

OPERATIONS 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

SOUTHERN AFRICA: FOOD SECURITY AND INTEGRATED COMMUNITY CARE

30 October 2003

Appeal No. 15/03; Operations Update no. 2

Appeal launched on 28 May 2003 for CHF 13.6 million (USD 10.3 million or EUR 9.0 million) for five months for 347,000 beneficiaries.

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A

Period covered: August to October 2003

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 180 countries.

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In Brief

Appeal coverage: 12.0%; See the Contributions List at the end of this document for details [<Click here>](#).

Outstanding needs: CHF 12.0 million (USD 9.0 million or EUR 7.7 million)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: 2003 Annual Appeals: Lesotho, Appeal no. 01.16/2003; Malawi, Appeal no. 01.17/2003; Swaziland, Appeal no. 01.21/2003; Zambia, Appeal no. 01.22/2003; Zimbabwe, Appeal no. 01.23/2003; and Southern Africa regional programmes, Appeal no. 01.24/2003

Operational Summary: Food security operations are continuing on a level lower than desirable due to the relatively low response to the appeal. Whilst the integration of food security into the regional delegation programming is ongoing, efforts are made to raise funds to guarantee minimum support to the most vulnerable people of the target groups. Further food security needs in the region are anticipated and are to be addressed through the 2004 appeal

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Operational developments

Since the first of August 2003, this appeal *Southern Africa: Food Security and Integrated Community Care* has taken over the one-year *Southern Africa: Food Aid and Humanitarian Assistance* (appeal 12/02 launched last year in May and revised in July 2002). This five-month operation aims to support 347,000 people through food security and integrated community care from the Red Cross National Societies of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It also reflects the Federation commitment to transform its major relief assistance into longer-term, sustainable programming. Integrated programmes with innovative approaches

will continue to effectively address immediate and longer-term needs reversing the combined burdens of poverty, destitution, and the ever-increasing rate of HIV/AIDS infections.

Donor response to the new appeal had been slow and limited in the initial phase of the new operation. Revision of operational budgets has thus been ongoing to reflect the financial reality and the priorities of appeal targets.

Nevertheless, the remaining funds transferred from the previous food security operation, along with new pledges from the Japanese Red Cross and the DFID (through the British Red Cross), have allowed some relief activities to be implemented in Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe where food shortages and HIV/AIDS continue to threaten the lives and devastate the livelihood of the most vulnerable. The Italian government has made a new contribution to the appeal allowing the food operation to move forward and initiate in Botswana.

With the food insecurity situation in the region remaining critical, the Federation calls for immediate and generous donor support to allow implementation of planned food and household security programmes in the remaining two months before they will be taken over by the Federation annual appeal.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Lesotho

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In the process, the objective to provide “minimum acceptable level of care for people living with HIV/AIDS and the chronically ill, and to mitigate the effects of food insecurity and destitution on the most vulnerable people in society was now at stake. Unverified information indicates that some beneficiaries who constitute the chronically ill clients on the home-based care (HBC) projects were fast dying due to inadequate food intake.

The initiative to provide food to HIV/AIDS and the chronically ill was partially managed through a 2002/2003 Southern Africa food security operation carried over. The carried over funds were able to meet the procurement of 5,000 food parcels and the related transportation and distribution costs. The parcels will be distributed to Mafeteng HBC clients, where the HBC projects have been up coming since June 2003. At least 1,000 beneficiaries confirmed during the identification and verification exercise carried out in Mafeteng will benefit from this operation until December 2003.

In September the Federation sustained presence in Lesotho by having two delegates. The delegates are providing more comprehensive support to the **Lesotho Red Cross** food security operation and integrated community care. One delegate is continuing with strengthening the financial management at national headquarters and later in the divisions, while the other will be assisting and advising the Lesotho Red Cross in strengthening its operational field capacity in integrated programming. This is an important part of increasing the National Society’s operational capacity, which is also being enhanced through a continuation of the past organizational development process.

Lesotho Red Cross is gradually gaining some understanding and practicing field report writing using the concept of comparative bid analysis. There is an ongoing hands on skill training in field report writing for Federation and bilateral funded procurements. When comparing the beginning of the Southern Africa food security operation and where we are now, the Lesotho Red Cross has been steadily improving on field capacity.

The appeal targeted 3,000 destitute, chronically ill people and orphaned children being 1,000 clients per district, and the operation will only meet this need in Mafeteng district. The needs in Berea and Leribe districts can only be met if funds come forth. The beneficiaries in Mafeteng include the needs of 169 orphaned children who are also catered for within the Lesotho Red Cross HBC project. However, other orphaned children in need were identified during the registration exercise done in August 2003. It is anticipated that the food parcels in Mafeteng will last until December 2003.

Based on the current funding response situation, not all the activities that appear in the appeal can be addressed. However, the intended activities remain as important as at the time of planning and making of the appeal. In the current circumstances of low funding, there are no added beneficiaries to the ongoing operation.

Objective 1: To ensure greater food security for 3,137 destitute and chronically ill people, in Mafeteng, Leribe and Berea districts

There are six activities planned for the objective but only one activity has partially been met, thus the procurement of 5,000 food parcels to cater for 1,000 beneficiaries for five months.

Objective 2: To improve nutritional status and encourage self reliance, dignity and community involvement in producing food from 25 acres of arable land linked to the Lesotho Red Cross integrated HBC project, community centre and clinic.

With one integrated horticulture and nutrition project description, it is expected all the five components of the project will be carried out, again only in one district.

Objective 3: To more accurately identify the most vulnerable, and to more appropriately help them meet their needs through simple integrated programmes that give people options, promote dignity and encourage self-reliance.

Activities implementation is still waiting for appropriate funding. The same goes with the Federation need to continue with strengthening the field capacity and financial management of the Lesotho Red Cross that should provide sustainable and targeted humanitarian assistance to more vulnerable people.

Constraints

The operation is not meeting the intended overall time frame because of lack of funding to facilitate the implementation of the remaining activities. However, the Lesotho Red Cross already has in place a plan to undertake the integrated community horticulture and nutrition project in other districts.

Federation Coordination

The presence of the Federation was helping in implementing parts of the operation within limited funds. The German Red Cross has a physical presence and was committed to distributing 6,000 food parcels and agriculture inputs to 2,000 chronically ill people in Berea. ICRC has continued funding Lesotho Red Cross promotional materials and has recently held a course on international humanitarian law, human rights and rehabilitation for prison services

World Food Programme (WFP) has not been given a final response on the prospective partnership with the Lesotho Red Cross on targeted food distributions in Mokhotlong. The Federation team working with the WFP programme and the delegate attends fortnightly delegation meetings. Lesotho Red Cross is also working towards a formal approach to UN, multinational agencies and foreign government representatives.

National Society Capacity Building

There is still a need to put more resources towards capacity building for staff and volunteers at Lesotho Red Cross. The step undertaken to have the required number of staff at headquarters was being addressed and in this regard training has been planned for the 17 to 20 October 2003.

Malawi

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Generally, the socio economic situation in Malawi witnessed no significant change since the last reporting period. The price of maize continued to be beyond the reach of the most people and 10 percent of the population is still being classified as threatened by hunger. Malawi was rated in some new UN statistics as the fourth worst country affected by HIV/AIDS in the world. The international monetary fund is expected to resume lending and structural economic reforms before end of this October. Tension keeps growing in several rural communities as their local leaders make decisions on their support for or against the government party, as preparations continue for presidential and parliamentary elections early next year.

Federation funding for **Malawi Red Cross** food security related programme activities did not improve during the period. However, there was increase in some activities, especially those supported by America Red Cross sources, and programmes linked to HIV/AIDS, and water and sanitation. Remaining funds from the Danish Red Cross support to the previous appeal (no. 12/2002) of CHF 240,000 was expected from Danish Red Cross via the

Federation for implementation of a plan of action that was prepared to cover food security related issue highlighted in this appeal. However, approval is yet to be received to facilitate use of these funds.

Objective 1 To guarantee basic food security for 7,500 most vulnerable HIV/AIDS affected, chronically ill, and destitute people in the five districts of Karonga, Dedza, Lilongwe, Balaka and Mwanza, by providing targeted supplementary food distribution

The planned Federation supported supplementary feeding programme for another five districts was still not implemented during this period because of lack of funding. Intended beneficiaries in the five districts thus continued to express disappointment with Malawi Red Cross as no other organization has come in to assist them.

Objective 2 To improve health conditions and health awareness by maximizing the availability and affordability of safe water, and by promoting safe water sanitation practices to 15,000 beneficiaries in Mchinji District.

Federation funded training for six water point committees in Khotakota on promoting water points' maintenance, water management, and safe water sanitation practices.

Objective 3 To improve food security for 2,000 people in the Machinga and Salima districts and the Mzuzu area of Mzimba district through a combined irrigation and seeds programme .

Due to lack of funds the planned activities were not implemented. However, plans are in place to utilise some of the expected balance of funds from the Danish Red Cross to be used on continuing with the programme in Machinga, and purchasing 1,000 more pumps for more districts for the coming farming season.

Objective 4 To further promote knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention and control to approximately 70,000 people in seven districts through theatre/drama performances integrated with other Malawi Red Cross programme activities.

The HIV/AIDS programme continued to be implemented in the Ntchisi, Karonga, and Nkhotakota districts, with emphasis on assisting chronically ill persons, working closely with the America Red Cross supported food security programme (C-SAFE) in those districts. The HIV/AIDS programme activities included knowledge sharing, and home-based care (HBC). Clients recorded as benefiting from HBC during the period under review total 279 for Ntchisi, and 300 for Karonga. There has not been reliable recording for Nkhotakota due to the fact that the Malawi Red Cross programme officer for the district resigned during the period, and has not yet been replaced. The HIV/AIDS Coordinator for Malawi Red Cross also reported that the food supplements helped directly to reduce stigma and discrimination

Impact

Many of the trained water committees have already started raising funds locally to cover basic repairs and maintenance of their community boreholes. This would help in ensuring that boreholes last longer, consequently communities will continuously have access to safe water, and reduction of water and sanitation related diseases.

The HIV/AIDS coordinator reported that it is too early to measure impact, as no formal assessment has yet been undertaken. Also, stated that any assessment of impact would also need to consider the food supplement received by the beneficiaries from the C-SAFE project, which has long-term measurable results.

Federation Coordination

In five other districts the America Red Cross supported C-SAFE project assisted in meeting a similar objective, targeting the chronically ill and orphans as beneficiaries. In total 4,459 chronically ill and 3,511 orphans received supplementary food items in Chitipa, Karonga, Rumphu, Ntchisi, and Nkhotakota.

Table 1: America Red Cross supported C-SAFE project distribution details from August to September 2003

Month	Maize (MT)	Beans (MT)	Oil (ltrs)	CSB/ Likuni P
July	8.46	7.04	5.87	10.82
August	6.26	2.03	1.14	10.30
September	393.75	88.70	84.10	-
TOTAL	408.47	92.28	91.11	21.12

Following the C-SAFE distributions, the Federation requested and received a copy of the distribution report and the Federation will participate in the post distribution meetings.

Spanish Red Cross supported water and Sanitation project for drilling of 20 boreholes in Kasungu, Mzimba and Chiradzulu districts that started with signing of contracts with the prospective drilling companies, identification of the drilling sites, and community mobilisation for the project.

The Federation assisted in preparing the plan of action and budget for use of balance of funds from Danish Red Cross in which a proposal has been done for the irrigation programme. In addition informal discussions were held between the Federation head of delegation in Malawi and the Malawi Red Cross programme coordinator on various aspects of the programme implementation during the period.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - Principles and initiatives

Throughout the period under review, attention was paid to ensuring that all partners followed the principles of the Movement, the SPHERE standards, and BPI and Abuse of Power regulations.

National Society Capacity Building

There was no formal personnel development or upgrading workshops held, but there was much discussion and planning for a Malawi Red Cross management review to take place early next year, with Danish Red Cross support.

With funding from the Federation food security operation, the construction of an office building for Malawi Red Cross Lilongwe branch was completed. Internal fittings are now being installed and some photographs to this effect are available.

Spanish Red Cross has also started planning with Malawi Red Cross for the construction of an income maize mill for the Malawi Red Cross Chiradzulu division. Two maize mills are already operating in Kasungu and Mzimba.

Swaziland

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Due to funding constraints, **Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross** has not been able to achieve most of the planned objectives and activities. The National Society has nevertheless managed to provide monthly food parcels to 1,870 destitute and chronically ill beneficiaries through its home-based care programme. The National Society is also progressing on its pilot food security project funded by the Finnish Red Cross through the Federation annual appeal. This project targets 3,248 beneficiaries in three communities and includes household backyard gardens, communal garden, poultry and fish farming. The National Society through the home-based care programme is also providing indigenous chickens to households with people living with HIV/AIDS.

Objective 1: To ensure greater food security for 12,000 specifically targeted destitute and/or chronically ill people, through food provision that is integrated with the ongoing Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross programmes.

During the reporting period, the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross has distributed monthly food parcels to 1,870 out of planned 10,000 destitute and chronically ill beneficiaries through the home-based care programme. The beneficiaries are selected within the Red Cross clinics' catchments areas and the criteria look at orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC), terminally ill, elderly destitute and economically unsustainable household. The food

parcels include 12.5 kg maize meal, 3 kg corn soya blend (CSB), 1 kg brown sugar, 2 kg sugar beans, 2x7.5 ml vegetable oil, 100 ml tooth paste, 1 tooth brush, 500 g laundry soap, 125 g body soap, 10 boxes matches, 1 pocket candle and 50 g iodised salt. In one of the clinics the distribution is done with the nurses from the local city council. In the others, the Red Cross nurses and home-based caregivers implements the distribution.

Objective 2: To improve household and community economy, provide opportunity to escape destitution and encourage self-reliance, by providing specific inputs integrated with existing Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross income generating projects and developing home-based care support group initiatives.

The objective has not been implemented due to non-availability of funding.

Objective 3: To improve the nutritional intake of 350 specifically identified malnourished children, by providing a daily supplementary ration of corn soy blend through the three existing Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross health clinics.

The objective has not been implemented due to non-availability of funding. However, the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross is implementing a corn soya blend (CSB) school-feeding scheme through funding from the German Red Cross. The CSB is cooked and served to pupils in school. A total of 89 schools with 37,772 pupils (originally planned 15,000) are benefiting. This intervention is enabling the children who come to school on empty stomachs to gain nutrition and able to concentrate in class.

Impact

The intervention benefits the family as a whole. It has been witnessed that terminally ill patients who could not recover or cope with their illness due to hunger being able to respond to medications after receiving and eating the food in the parcel.

Constraints

Due to lack of funding most of the planned activities have not been implemented.

Federation support

The Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross appreciated the support accorded by the Federation in the different programmes undertaken. Given that most of the planned activities were not implemented due to lack of funding, the National Society hopes that funding will be sourced with the support of the Federation and the activities carried out to assist the most vulnerable communities and individuals.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and Initiatives

- In all its endeavours the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross promotes the seven Fundamental Principles. In the food security operations the most vulnerable are selected in accordance with the principles. The Red Cross volunteers and home care givers carry out the assessment and selection of beneficiaries with the communities in a fair and open manner.
- The food security programme has come as one of the effective means to alleviate the suffering of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS pandemic in the country. The National Society is empowering affected households with agricultural gardens and poultry to be able to get a nutritious meal and also sell for profit to attend to other family needs.
- During the food distributions, there is usually an increase in membership and volunteers that join the Red Cross branches. Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross also gets an opportunity to raise its profile in the different communities where there is relief distribution.

Communications - Advocacy and Public Information

The Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross publicizes the relief activities through both the print and electronic media. There has been encouraging media coverage on the food distributions and communal gardens undertaken by the National Society with other communities.

Zambia[<Click here to return to title page>](#)

Zambia Red Cross carried out a major internal reshuffle on food security staff in the southern province and created a new post of provincial development officer based in Choma. Following the departure of three Federation food security delegates at the end of August, the remaining relief delegate was given more responsibilities to coordinate all Federation supported food security programme activities in the country, thus being relocated from Choma to Lusaka and covering a wider geographical area which encompassed Kapiri Mposhi, Choma, Maamba, Livingstone and Sesheke districts. The re-opening of the Federation country delegation has and will further enhance coordination of food security activities within the country through the newly set up country co-ordination meeting (CCM) focal group. Mr. William Sam Phiri has been appointed the new Zambia Red Cross secretary general and this move has brought about stability in the operations and renewed donor confidence.

Due to the appeal funding uncertainties at the beginning of the extension period in August, the maize meal food item 504 MT priced at CHF 236,880 had been struck off the routine food package to the beneficiaries. With more donations and pledges coming in towards end of September the maize meal was then re-instated. The lack of funding had a bearing on the delayed procurement process for the food item(s) and irregularities in the planned general relief distribution schedules.

With the Federation support, Zambia Red Cross started providing relief support to the growing number of 117 HIV/AIDS clients (740 clients and families) under the newly started HBC project in the district of Sesheke in south western of Zambia. The HBC project forms part of the Zambia, Botswana and Namibia HIV/AIDS Control Cross-Boarder Initiative. Zambia Red Cross Sesheke branch is still in its infancy.

Objective 1: To ensure the immediate food security of 2,000 HBC clients and 12,000 household members including OVC through the provision of basic food items and health and nutrition advice.

Local procurements of food and agricultural inputs for distribution to the beneficiaries in the last two months were; 600mt maize meal, cabbage, tomato, carrots and onions seeds at 1,000-10kg sachets each, 1,000-50kg bags of fertilizers, 80 knapsack sprayers, 1,000 rakes, 1,000 hoes, and 1,000 watering cans. There were inconsistencies in the food rations due to insufficient food quantities in district stores at the time of distribution. Internal relocation of food items from district stores was done to enable on time distributions of relief despite insufficient quantities. Due to budgetary limitations it has been agreed that rations for cooking oil will be reduced from one litre to half a litre per person per month so that the quantities in stock can suffice till end of December 2003.

Table 2: Food and non-food items distributed in August-September 2003.

District	Period	Households	Beneficiaries	Maize (MT)	Beans (MT)	Oil (Ltrs)	Body Soap (Pcs)	Laundry Soap (Bars)	Body Towels (Pcs)	Blankets (Pcs)
Maamba	Aug	424	2,995	35.7	10.45	2,995	2,994	-	476	248
	Sept	442	3,130	-	11.3	3,130	3,126	-	14	1
Livingstone	Aug	859	4,970	17.68	58.5	4,858	4,858	-	48	-
	Sept	854	5,144	10.5	17.6	4,014	4,017	-	-	-
Kapiri Mposhi	Aug	566	3,615	85.2	11.8	3,615	3,615	3,816	-	-
	Sept	585	3,816	0	13.75	3,816	-	3,816	-	-
Sesheke	Aug	117	741	8.68	2.35	741	735	-	-	-
	Sept	114	724	8.89	2.62	734	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	Aug	1,966	9,625	147.26	83.1	12,209	12,202	3,816	524	248
	Sep	1,995	12,814	19.39	45.27	11,694	7,143	3,816	14	1

Note: The number of beneficiary households represents the number of HBC (HIV/AIDS) clients.

Due to irregular food pipeline experienced in the period, beneficiaries in some branches were given double food rations while others received less. The rations indicated in this report are therefore not necessarily standard. It has however been noted with concern that even under normal food pipeline situations, there has been some degree of laxity on the part of some field food security staff in addressing the root causes of over or under scooping. The Zambia Red Cross national food security co-ordination office is making effort to address this matter.

Impact

Drama groups impact has not been as effective as planned as in most cases the drama groups did sketches or plays that were not monitored by the health or HIV/AIDS officers. It has been resolved that these plays should be done with the guidance of the relevant officers so as to adequately educate and sensitize the community and not just to entertain. The refresher course on nutrition to be provided to the HBC caregivers has not been done yet.

Random monitoring has been done at household level and efforts are being made to analyse the responses and act on them at district level rather than sending the information to headquarters. The responses from this monitoring indicate that the HBC clients were able to take their medication due to the provision of food. Children were able to return to school as money for food procurement was channelled to educational needs. On the whole weaning is done every month due to the impact of the food supplements.

Objective 2: To improve the medium term food security of HBC households including OVC and develop long term food security initiatives that provides options for and encourages self-reliance.

Due to delays in procurement of relief items and selection process of the targeted 1,000 HBC clients and households, distribution was then scheduled for October. The criteria for assessing and determining beneficiaries for the agricultural inputs are firstly land availability (at least $\frac{1}{4}$ hectare = $\frac{1}{2}$ Lima), able-bodied labour within the beneficiary households, and lastly easy access to water point. Districts of Maamba, Kapiri Mposhi and Livingstone have completed the selection of the beneficiaries. In some districts like Kapiri Mposhi, communal use of the agricultural inputs has proven more practical and successful.

A survey was carried out to identify beneficiaries for the medium and long-term food security package. The agricultural officer currently undertaking the rain fed portion of the project will attend to the non-rain fed crop towards the end of the rainy season expected to start in October.

Through the integrated programme approach, the Zambia Red Cross water and sanitation team will give technical advice to beneficiaries on the sources of water and how best the water can be used to irrigate the crops.

Coordination with other NGOs and the ministry of agriculture has been established and international NGO coordination meetings are attended regularly. The district agricultural officers in the various districts have been met and requested to assist in the implementation of the programme by way of giving technical advice and monitoring support through their extension workers. A total of 141 volunteers were trained in data collection in which they will use a data baseline form designed by the Zambia Red Cross. This information collected will be used to select beneficiaries eligible for food aid and agricultural inputs. Conservation farming training was done in each district in readiness for the Netherlands Red Cross ECHO supported agro activities for the 2003/2004 farming season. All food security coordinators as well as other program staff, board members and volunteers underwent disaster management training for five days. A total of 24 Zambia Red Cross participants comprising of staff from programmes of food security, refugee, logistics, accounts and national executive committee were trained in Lusaka.

Objective 3: To improve the hygiene condition and medical resources for the 2,000 HBC clients including OVC.

Hygiene items such as soap and petroleum jelly meant to the part of the food security programme will not be purchased due to lack of funding. Local procurement of basic medicines have been made in the HBC programme and clients are receiving medication during home visits. The basic medicines bought were for Maamba, Livingstone, Sesheke and Kapiri Mposhi districts.

The Zambia Red Cross national HIV/AIDS co-ordinator and HBC project officers at district levels monitor the activities of the care facilitators on a regular basis with support of their respective branch executive committees. Training of 63 care facilitators by the district health management team was done in Mporokoso and lasted for a month up until the 11 of October. HBC project officers from Maamba and Kapiri Mposhi as well as an OD officer from Harare Federation RD participated in the exercise. This was done in preparation for starting up of HBC project in Mporokoso in November.

Objective 4: To provide sustainable water and sanitation facilities and to improve the health status of 15,000 vulnerable people in communities with HBC clients and OVC in Livingstone, Sinazongwe, and Sesheke districts.

The food security appeal's water and sanitation set objective four activities could not be implemented as there was no budgetary provision for August to December 2003. The food security water and sanitation budget component has been managed from the Federation in Harare and reportedly was completed in July.

Impact

Due to ongoing food security programme in HBC project in Maamba, Livingstone, Kapiri Mposhi and Sesheke districts, a significant reduction of stigma was noticed. Also observed was improvement in the rate of recovery of HBC clients from tuberculosis treatment due to improved diet and a growing good relationship between the clients and their caregivers at household level. The positive impact of food security programme is evidenced by continued appreciation from beneficiary communities, local district and top government authorities for the support Red Cross is giving to the beneficiaries.

It should also be noted that the food security programme has helped promote Zambia Red Cross initiatives and inter-agency networking at various levels in the country.

Constraints

Delays in adequate funding led to delays and irregularities in general relief distribution patterns.

Federation co-ordination

A country co-ordination committee comprising of the Federation head of delegation as chairperson, ICRC representative, Zambia Red Cross secretary general and Netherlands Red Cross country manager was formed to enhance partnership with bilateral PNS', ICRC, National Society and the Federation. The committee meets every Monday of the week and its functions are;

- a decision making organ at country level
- facilitate institutional capacity building of the National Society
- coordinate implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Zambia Red Cross programmes, and
- advisory and technical support to Zambia Red Cross programmes.

Other existing food security co-ordination structures include the international NGO co-ordination meeting and the disaster management and mitigation unit chaired by government.

The Netherlands Red Cross received confirmation of ECHO funding of 1,630,000 Euro for their food security programme activities in the southern province of Zambia from August to April 2004. The total budget is 1,960,021 Euro, partly funded by the Netherlands and Belgian Red Cross Societies. The initial appeal funding situation prompted the Zambia Red Cross to re-allocate an over 1,600 beneficiary caseload in Livingstone district to the Netherlands and Belgian Red Cross to ease continuity for the HBC client support. This therefore implies that part of Zambia Red Cross and Federation caseload is now absorbed under the Netherlands and Belgian Red Cross ECHO funded programme.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - Principles and initiatives

The dissemination of Red Cross principles has continued. As a matter of routine, the recent Federation supported disaster preparedness training by Zambia Red Cross in Lusaka for all food security, refugee and log field/Headquarters staff covered aspects of the Red Cross principles. Federation delegates are usually available to answer questions from the general public related to the structure of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, mandates, and the Red Cross emblem.

On gender and diversity, equal participation of women in relief distribution, branch volunteer composition in routine food security activities has continued to be a matter of practice and policy in the country.

National Society Capacity Building

From the capacity building broader perspective, Zambia Red Cross food security operational branches has continued to increase its membership recruitment drive which is at 300% on average targeting professionals and the general public.

The increasing ability of Zambia Red Cross food security staff and volunteers to keep the key functions and activities of the food security operation in logistics, relief distribution, register verification, accountabilities and reporting with minimum number of expatriate delegates is an encouraging development. Training of National Society staff and volunteers in general and support of Zambia Red Cross food security field and headquarter staff in the field of planning, logistics, relief distribution by the Federation and bilateral delegates has had a positive impact in terms of running the operation with less supervision the delegates. Support is still needed in areas of planning, monitoring and reporting. The restructuring of food security staff and programme at the start of this appeal has helped to encourage taking responsibility among the staff. A new post of provincial development officer to ease coordination of Zambia Red Cross project activities in the province was created and is now operational with Federation and Netherlands Red Cross support.

Zambia Red Cross finally owns an office block for Kapiri Mposhi branch, which it procured with support from Swiss RC through the Federation. The building currently houses offices of food security, HBC, branch governing board and project staff accommodation will go along way in boosting the branch capacity.

Since the beginning of food security relief activities in Sesheke district, the branch has been strengthened in terms of rented office accommodation that now houses offices of the branch governing board, HBC project and food security. The branch has a full time Zambia Red Cross district food security co-ordinator fully supported by the Federation.

Communications - Advocacy and Public Information

Both the print and electronic media coverage on Zambia Red Cross food security and other programme activities, which has raised its profile in the recent months, have been stepped up. Zambia Red Cross information department has continued to take advantage of the food security programme activity resources to reach out to many branches producing film documentaries that have marketed Zambia Red Cross programme activities and improved its image in general. Building on the achievements made during the last October 2002 to July 2003 food security appeal activities in the country, it is has been confirmed that never before has Zambia Red Cross had the opportunity to raise its profile in the public media than it has today.

The plight of HIV/AIDS victims such as campaign against stigma, street kids, and other most vulnerable groups in targeted communities who remain the Red Cross concern has been advocated through the media and drama groups.

Zimbabwe

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The poor financial coverage of the appeal has been offset in part by bringing forward food stocks from the previous emergency appeal. Support from ECHO and World Food Programme has secured the food pipeline. However, other elements of the appeal have little support and there is a danger that the integrated safety net nature of the response will be diluted, and the impact thereby reduced. While food is a vital intervention, in the absence of, for example, clean water or effective sanitation the impact of food aid on the health of an ailing individual will always be compromised.

The operational environment has been hampered by a lack of cash contributions, with much of the cash pledged being very tightly earmarked. Maintaining the staffing structures required for monitoring and distribution, and paying transporters and suppliers on time has been extremely difficult, which is an essential factor given Zimbabwe's escalating inflation.

Objective 1: To improve the food and health security of HBC clients and their household members, HBC care facilitators, and OVC (orphans and other vulnerable children) affected by HIV/AIDS.

Although the artificial gap between the two emergency appeals has created administrative and financial difficulties, food distributions to vulnerable populations have continued without a break to the clients of the HBC programme and their households, to the orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) associated with the programme and to the care facilitators.

From September, the food needs of three of the eight provinces have been met through ECHO funding following a bilateral proposal from Danish and British Red Cross Societies. While this food is being procured, food stocks brought forward from Appeal 12/02 have been loaned to the ECHO project to ensure that projects across the whole country receive adequate and equal measure. Food distributed through this bilateral action, and other activities, which are within the appeal, will be included within the appeal reporting and attributed to British, Danish Red Cross and ECHO. Note that the ECHO application is for the period to May 2004, which is the expected harvest period, and this will be complemented in the other areas during the first five months of 2004 by parallel activities through the Federation annual appeal.

Due to irregularities induced by people posing as infected and affected by HIV/AIDS to legitimise their capacity to receive relief, the **Zimbabwe Red Cross** has tightened medical and socio-economic entry criteria to the HBC. The numbers of clients on the HBC programme after the harvest (and at the start of this appeal period) was reduced to 9,055. It is expected that this number will grow throughout the year, as it did during the 2002-2003 season. Household rations are distributed according to a family size of five thus household rations have been distributed to 36,220 members of HBC households, and 9,055 clients.

Food distributions have also continued to identified orphans and children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS (OVC), as part of a safety net of services. About 23,909 OVC have received rations on a monthly basis and 409 OVC have received a nutritious cooked meal on a daily basis in five sites. In addition, 660 care facilitators and their households have received food support on a monthly basis.

Table 3: Summary of food distributions by month (includes contributions by WFP and ECHO)

	HBC client	HBC households	Care facilitators and households	OVC	Total Beneficiaries	MT
August	9,055	36,220	3,300	24,318	72,893	1,096
September	9,055	36,220	3,300	24,318	72,893	1,064
October	9,055	36,220	3,300	24,318	72,893	1,144

Including the October distribution appropriate seeds have been distributed to HBC households in both rural and urban areas. Different packages were made available, as per the table below:

Table 4: Summary of seeds distribution

	Rural		Urban		Total Beneficiaries
	NR II and III	NR IV and V	NR II and III	NR IV and V	
Number of households	1,887	4,004	2,376	832	9,099
Package	10 kg medium season maize 1 kg sorghum 1 kg cowpeas 1 packet rape (green vegetable) seeds	5 kg short season maize 2.5 kg sorghum 1 kg cowpeas 1 packet rape (green vegetable) seeds	2kg short season maize Rape, tomato pumpkin and okra seeds	1 kg sorghum Rape, tomato pumpkin and okra seeds	

Notes: Natural Regions II and III generally receive better and more reliable rainfall than natural regions IV and V, which are more suited to livestock and drought resistant crops.

Funding has been pledged to undertake a distribution of top dressing fertilizer in NR II and III in November.

No progress has been made on the poultry and livestock interventions due to funding shortfalls.

No progress has been made on the provision of malaria bed-nets to HBC households in affected areas due to funding constraints.

Objective 2: To provide a more comprehensive basket of support to the HBC support groups and communities around the HBC projects.

This objective has been hard-hit by funding constraints. No progress has been made in areas of water, sanitation or hygiene promotion. Malaria interventions are pending a proposal made to the Global Fund for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Objective 3: To enhance the capacity of Zimbabwe Red Cross to deliver their programmes, during and after the acute phase of this emergency and into the next period of acute need.

Some activities have been implemented under this objective where these could be undertaken by existing staff and within existing structures.

Opportunities for provincial staff to share good practice and experiences have been created twice during the reporting period, and lessons have been learnt both at headquarters and provincial level through these exercises. Revised procedures for summarising the monitoring information have been introduced, which should improve the potential for analysis of impact, and trends in the HBC projects throughout the year.

Impact

Through our monitoring efforts, evidence continues to accumulate that the food intervention is, given the current economic decline and food shortages in the country, an essential intervention. It increases mobility and self-sufficiency amongst HBC clients, allows them to maintain their tuberculosis medication regimes, increases the rates at which people recover and are weaned from the programme, and decreases mortality.

Constraints

The shortage of cash contributions has made distribution especially difficult. It has undermined the additional activities required for a complete safety net to be effective. Since the impact of the whole can easily be undermined if elements of the response are absent, this is a serious shortfall.

Federation coordination

Federation through its country and regional delegations in Harare has provided significant support to the ongoing operation. Technical, support and procurement services have been provided to the newly arrived ECHO funded team (a bilateral intervention by Danish and British Red Cross, under this appeal).

A contract has been negotiated with the World Food Programme to provide the food needs for the five provinces not covered by ECHO operation, also for the whole period to the harvest in May 2004. This will provide some flexibility as this emergency appeal period comes to an end and the 2004 Annual Appeal becomes the funding vehicle for this intervention.

Federation support for Zimbabwe Red Cross activities (distribution planning, logistics, and reporting) continues.

For further information please contact:

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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 (SPHERE Project) 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 website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

<Contributions Status report is attached below - Click here to return to title page>

Southern Africa - Food Security

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 15/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

11/11/2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				13,631,176	TOTAL COVERAGE 12.0%	
ANDORRAN - RC				33,054	23.05.03	
AUSTRALIAN - RC		56,869	AUD	51,466	02.09.03	
BRITISH - GOVT/DEC		123,810	GBP	261,734	12.06.03	ZIMBABWE FOOD ITEMS
BRITISH - RC		30,000	GBP	66,105	14.08.03	ZIMBABWE FOOD SECURITY
BRITISH - GOVT/DEC		52,381	GBP	118,381	28.10.03	ZIMBABWE, AGRICULTURAL INPUTS AND DISTRIBUTION COSTS
CANADIAN - RC		68,103	CAD	68,818	12.09.03	
ITALIAN - GOVT		250,000	EUR	385,750	23.10.03	
JAPANESE - RC		166,362	USD	214,191	26.06.03	
MONACO - RC		20,000	EUR	30,860	14.07.03	
NEW ZEALAND - RC		3,373	NZD	2,009	16.06.03	
SWEDISH - RC		1,130,000	SEK	188,710	25.09.03	ZAMBIA FOOD SECURITY
SWISS - RC				40,000	07.08.03	
SWISS - RC				27,647	11.09.03	DELEGATE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,488,725	CHF	10.9%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			25,133		
GERMANY	DELEGATE(S)			25,133		
ICELAND	DELEGATE(S)			25,133		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			48,624		
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATE(S)			25,133		

Southern Africa - Food Security

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 15/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

11/11/2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				149,156	CHF	1.1%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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