

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

LIBERIA

1 June 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

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.25/2004; Programme Update no. 1; Period covered: January to May 2004;
Appeal coverage: 52.1%; Outstanding needs: CHF 650,719 (USD 514,800 or EUR 423,650.
[\(Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\).](#)

Appeal target: CHF 1,357,870 (USD 1,019,805 or EUR 874,071)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Mano River sub-regional programmes Appeal no. 01.27/2004](#)

Programme summary: An audit was carried out in April and May 2004 due to the extensive looting and destruction of documents that took place at the national society headquarters in June and July 2003. Most financial documents were recovered, some of which were bought from the city market.

The HIV/AIDS programme was extended to include two additional counties: Montserrado and Margibi. The community-based health programme (CBH) is on track and will be implemented in September 2004.

The food security programme has continued increasing its target base and is now supporting 1,400 individual farmers and ten cooperatives.

The child advocacy and rehabilitation programme started after the arrival of a Social Welfare delegate. The delegate and the national society counterpart consulted and held discussions within the national society and externally. A survey to identify the organizations working with children, the kind of projects they have and their location has been completed; over 20 local and international NGOs were identified. Findings from the survey will help the national society design its programmes.

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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 below to access the detailed logframe documents).

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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, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

The Federation has maintained its approach of functioning as an integral part of the [Liberian Red Cross Society](#) as opposed to existing as a parallel structure. In November, 2003, a health delegate arrived to assist the national society in developing and implementing a community-based health programme and in March 2004, a social welfare delegate arrived to work with the national society to address the needs of the traumatized youth of the country. Both delegates share offices with their counterparts and are providing expertise, guidance and coaching in their respective areas. The regional logistics delegate spent eight weeks at the national society headquarters to develop and implement an overall transparent and efficient logistics department. The regional disaster management delegate is currently on mission to Liberia and is working with the national society Director of Disaster Management in the southeast of the country. A Finance Development Consultant will arrive on 2 June 2004 to work with the national society to identify and implement a finance management system

The four new directors of finance, administration, disaster management and youth, appointed in December 2003 have been joined by a Director of Training appointed in February and a Director of Communication, Information and Dissemination to be appointed in May 2004.

Health and care

Goal: The health of the vulnerable people in Liberia is improved through increased knowledge of: proper hygiene and sanitation; importance of clean drinking water; and public awareness on the spread and transmission of communicable diseases.

Objective: Through peer educators and its volunteers, the Liberian Red Cross is contributing to the community's ability to prevent major health hazards such as HIV/AIDS infections.

Achievements

Community-Based Health Programme (CBHP)

- A delegate was appointed in November 2003, to work along with the national society and develop the CBHP programme.
- A coordinator who is also the acting Director was successfully appointed in April 2004 after two previous attempts failed.
- The water and sanitation (WatSan) and HIV/AIDS programmes have been fully integrated into the national society CBHP. The acting WatSan Coordinator has been confirmed as WatSan Coordinator and the Youth Coordinator has been named as HIV/AIDS Coordinator.
- Eight community training modules and tools in line with [ARCHI 2010](#) have been developed; an artist has been identified to create the designs which will be tested in the field at chapter level before being printed. NGO working in health and the Ministry of Health will also be asked their opinion on the material
- 1,500 hygiene kits and 130 latrine tool sets have been purchased and will be used during the piloting of the CBHP in September 2004. Each family will receive one hygiene kit while the latrine tool sets will be shared between 15 to 20 families.
- In April 2004, a representative of the German Red Cross assessed the possibility of supporting the Liberian Red Cross in a WatSan project.

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- The training-of-trainers (ToT) modules are being prepared and volunteers will be identified in the pilot chapters and trained as trainers in August 2004 prior to the start of the project. Initially the programme will be carried out in one county and, by the end of 2004 expanded to two additional counties. Volunteer trainers from all chapters will be done by the end of 2004.

HIV/AIDS

- The HIV/AIDS programme is active in Montserrado, Grand Bassa and Margibi counties. A fourth county, Rivercess, was identified for the programme this year. The national society is currently assessing where next to take the programme based on the CBHP implementation and readiness of the chapter and population.
- 101 peer educators have been trained and are active.
- 49 drama artists have been trained and are active.
- 35,000 youth have been reached through drama performances and sensitization sessions.
- 128 HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns have been conducted in Margibi and Grand Bassa.
- 128 HIV/AIDS drama presentations were performed in Margibi and Grand Bassa.
- 35 school health clubs were established in Margibi, Grand Bassa and Montserrado counties. These clubs meet regularly with Red Cross peer educators and volunteers trained in HIV/AIDS to discuss HIV/AIDS issues among themselves. At present this is the only activity but the programme will be developed further and will include training youth to use the peer educators' handbook which is presently being developed. The handbook includes many recreation activities: games, role play, problem solving activities and case studies. The handbook is adapted from the Malawi Red Cross peer educators programme.
- 198,000 condoms were distributed in the three counties.
- Of the 15 HIV/AIDS action committees that were established in 2003, nine are still active in Margibi and Grand Bassa counties. These committees are based in the various communities where the national society has a HIV/AIDS programme. They were established to provide a link to the peer educators and to monitor the activities of the drama artists.
- The youth department, in collaboration with the management information service (MIS) department, is in the process of finalizing a youth management system data base that covers all 15 counties.
- A concept document to make the current HIV/AIDS programme more community-based and multi-sectoral has been developed and is under critical review.
- Two national society staff along with representatives from the Liberia YMCA, YWCA and the Boy Scouts, attended a week long forum in Dakar focused on youth and HIV/AIDS.

Impact

- The CBHP structure, with the exception of the director, has now been put in place at the national society Secretariat and includes WatSan, promotional health and HIV/AIDS. The structures for the branches and chapters are still in the planning stage.
- Peer education training equipped peer educators with necessary tools to educate and counsel their peers about HIV/AIDS.
- During informal interviewing and discussions, many youth in Margibi and Grand Bassa showed an increased awareness on HIV/AIDS.
- The national society has developed an information pamphlet on HIV/AIDS which will be distributed together with a strip of condoms. These pamphlets are suitable for a literate audience. There is need to develop material suitable to the illiterate section of the population.
- Statistics from the awareness exercise shows an increase in the use of condoms among sexually active adolescents since the programme was initiated.

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Constraints

- Lack of programme vehicles. The national society has four programme vehicles but field missions have, at times, been delayed due to the increased level of activities in the national society.
- Full deployment has not yet been achieved and some remote communities are yet to be covered although UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) is gradually deploying throughout the country. Community members remain in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and, consequently, some HIV/AIDS action committee structures, which were established at the beginning of the project, are inactive.
- Some information, education and communication (IEC) materials developed for the HIV/AIDS programme were not perceived as culturally sensitive to some members of some of the more remote communities. The model penis, for example, received negative reception by a few of the older members as they felt that it showed a sign of disrespect. They also said that “it is disrespectful to openly discuss sex”.
- In some communities advocating for condom use raises complex, practical and moral issues, especially within the Christian context. They may impose silence on the subject or neglect the use of condoms. This prevented increased demand for the use of condoms. However, promotion of faithfulness in rural settings was emphasized and, to some extent accepted.
- Bush schools in isolated communities undermined the overall success of the HIV/AIDS programme. During bush school season, girls and boys, usually between the ages of 12 and 15, are customarily requested to attend school. These schools play a significant part in many remote communities, the philosophy behind them being to promote traditional cultural values and practices.
- Community members rely on subsistent farming for their livelihood. During farming season, adolescent males engage in brushing, burning and clearing activities in their respective communities.
- A high degree of poverty exists in the country and it is even worse in rural communities. This is contributing to the high level of promiscuity that perpetuates the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- The inability to find a Director for the CBH programme severely delayed the development of the structure of the department at Secretariat level. A Co-ordinator was appointed in April 2004 and an agreement to incorporate HIV/AIDS and WatSan into the CBHP department was finalized.

Lessons Learnt

- It is critical to know and understand the population’s cultural sensitivities and customs.
- The CBHP department quickly realized that the community information tools had to first be developed pictorially before developing the ToT workshop it had earlier begun with.
- The HIV/AIDS programme had become a costly programme due to the use of a limited number of trained peer educators and paid drama artists who travelled from one village to another. The approach to the HIV/AIDS programme has been integrated with the CBHP approach and peer educators and drama artists will be recruited and trained in all the communities and will work as volunteers with their own communities.
- It has been realized that to have the most impact on the community, peer educators must be recruited not only among the youth, but from all ages and this has been adopted in the new approach.

Disaster Management

Goal: The Liberian Red Cross will respond to the needs of the vulnerable affected by disasters.

Objective: While developing the national society's local emergency response teams, the national society will learn more about the most urgent needs of the vulnerable people.

Achievements

- An acting Relief Coordinator was recommended for appointment.
- 264 sets of clothes, kitchen sets, buckets and assorted items were given to 1,264.
- A relief refresher training module was developed.
- 37 orphanages, with a population of 2,877, were provided with 7,060 pieces of clothing. 1,141 boys and 1,165 girls and 282 male staff and 289 female staff received these clothes.
- A total of 2,858 assorted farming tools were distributed to 12 project sites in Margibi, Grand Bassa, Montserrado and Rivercess as follows: 1,400 cutlasses, 800 regular hoes, 150 shovels, 100 rakes, 25 grinding stones, 45 diggers, 100 axes, ten measuring tapes, 50 water cans, two sprayers, 20 twines, six wheel barrows and 125 metal files.
- 4,500 kg of peanut seeds were distributed to farmers at seven project sites in Margibi, Grand Bassa and Montserrado counties.
- 2,000 kg of seed rice was distributed to farmers at ten project sites in the three counties.
- 2,100 cassava cuttings were distributed to farmers at 21 project sites in Margibi, Grand Bassa and Rivercess.
- 6,080 assorted vegetable seeds were distributed to farmers in Margibi, Grand Bassa and Rivercess counties.
- A total of 75 acres of land have so far been planted and another 100 acres are being prepared.
- In addition to the 1,000 farmers who were part of the 2003 programme who still receive assistance and monitoring, another 400 farmers are being assisted.
- A refresher training course for the emergency response teams (ERT) was developed and has been delivered to teams from seven of the chapters with the last eight chapters to benefit from the training by the end of June.
- A ToT course for the ERT training is being developed and will be offered by the end of August 2004.

Impact

- The food security programme interrupted by the conflict from May to August 2003, has practically normalized with the return of farmers and replacement of the looted tools. The cassava and rice crops were salvaged. The national society continues to assist and monitor the activities. The refresher ERT training is strengthening the Red Cross chapters in border areas in dealing with the large number of spontaneous returnees and disaster response preparedness.

Constraints

- The April to October rainy season has made the roads difficult to navigate and inaccessible in some places.
- The inability to appoint a Relief Coordinator despite the recommendation, has delayed the programme implementation.
- The unavailability of a vehicle for field trips when required has also limited movement.

Lessons learnt

- To have an effective food security programme with emphasis on security, the programme must have a training component and a two-year minimum follow-up which entails assessing the impact of the CBHP on community health. The two departments are currently working on ways to monitor this.
- The impact of cooperatives versus individual farmers needs to be assessed.
- Although 20 ERT were trained early in 2003, the appropriateness of maintaining the ERT as opposed to an overall emergency response plan is being studied. All ERT members are trained in: tracing, agro, first aid,

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relief, information and dissemination and WatSan. It is now being realized that these skills should be used to support the community on an on-going basis and not just being on stand-by for an emergency. The national society, ICRC and the Federation are currently looking at better use of the developed skills and a national emergency response plan.

Humanitarian Values

Goal: The Liberian Red Cross will open a centre in Monrovia for a child advocacy and rehabilitation (CAR) programme.

Objective: Some 150 children will have registered in the pilot CAR programme in Monrovia in 2004. Second and third centres are envisaged as well depending on the security situation and the results of the pilot project. The children will begin the process of healing their trauma and integration into mainstream activities.

Achievements

- A Social Welfare delegate arrived on 10 March 2004 to assist the national society in developing a child advocacy and rehabilitation (CAR) programme and a community animation and peace (CAPS) programme.
- Red Cross Movement meetings were held to strategize on an overall plan for child protection/youth development for national society.
- The Social Welfare delegate was invited to make a presentation on the CAR programme at a conference on “children and war” at the University of Alberta, Canada.
- The national society Director of Youth/CAR counterpart attended a Pan African conference in Dakar, Senegal, on HIV/AIDS with the theme: Education: The question of AIDS in Dakar.
- An NGO survey tool was developed to assist in the determining of gaps and need areas, including locations.
- NGO interviews were conducted with the aim of knowing programme needs and geographical areas of operation. Forty-five international and national NGOs were listed, out of which thirty were contacted for interviews. Twenty-five NGO consented and were interviewed and the data is being compiled.
- The NGO survey has initiated the beginning of a new relationship between national society and the NGO community.
- Two national society volunteers are attending the “Responding to Conflict” training at Selly Oaks College, Birmingham, England funded by the British Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross.
- A four member team from the national society spent ten days in Sierra Leone as guests of the Sierra Leone Red Cross visiting the CAR and CAPS programmes. Members of the team included the second Vice-president, the Secretary General and the Youth Director, all of national society and the Federation Social Welfare delegate. Three CAR centres were visited including Kambia and Port Loko in the North and Waterloo in the West outside Freetown. Two CAPS communities, Faala and Kontebutehun were visited and discussions held with the community residents and CAPS.
- While in Sierra Leone, meetings were held with the Federation and the Sierra Leone Red Cross and these meetings opened a new level of collaboration at the regional level Two delegates from the Spanish Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross participated in the meetings and pledged support for the regional approach.
- A report on the mission, including findings, lessons learned and challenges, has been drafted and will soon be available through the national society.
- The CAR team visited the Ministry of Gender and Child Development and held discussions with the Minister and Deputy Minister which centred on the plight of children, their protection and rehabilitation.
- A child protection/youth development paper on policies and procedures for national society is being developed.

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Impact

- Following the mission to Sierra Leone, there was recognition that the context of their war was different, in view of the use of child soldiers and how the war was fought.
- A new relationship was fostered with NGOs. All NGOs interviewed expressed appreciation for the process and approach, including the Ministry of Gender and Child Development.
- A positive step of collaboration at a regional level between two national societies having similar problems.

Constraints

- Insufficient time for an integrated planning approach including the development of a budget when the programme is not fully formed.
- Competing interests and demands, example, multiple reports, steps.
- Many pieces to synthesize including findings from Sierra Leone, NGOs survey, interviews and planning with other actors in order to develop an appropriate child protection, youth development and peace building strategy for national society.

Lessons learnt

- The programme is in the process of being developed and communities identified. However, it is clear that the CAR and CAPS programmes cannot be an identical to the Sierra Leone programmes. Although both countries have been through long and devastating conflicts, Liberia is more complicated in the context of the different warring factions, the continuing tribal issues and the horrendous impact on family and community life.

Organizational Development

Goal: The Liberian Red Cross is a well-functioning national society with goals already stated in the report.

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

Achievements

- A three-day management training programme was carried out for headquarters' directors and coordinators.
- The management training programme has been adapted and will be offered to the chapter staff in the last half of the year.
- A three-day ToT workshop was carried out for directors and coordinators and other staff responsible for conducting training in their respective areas.
- An audit of the national society's 2003 accounts has been carried out.
- A total of 12 of the 15 chapters have been or are undergoing renovation or new construction, funded by the ICRC and the Federation.
- Four sessions of three hours each were held with the staff of the administration department and responsibilities clearly identified and job descriptions developed and approved by the Secretary General.
- The same programme carried out with the administration department, as above, will be held with the other departments.
- The regional logistics delegate spent a total of eight weeks working with the national society logistics resulting in the establishment of effective and transparent fleet management, procurement and warehousing systems. To complete the work, a logistics coordinator position has been advertised and, when in place, logistics will no longer report to the Administration department but to the Secretary General.
- The Secretary General and the Federation representative attended an organizational development workshop in Geneva.
- The national society had a very successful May 8 celebration with the chairman of the National Transitional Government of Liberia attending and cutting the ceremonial ribbon to inaugurate the newly rehabilitated headquarters building.

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- Job descriptions for Chapter Governance and Management are being developed and Chapter structure revised.
- A strategic planning session will kick off June 3 and 4 to be continued throughout the next few months resulting in a final strategic plan and revision of the national society “Plan 2007” by September.
- A Finance Development Consultant arrives on 2 June 2004 to work directly with the national society in developing and implementing an appropriate and transparent financial management system.
- The national society, supported by ICRC and the Federation, will, in the next few months, be visiting every Chapter and many branches with the objective of assisting them to prepare to hold their annual meetings.
- The national society’s general assembly will be held in December of this year following the branches and Chapters annual meetings.

Impact

- The renovation or construction of the chapter buildings will provide chapter governance and staff the means to carry out much needed programmes in support of the Liberian people.
- Successful support of the branches and chapters enabling them to conduct their annual meetings is critical to the success of the 2004 general assembly.

Constraints

- The incomplete deployment of the UNMIL has left pockets of insecurity resulting in difficulty in reaching all parts of the country. In addition, even where UNMIL has deployed troops, there have been periods of insecurity when humanitarian organizations were unable to go.
- The rainy season has started and this makes travel and construction difficult.
- As a result of the years of conflict, many of the governance positions in some of the chapters are vacant.
- There are an estimated one million Liberians still refugees or internally displaced out of a population of three million.

Lessons learnt

- The Federation’s integrated approach used in Liberia is working extremely well. The delegation has no staff of its own and relies on the national society to provide the required personnel support. The Federation delegates work in the same offices as their counterparts. This approach has not only promoted transparency, but developed the national society’s capacities and created a better working relationship and environment.

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

APPEAL No. 01.25/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

23/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,357,870	TOTAL COVERAGE 52.1%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				118,050		
BRITISH - RC		30,000	GBP	70,785	27.02.04	HEALTH & CARE
BRITISH - RC		40,000	GBP	94,380	27.02.04	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BRITISH - RC		29,005	USD	36,735	22.03.04	RUNNING COSTS CLINIC FOR 9 MONTHS
BRITISH - RC		9,500	gbp	21,926	21.04.04	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT / CAR
GERMAN - RC		50,000	EUR	77,975	16.03.04	HUMANITARIAN VALUES, CHILD ADVOCACY & REHABILITATION
SWEDISH - RC		500,000	SEK	84,500	06.05.04	HUMANITARIAN VALUES (CAR % CAPS)
SWEDISH - RC		1,200,000	SEK	202,800	06.05.04	HEALTH & CARE, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				707,151	CHF	52.1%

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

Liberia

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.25/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

23/06/2004

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