

# 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

## SWAZILAND

5 January 2006

*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.05AA015; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: July to November 2005; Appeal coverage: 26.2 %; Outstanding needs: CHF 513,027 (USD 391,026 or EUR 329,602).**

*(Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List (also available on the website).*

**Programme Update no. 1 refer to:** <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA01501.pdf>

**Appeal target: CHF694,927 (USD 552,000 or EUR 447,600)**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Southern Africa Food Insecurity Emergency Appeal ( 05EA023) refer to: - [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?05/05EA023.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA023.pdf)**

**Programme summary:** Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society has 60 functional branches in its the five divisions. The Annual General Assembly was conducted in November and a new president and governing board members were elected. The Federation regional delegation facilitated governance orientation and Humanitarian Values workshops, attended by governing board members, staff and volunteers from headquarters and branches.

Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society delivers health and care services through an integrated HIV/AIDS programme funded by a Consortium of donors namely Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)/Swedish Red Cross Society (SRCS) and Development Cooperation Ireland (DCI), through the Federation regional delegation. A detailed plan and budget for the next five years has been drafted and will be finalised early 2006.

Swaziland is one of the seven countries in the region severely affected by food insecurity. In response to the food crisis, the Federation launched the *Southern Africa Food Insecurity Emergency Appeal 05EA023* on 18 October 2005, for the seven countries<sup>1</sup>. Through a coordinated approach with Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society as the implementing partner, the operation will provide food assistance, agricultural inputs, safe water and adequate sanitation to the affected home-based care (HBC) beneficiaries.

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<sup>1</sup> Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe

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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). 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

Despite *per capita* GDP of USD 4,550, it is misleading to label Swaziland as 'low-middle income country' as the income is very unevenly distributed with two thirds of the population living below poverty line and faced with largely depleted coping mechanisms. There is little evidence that the economy is recovering from the downward spiral that began two to three years ago.

Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society works closely with the Ministry of Health in the provision of primary health care services through its three clinics in the rural areas of Mahwalala, Sigombeni and Silele. During the reporting period, the clinics assisted the communities through primary health care, mother and child care including immunization, family planning, home-based care (HBC), limited curative services and health promotion. The HBC projects are linked to the three clinics and the national society continued responding to the humanitarian crisis, and scaled up its HIV/AIDS activities with a focus on prevention and care. Prevention campaigns on HIV/AIDS were also conducted for staff and inmates in correctional services. A number of HIV/AIDS food security projects were implemented namely poultry and backyard nutritional gardening for people affected or infected by HIV/AIDS.

Due to the drought recently experienced recently in the country, Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society is playing an important role in the food relief operation in an effort to improve the lives of vulnerable groups including HBC clients and OVC. The Federation's *Southern Africa: Food Insecurity Emergency Appeal* aims to assist 1.5 million affected people in seven countries in the region, including Swaziland. The nine month operation aims to support the vulnerable population with targeted food distribution and building their capacities to enhance livelihood through community-based activities conducted by Red Cross national societies. The operation also reflects the Federation's commitment to move from relief assistance into longer-term sustainable programming. Donor response to the Emergency Appeal has been slow, which is limiting the initial phase of the operation, despite the need to scale up the assistance to the affected people.

Food prices have been rapidly rising leading to an increase in number of food insecure population and becoming unable to purchase adequate supplies, thereby becoming increasingly dependent on food aid. With a self-sufficiency rate for cereals of only about a third, the Swaziland population is mostly dependent on food imports. To date, less than half of its annual cereal imports have been acquired. Planting of main-season crops is currently underway as above average rainfall was received during the first week of November over most parts of the country.

Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society has recently finalized its disaster management policy and plans. A disaster manager has been hired to take charge of scaling up and coordinating all disaster management activities in the country. Further training of staff and volunteers in disaster management, consolidation and coordination of ongoing programmes will be one of the national society's main priorities in the next two years, in order to improve its response capacity.

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The information department continues to play its advocacy role in an attempt to influence behaviour and policy change among its stakeholders. Since June, the information department has been carrying out activities to raise the profile of the plight of the most vulnerable communities in Swaziland. These have been done through issuance of media tools such as news releases and conducting media tours to complement the television and radio programmes.

During the second half of the year, the organizational development and finance development programme focused on developing the financial manual, training and coaching the headquarter finance staff in accounting and financial management. Governance and management agreed to introduce the Navision accounting system in order to improve financial management at headquarters and divisional levels.

The governance and management orientation and humanitarian values workshops were held in July 2005, and recommended the revision of the Statutes, following identified gaps in the profile, nomination of candidates and the election procedures. The workshop was facilitated by the Federation regional organizational development and information officers.

Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society elected the first female president at the Annual General Assembly held on 3 and 4 November 2005, a development that is anticipated to addressing issues of gender equity.

## **Health and care**

### **HIV/AIDS**

**Goal: Sustainable improvement in the health and well-being of vulnerable population.**

**Objective: Holistic prevention, care and support provided to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS (OVC).**

#### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

*5,000 correctional services officers and inmates countrywide are reached with HIV/AIDS prevention messages*

- The Red Cross volunteers visited the national correctional service centres and provided counselling, education on prevention of HIV/AIDS to the inmates and staff. Through mobilisation of the inmates to take up voluntary counselling and testing, a number of them are receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) from the government provisions.

*Targeted communities and general public respect the rights of PLWHA and OVC*

- Red Cross volunteers in prevention and home-based care (HBC) projects provided information on the rights of PLWHA and OVC among the communities in their project areas. Information, education and communication activities were conducted through meetings with community members. The national society managed to coordinate five support groups in a network that advocates for the general public's respect of the rights of PLWHA and OVC.
- Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society in collaboration with UNICEF and the coordinating ensemble of non-governmental organizations working on children's issues meet on a monthly basis to address relevant issues. Community meetings also increased in three clinic catchments areas, sensitizing on anti-stigma and discrimination of PLWHA and OVC.
- The national society also conducted a situation analysis in order to establish the needs of the children. The OVC programme for the next five years will be built upon the results and recommendations from the analysis.

*Voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) and Prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) in targeted communities are promoted in order to reduce HIV infection due to mother to child transmission*

- The Red Cross Clinic in Sigombeni continued to provide VCT and PMTCT service to HBC clients and surrounding communities. The government recognised the Red Cross clinic initiative as a good practice for

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a rural integrated project that provides PMTCT, VCT, ART, HBC, care and support to OVC and the model is being replicated throughout the country.

*HBC project for PLWHA is expanded to reach 2000 clients*

- The Red Cross HBC projects provided care and support to 1,500 clients through 184 care facilitators. The Red Cross volunteers conducted door-to-door visits providing psychological support to households infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The HBC clients were provided with blankets from the Red Cross project. The national society continued training volunteers in care and support, ART, food security and nutrition during several meetings held in the project areas, so as to improve their service delivery.
- With support from the Federation regional delegation, Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society developed a five-year HIV/AIDS proposal for the Consortium funding. The proposal focuses on scaling up the HBC project that is increasing the number of beneficiaries, volunteers and the support, care and HIV/AIDS prevention activities.

### **Impact:**

- The Red Cross HIV/AIDS interventions positively impacted on the sexual behaviour among the correctional services inmates and staff as they continued to receive information on prevention and use of condoms.
- The services provided by the Red Cross clinics complement the efforts of the HBC projects, resulting in a more holistic approach in enhancing livelihoods of the beneficiaries. Community response to PMTCT is good and sero-positive mothers have stopped breast-feeding or breast feed exclusively. Expecting mothers from the villages surrounding the three clinics accessed safe delivery support. The project has been documented as a good practice for dissemination among other national societies in the region, and other Red Cross clinics a adopting the integrated approach.
- Anti-stigma and discrimination of PLWHA and OVC has encouraged positive living and afforded OVC to access basic primary education. Stigma and discrimination has been reduced in the targeted areas with many households expressing positive attitude on acceptance of HBC clients and OVC. Interested HIV positive people managed to access ART and VCT services and chronically ill patients were assisted through HBC. Livelihood of HBC clients has been enhanced through HBC, ART and food parcels distributed, and they are now fending for their families. Food is an important component in the reconstruction of the immune system, most needed for patients with immunosuppressant condition.

### **Constraints:**

- The high staff turnover caused by staff opting to join organizations with more competent packages affected the implementation of the planned activities. In the communities, there are reports of chieftaincy disputes also affecting HBC and support group activities.

## **Disaster management**

**Goal: The vulnerability of people affected by natural disaster is reduced.**

**Objective: The capacity of Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society to provide appropriate and timely support to people threatened or affected by disasters is increased.**

### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

- Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society food security pilot project that targets the chronic food shortage situation in the country, and addresses the linkage between food insecurity and HIV/AIDS has improved the livelihood of the most vulnerable. The vulnerable and chronically ill people are able to generate food for consumption and raising income for other basic necessities.
- Swaziland is one of the seven countries in the region to benefit from the *Federation Food Insecurity Emergency Appeal*. The national society has drawn up the food security operation action plan for the procurement and distribution of food parcel, agricultural starter packs and small irrigation kits. The Federation regional delegation issued tenders for the procurement of agricultural seeds and fertilisers, and

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Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society provided contacts of suppliers in the sub-region, is arranging for transportation and distribution logistics.

- Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society sent two staff members to attend the Regional Disaster Response Training (RDRT) training held in September in Namibia. The RDRT training is an initiative considered as the basis of building and enhancing regional disaster response capacities. The objectives of the training are to increase skilled personnel, improve the quality of disaster assessments, and encourage close co-ordination with a variety of partners, quick decision-making and rapid deployment of resources. The RDRT training curriculum follows the disaster response cycle, including policies of disaster response, assessment, tools of disaster response and support functions to disaster response.

### **Impact:**

- There is an increased human resource capacity prepared to respond to disasters through the training of three staff members at RDRT.
- Food distributions in response to the drought and effects of HIV/AIDS reduced the impact of the disaster on the most vulnerable communities.

### **Constraints:**

- The disaster management planned activities could not be implemented due to poor response to the Federation Annual Appeal.
- The capacity in assessment, coordination, distribution, warehousing, reporting and cooperation need improvement to enhance disaster response capacity.

## **Information and promotion of humanitarian values**

**Goal: Increased tolerance, respect for human dignity and understanding of humanitarian values and Fundamental Principles among policy makers and the general public.**

**Objective: Improved knowledge on Humanitarian Values, Fundamental Principles and the role of the Red Cross among policy makers and the general public.**

### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

*Improved knowledge of International Humanitarian Law, understanding of Humanitarian Values, Fundamental Principles and the national society's mission among staff and volunteers.*

- Dissemination of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values remains the integral part of the information department. In August, the department, through support from the Federation regional delegation, organized a humanitarian values workshop for the governance and management to appraise the new members on the Red Cross Movement Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values. It was envisaged that this would promote a better understanding of humanitarian values among the staff, board members and volunteers.
- The workshop was also attended by 20 staff members from the five divisions and headquarters. The aim of the workshop was firstly to sensitize the national society staff on humanitarian values and how they are used as cross cutting issues in programmes and the management of staff and volunteers in relationship to the Movement's Seven Fundamentals Principles. Secondly, to discuss and identify strategies on how the national society could support and manage its volunteer base in all its programmes and activities.
- To complement these efforts, information activities have been integrated with other programmes activities. This will also improve service delivery to all stakeholders, especially the vulnerable communities. Dissemination activities still continued in all regions to enlighten all stakeholders on the national society's auxiliary functions to the public authorities. Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society's cooperation with its beneficiaries, donors, media and other stakeholders is ever improving, thereby enabling mobilizing the power of humanity and promoting human dignity.

*Easy access and flow of information to local and international stakeholders and the general public is created.*

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- In a bid to improve the smooth flow of information among all stakeholders, Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society commemorated all the humanitarian international days which include World Refugee, First Aid, World Risk Reduction, World AIDS and International Volunteers days. The International Volunteers Day was commemorated in conjunction with the United Nations in the country, with a view to improve the understanding of the importance of playing a part in the humanitarian work, thereby mobilizing more volunteers.

*Create and maintain good relations with the media to improve visibility of the Movement*

- Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society circulated all national and regional press releases to the local media in order to develop and maintain good relations with the media. Media tours have been arranged with local media and through the support of the regional delegation; the national society also hosted a Reuters reporter to cover food insecurity issues in the country.

### **Impact:**

- The information and humanitarian values dissemination activities improved visibility and credibility of the national society and has built confidence among stakeholders especially donors and other funding partners. It is also out of this reputation that Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society has become a leading humanitarian organization in the country as shown during major humanitarian emergencies such as the current food insecurity situation.
- The humanitarian values workshop was the first time the national society discussed the humanitarian values in detail. Issues of assisting vulnerable people with dignity and respect were raised and discussed openly in relation to the Movement's Fundamental Principles and philosophy, which has made the Red Cross a unique organization through out the world.

### **Constraints:**

- Lack of funding for the information department resulted in the information officer failing to travel to gather stories from the field, and conducting the planned media tours.

## **Organizational development**

**Goal: The lives of the most vulnerable in Swaziland are improved as Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society moves towards a well-functioning national society.**

**Objective: Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society becomes a well-governed and functional national society by 2007.**

### **Achievements:**

#### *Functional branches with self sustaining projects*

- The Annual General Assembly was conducted in November, supported by the Federation regional delegation and ICRC. The election and induction of the divisional governing board members was prior to the orientation of national governing board members and senior management. A new president and governing board members were elected and the new board has been tasked to look into human resource issues that have tended to affect the national society's performance in finance and programme coordination.
- Federation regional senior information and organizational development officers facilitated an in-country governance orientation workshop from 22 to 24 July. This orientation was requested by the national society to clarify roles and responsibilities of new board members and management. It was evident during the orientation workshops that the understanding of the statutes was still of concern and was recommended to revise them to address gaps identified in nomination of candidates for various governance positions and in the election procedures.
- During the workshop, training on volunteer management focused on the recruitment, selection, training, placement, supervision, monitoring, rewarding and recognition of Red Cross volunteers. A major motivating factor for volunteers highlighted for Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society was the regular feedback on their performance by their supervisors, beneficiaries and peers. It was noted as providing valuable information for quality assurance, operational management and capacity building. It was also

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highlighted that both staff and governing board members need further training on volunteer management and development of the volunteer Code of Conduct according to its volunteer policy. The code of conduct would provide an interaction framework between volunteers, staff and clients. Also identified were the non-monetary incentives, such as certificates, training, access to international exchange programmes and recognition at public ceremonies and in Red Cross print media were elements of a comprehensive rewarding system for volunteers. The national society's Constitution was also discussed as it has a bearing on the issues of membership recruitment and the election process and procedures.

- *Improved financial skills of staff in finance development*
- A finance development workshop was held in October to assess the effectiveness of the operations of the department both at headquarters and the divisions, and to evaluate the implementation of recommendations from the Federation regional delegation. The workshop was facilitated by the regional finance development delegate and the following were reviewed:
  - problems faced by the finance department at headquarters and divisional level;
  - support needed or expected by divisions from the management and the headquarters finance departments and,
  - plan of action to ensure adherence to proper financial and accounting procedures.
- The participants committed to delivering a competent service in order to build confidence in the management of donor funds and efficiency of the accounting structures.
- The management agreed to introduce the Navision Accounting in the national society finance department. The Federation regional finance development delegate demonstrated the Navision accounting system in November 2005, and installation and implementation is planned for January 2006.
- The 2004 books of accounts were audited by an external auditor and results expected by end of the year will be instrumental in finalising the finance manual.

### Impact:

- The impact has been the success of the national society to fulfil its legal foundation by engaging in a democratic process of electing governing boards throughout its structure, which will facilitate the support service being carried out by the society to assist the most vulnerable communities in Swaziland. The establishment of 60 branches in all the five divisions and the induction of the governing division board members provide a favourable framework with roles and responsibilities fully understood.
- The completion of the external audit will increase the reliability of the society's financial statements. The findings highlighted will serve as useful information to the management to put in place corrective measures to improve finance management and control.

### Constraints:

- Late and irregular feedback on finance development progress and limited funding has been the main constraint in implementing the planned activities.
- Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society requires unequivocal governance support to achieve set objectives. Separation of roles of governance and management remained a challenge not only at the national headquarters but throughout the branches. There is a need therefore, to develop a 'compliance guidelines for separation of roles of governance and management' as laid down in the Constitution. This will form the basis for the organizational development agenda in 2006.

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

## CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->						TOTAL COVERAGE	
						<b>694,927</b>	<b>26.2%</b>
OPENING BALANCE						16,157	
FINNISH - RC	7,000	EUR	10,843	19.04.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT		
FINNISH - RC	30,000	EUR	46,470	07.04.05	FOOD SECURITY		
FINNISH - RC	70,000	EUR	108,430	07.04.05	FOOD SECURITY		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH						181,900	26.2%

## KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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	