to discuss the report. A meeting to finalize the discussion and draft a plan of action for the implementation of the recommendations was held at the beginning of December 2004.

Branch development

Since the engagement of the finance and development officer, the national society managed to provide technical support to the committees involved in the running of the maize mills. The main focus was on the development of a sound monitoring mechanism and support service. So far, the Mzimba maize mill is doing very well and the committee is motivated and an assessment for a possibility of the second maize-mill in Mzimba has been completed.

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Finance Development

A finance development officer has been hired for a period of one year with a provision of extending for another six month 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 Malawi Red Cross operations; and finally train staff and volunteers at every level on the new recommendations.

Resource Development

The construction of an additional office complex on the same plot with the head office is at an advanced stage with roof having been completed. Tenants will occupy the offices in early 2005.

The rehabilitation of the national society training centre in Dowa has progressed well, with process being expected to be completed during the first quarter of 2005. The training centre is expected to mobilize funds through hiring services to other organizations.

Impact

The Malawi Red Cross has carried out a holistic management review that has highlighted a number of issues that the national society needs to take care off, if it wants to remain relevant to the needs of the most vulnerable communities and to attract more funding from local and international partners. The areas that were cited by the review as needing urgent attention are governance and management, departmental structure and division of operations, financial management and human resource development. The national society has already drawn an action plan to implement these recommendations. A finance development officer was also hired during the year to give support to the division of operations. The national society was able to attract bilateral donors who are supporting various projects through out the country.

Constraints

Although funding for project at division level has been steady, it has been difficult to get funding for the all planned organizational development activities from the multilateral donors, thereby hampering the decentralisation of functions to divisions and the appointment of full time staff in divisions.

[Final financial report below; click here to return to title page and contact information.](#)

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2004/1-2004/12
Appeal	M04AA014
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
Budget (A)	1'709'375	645'616		578'353		2'933'344
Opening Balance (B)	31'865	0		0		31'865
Income						
Cash contributions						
Irish Red Cross Society	157'782					157'782
Other		0		0		0
Cash contributions (C1)	157'782	0		0		157'782
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
Irish Government	70'000					70'000
Netherlands Government	207'797					207'797
Reallocations (C2)	277'797					277'797
Total Income (C) = SUM(C1..C5)	435'579	0		0		435'579
Total Funding (B + C)	467'444	0		0		467'444

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
Opening Balance (B)	31'865	0		0		31'865
Income (C)	435'579	0		0		435'579
Expenditure (D)	-462'187					-462'187
Closing Balance (B + C + D)	5'257	0		0		5'257

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2004/1-2004/12
Appeal	M04AA014
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)		1'709'375	645'616		578'353	2'933'344		
Supplies								
Shelter	12'410						12'410	
Construction		11'652				11'652	-11'652	
Clothing & textiles	139'467	19'445				19'445	120'022	
Food	22'617	13'367				13'367	9'250	
Seeds,Plants	1'638	275				275	1'363	
Water & Sanitation	106'500	37'660				37'660	68'840	
Medical & First Aid	25'150	18'139				18'139	7'011	
Teaching Materials		12'000				12'000	-12'000	
Utensils & Tools	27'891						27'891	
Other Supplies & Services	208'857	10'518				10'518	198'339	
Total Supplies	544'530	123'057				123'057	421'473	
Capital Expenditure								
Vehicles	289'375						289'375	
Computers & Telecom	56'382						56'382	
Total Capital Expenditure	345'757						345'757	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	93'728						93'728	
Distribution & Monitoring		3'875				3'875	-3'875	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	163'914	27'804				27'804	136'110	
Total Transport & Storage	257'642	31'679				31'679	225'963	
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	146'866						146'866	
Delegate Benefits		375				375	-375	
Regionally Deployed Staff	561'058						561'058	
National & National Society Staff		148'407				148'407	-148'407	
Consultants	118'267						118'267	
Total Personnel Expenditures	826'191	148'782				148'782	677'409	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	405'442	83'799				83'799	321'643	
Total Workshops & Training	405'442	83'799				83'799	321'643	
General Expenditure								
Travel	67'120	3'824				3'824	63'296	
Information & Public Relation	81'947	313				313	81'634	
Office Costs	91'083	14'694				14'694	76'389	
Communications	74'209	10'839				10'839	63'370	
Professional Fees	9'836	139				139	9'697	
Financial Charges	38'920	24'741				24'741	14'179	
Other General Expenses		11'278				11'278	-11'278	
Total General Expenditure	363'115	65'828				65'828	297'287	
Program Support								
Program Support	190'667	30'042				30'042	160'625	
Total Program Support	190'667	30'042				30'042	160'625	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		-21'000				-21'000	21'000	
Total Operational Provisions		-21'000				-21'000	21'000	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	2'933'344	462'187				462'187	2'471'157	
VARIANCE (C - D)		1'247'188	645'616		578'353	2'471'157		