

# ***SIERRA LEONE: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO THE SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS***

**appeal no: 14/99  
31 May 1999**

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 753,000  
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES  
TO ASSIST THE SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS FOR 3  
MONTHS***

## ***Summary***

On 17 May 1999, the ICRC and the Federation returned to Freetown to re-establish assistance programmes and support to the Sierra Leone Red Cross (SLRC). During the interim period, discussions had been held between the SLRC, the ICRC (Lead Agency) and the Federation in the framework of the Seville Agreement to clarify and agree upon respective roles and areas of responsibility. As a result, the ICRC is focusing on emergency health and relief, and the Federation is emphasising capacity building and programme support. A coordination mechanism was subsequently established in the field as well as in Geneva.

This appeal seeks funding to rebuild the capacity of the SLRC to operate as a viable National Society, as well as support to its programme activities.

## ***The Disaster***

During the month of January 1999, heavy fighting broke out in Freetown between the government (supported by ECOMOG) and the rebel forces, resulting in thousands of people killed or wounded, and approximately 100,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The infrastructure of the country also suffered serious damage. Widespread looting resulted in the destruction of public and private property, and vehicles and communication equipment were confiscated or stolen by the opposing forces.

The Federation had evacuated its expatriate staff just before the outbreak of the hostilities, and the ICRC had to evacuate its remaining 5 delegates on 13 January. The Sierra Leone Red Cross remained active on the ground throughout the conflict, but sustained serious losses both in dead and wounded personnel, as well as material losses of vehicles and other assets. However, they managed to keep up emergency

services throughout by transporting wounded to health facilities, burying the dead, assisting in hospitals, running three clinics and subsequently taking the added responsibility for managing the IDP camps.

### ***The Response so far***

#### **Government Action w**

The Government has initiated the Commission of Reconstruction, Resettlement and Rehabilitation as a co-ordination body for assistance to the victims of the conflict. The Ministry of Health took the lead in collecting the dead from the streets, staffing clinics and hospitals, and clearing of garbage. The Commission of Reconstruction, Resettlement and Rehabilitation organised camps for IDPs.

The Government has further participated in strengthening the Red Cross image, and has promised assistance in retrieving stolen Red Cross assets.

#### **Red Cross/Red Crescent Action w**

Soon after the fighting began, the Sierra Leone Red Cross (SLRC) was able to initiate its emergency interventions by collecting and burying the dead and organising two teams of 17 first aiders who worked around the clock in Connaught Hospital assisting the medical staff in treating wounds and giving care to the wounded. Some 200 amputees received parcels of second-hand clothing from the Society. The Sierra Leone Red Cross also started 3 clinics, manned by 6 nurses and 50 volunteers, in the National Stadium, Home Street, and Bailor Barrie's Compound -- areas where IDPs gathered. Approximately 9,000 patients have so far been treated. On behalf of WFP, the SLRC has distributed 120 MT of food to 14,600 IDPs.

In May, the SLRC concluded another cycle of the institutional feeding programme, distributing 30 MT of food to 2,540 beneficiaries in 20 institutions. The first 5-day garbage clearing exercise in parts of Freetown was completed (clearing 2,292 tons of garbage), thereby significantly decreasing the possible outbreak of epidemics. The health education, community based health programme activities, first aid training, blood programme and Red Cross image building activities have also picked up momentum.

The Federation has been a liaison for SLRC during this period, and immediately released CHF 200,000 from DREF in order to support its activities. A donation from British Red Cross of GBP 50,000 has enabled the Federation to continue its support.

On April 17 the Federation's Head of delegation arrived and assumed the post (initially based in Guinea Conakry), and on May 17 the ICRC and the Federation moved together into Freetown to recommence the programme activities.

During the January - May period, fruitful discussions were held with the ICRC on the different roles of the international components in assistance to Sierra Leone. Effective cooperation and understanding has developed, and there is agreement that the ICRC will support the SLRCs emergency relief and emergency health interventions, as well as continue its traditional programmes (eg, tracing, dissemination, and cooperation activities).

#### **Other Agencies' Action w**

UNICEF, MSF, and SLRC contributed towards health interventions in clinics and hospitals. The Council of Churches and SLRC have responsibility for camp management for IDPs in Freetown. CARE, Action Aid, Council of Churches, WFP and CRS provided food and non-food items to the IDPs in Freetown.

#### **Co-ordination w**

The Commission of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction is the central coordinating body. The National Consultative Forum, comprised of representatives from the Government, NGOs and international Organisations, participates with three subcommittees: the Non-food Committee, Committee for Food Aid, and Health/Nutrition Committee. There is also a Water/Sanitation Committee co-ordinated by UNICEF.

## ***The Intended Operation***

### **Assessment of Needs w**

The SLRC has carried out an assessment of the needs for the emergency intervention which is currently being discussed by the Movement's Coordination Unit in the field and Geneva, comprised of the SLRC, Federation and the ICRC. The ICRC -specific needs will be communicated separately from this Appeal.

### **Immediate Needs w**

In order to resume its operational activities as a national society, the SLRC urgently needs to replace equipment and other assets destroyed or looted during the first part of this year, including equipment for the blood bank, food and non-food items for the institutional feeding programme, garbage collection, consumable items for the health clinics and for running training programmes for the public on cholera preparedness and health education. Assistance is also needed to promote the Red Cross image. In order for the SLRC to achieve this, assistance is needed with the replacement of vehicles and motorbikes, computer and telecommunication equipment looted or destroyed, as well as with repairs/renovation of branch offices and furniture.

### **Anticipated Later Needs w**

It is foreseen that a revised Appeal will be issued at the end of August 1999.

### **Red Cross Objectives w**

- { Re-equip the Blood Bank, in order to continue blood services;
- { Continuing the Community Based Health Programme;
- { Continuing the Institutional Development/Resource Development Programme;
- { In terms of activities supported by the Federation, to continue the Institutional Feeding Programme;
- { Re-equipping the SLRC so that it is capable of performing its activities.

## ***National Society/Federation Plan of Action***

### **Emergency Phase: May - July 1999 w**

- { Replace looted/destroyed equipment in HQ, as well as in the Bo, Bonthe, Kenema and Mattru Jong branches.
- { Continue the Blood Programme by donor recruitment, pre-donor counselling, collection and screening of blood units, and establishment of a blood collection centre at the Maternity Children Hospital in east Freetown.
- { Through the Community Based Health Programme, assist in garbage clearing campaigns, rehabilitation of four wells in eastern Freetown, provision of MCH ( Mother Child Health) kits to 120 Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs), safe motherhood training for 120 TBAs, providing bowls, cups etc for chlorination, and providing cholera preparedness training for 100 volunteer from 10 communities.
- { Through the Institutional/Resource Development Programme, facilitate staff training, including the Gender Development programme, branch development, and improving financial reporting and strengthening fund-raising activities.
- { Through the part of the Federation supported Relief, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Programme, the SLRC will continue to provide food and non-food items to 30 institutions.

**Phase Two: August - December 1999** w

A revised Appeal is foreseen after the initial emergency phase, depending on the developments in the political and security situation

**Capacity of the National Society** w

The SLRC has a staff of 120 , and a pool of well trained volunteers.

**Present Capacity of the Federation in Sierra Leone** w

The Federation is presently represented by the Head of Delegation, and a local staff of 12 persons. The Federation intends to strengthen the delegation by recruiting an Admin/Finance Delegate and an Institutional Development Delegate.

**Evaluation** w

An assessment of the society's performance and the programmes will be carried out in August 1999.

## ***Budget summary***

See Annex 1 for details.

## ***Conclusion***

The SLRC has been the only component of the Movement present in Sierra Leone since mid-January, 1999. During this period, the SLRC has suffered from staff members being killed and wounded, and looting and destruction of vehicles and equipment. Despite the difficulties encountered, the SLRC has been able to play a significant and positive role in assisting the population of Sierra Leone during this conflict.

It is important that the SLRC receive the support necessary to rebuild and to reorganise the assistance programmes (supported by the Federation), as well as enabling it to be operational in the emergency relief and emergency health operations supported by ICRC.

Margareta Wahlström  
Under Secretary General,  
Disaster Response & Operations Coordination

George Weber  
Secretary General

BUDGET SUMMARYSierra Leone: Emergency Assistance to  
the Sierra Leone Red Cross**IN CHF****Supplies**

Blood bank equipment/teaching material 4,000.00

**Capital equipment**

Vehicles (6 cars/2 motorbikes) 230,000.00

Office equipment/Rehabilitation for 5 branches 75,000.00

/Computers for Branches/Generators

Telecommunications (radio equipment/mobile phone) 68,000.00

**Transport, storage & vehicle costs**

40,000.00

**Personnel**

Personnel (3 expat staff x 3 months) 90,000.00

Personnel (NS local staff) 118,000.00

Training 25,000.00

**Administrative, office & general expenses**

Travel &amp; Communications 4,500.00

Administrative costs/Office costs 60,000.00

Professional fees 3,500.00

Printing Costs/Information 500.00

Secretariat operational support 38,500.00

**TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS**

753,000.00

**TOTAL APPEAL CASH & KIND**

753,000.00

**LESS CASH ON HAND****0****NET REQUEST CASH & KIND**

753,000.00

All items are going to be purchased locally