

SIERRA LEONE: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO

8 July 1999

SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS

appeal no. 14/99

situation report no. 1

period covered: 31 May - 30 June 1999

This situation report, issued in keeping with Federation reporting requirements, covers achievements in the four weeks since the Federation launched its appeal. As it was being released, the first reports of a peace agreement were emerging. The effects of this development on the appeal programme, including a possible revision of the appeal, will be reported on as soon as the situation becomes clearer.

The context

On 17 May 1999, the ICRC and the Federation returned to Freetown to re-establish assistance programmes and provide support to the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS). The ICRC, the lead agency, is focusing on emergency health and relief, while the Federation's role is to provide capacity building and programme support. To this end, the Federation launched an appeal on 31 May, seeking CHF 753,000, to assist the Sierra Leone Red Cross for three months. A co-ordination mechanism has been established in the field as well as in Geneva.

Latest events

The advent of the rainy season brought a significant deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone. An increasing number of displaced people became noticeable during May/June period. Today, the needs of the most vulnerable far exceed the current capacities of non governmental and governmental organisations.

There have been alarming reports of basic food shortages in parts of the country, and of starvation in Kambia, because of the continued closure of the highway linking Freetown to the provinces.

The United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone was renewed for another six months and its mandate extended to include implementation of any peace accord.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS)

Community Based Health programme activities

- { Forty volunteers have been trained in environmental sanitation, prevention and the control of diarrhoeal diseases
- { health education talks were given to IDP's in camps and clinics
- { essential drugs were provided to SLRCS operational clinics (Stadium, Bailor Barrie, Howe Street -- Western Area, Bo, Kenema, Mattru Jong and Bonthe) for IDPs.
- { CBHP is also running a monthly garbage clearing exercise targeting various deposit sites in Freetown to combat the outbreak of epidemics and support government efforts to clean up the city of Freetown and improve environmental sanitation. This joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and SLRCS is expected to last until end of 2000.

Relief/ Branch Development programmes

a-Freetown

- *Institutional Feeding in the greater centre of Freetown:* 24 institutions received maize meal, vegetable oil, and CSB. A total of 2,260 beneficiaries were served with 65,5 MT of food. Non food items (122 bales of blankets, 58 bales clothing, 14 rolls plastic sheets) were also supplied to these institutions
- *Non food items* have been distributed to Waterloo IDP's camp. A total of 24 000 beneficiaries received blankets, clothing, plastic sheets and jerry cans directly from the SLRCS, while a joint SLRCS/ICRC distribution assisted 14,600 more beneficiaries.
- SLRCS provided plastic sheets to Action Contre la Faim (ACF), GOAL and various NGOs.

- First Aid Emergency Preparedness programme

First aid materials were provided to 2 First Aid Posts in western Freetown.

Blood Service Programme

- 45 new donors were recruited and 311 units collected by the mobile blood collection service.
- a total of 218 whole units and 69 paediatric units have been issued.
- six Red Cross groups and eight other groups were visited (making a total of 227 donors and potential donors).
- The Federation supported the Blood Programme by purchasing equipment to enable the SLRCS to open a small blood unit at the Connaught maternity hospital.

b- Local Branches

Southern (Bo) and Eastern (Kenema) areas: Co-ordinators attend technical meetings on health and nutrition, as well as inter-agency meetings. They are also reorganising school clubs, recruiting new volunteers and carrying out assessments in communities and IDP camps.

Northern branch (Port Loko) has recruited 165 volunteers and trained 20 community based first aiders.

Other local Branches. The Co-ordinators have not yet been able to resume activities in their respective regions for security reasons.

The Federation arranged a three-day workshop for NS Headquarters directors and Co-ordinators and local branch managers. The main objectives of the workshop were to discuss :

- A review of SLRCS activities April/June 1999, including problems encountered and actions to solve them
- The Mission and Visions of the SLRCS for the second half of the year
- Goals, objectives and priorities, including plans of action for the local branches from July through September 1999.

Objectives and priorities were identified by all participants as follows:

Objective 1. To further enhance Operational Capacities of the National Society.

Priorities: rehabilitation of offices/clinics and revision of staffing structure

Action to be taken: logistics and training of personnel/volunteers

Objective 2. To rebuild a positive Red Cross Image

Priorities : dissemination/information

Action: re-establishment of SLRCS relationship with local authorities, NGOs, and the community

Objective 3. To provide services to targeted population

Priorities: Assessment / Plans of action/short term

Action to be taken : Implementation of activities depending on needs assessment, capacity and funds available.

- { The SLRCS commemorated World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on May 8. It celebrated World Voluntary Blood Donors Day on May 23, at a Primary School in Freetown with the theme "***My Gift is Life***". A total of 30% screened blood in Sierra Leone is donated directly through Red Cross blood programmes, while another 30% goes through organisations and services supported by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- { The 1999 May month-long celebrations took on a new dimension at SLRCS with the introduction of a weekly radio discussion programme in krio, entitled " Red Cross Nar Salone" (The Red Cross in Sierra Leone). These programmes are part of the image-building of the SLRCS in particular, and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in general.
- { ***Federation support/activities***

The Federation is supporting the National Society in its efforts to assist ongoing IDP programmes and enable local branches to resume their normal activities. All programmes/activities mentioned above are totally supported financially by the Federation.

The Federation/SLRCS/ICRC paid a short visit to Bo and Kenema to meet with local branches, volunteers, local authorities and aid agencies.

The Federation and the SLRCS have agreed upon a restructuring of the Society in order to maximise the use of resources and better enhance performance. A consultant should be appointed in the near future.

Outstanding needs

The SLRCS is still in urgent need of vehicles, computers, motorbikes, and radio equipment since most of its equipment has been looted or destroyed.

In-kind donations of blood bank material are also urgently required to re-equip the blood bank and continue blood activities.

Cash donations are still crucial in order to support the nine local branches and enable them to continue or resume vital operational activities.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The SLRCS/Federation attends regular meeting with the Commission of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction and UN agencies.

The Federation HoD has held meetings with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Communication and Information and is regularly meeting with French, Swiss and German Consuls.

The coordination between the different components of the Red Cross Movement is running smoothly. The Federation has daily meetings with both SLRCS and ICRC, and the three components meet formally for coordination meetings once a week.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is urged to give immediate material and financial support to the Sierra Leone Red Cross to allow the National Society to rebuild and reorganise itself. This will enable the society to provide urgently needed programmes for 100 000 IDPs and other vulnerable groups.

Peter Rees-Gildea
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Operations Funding and Reporting Department

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Director
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APPEAL No. 14/99

**PLEDGES
RECEIVED**

07/08/99

DONOR	CATEGOR Y	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	CC
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL----->				757,000	01/01/99	
DANISH - RC		1,000,000	DKK	215,100	06/11/99	
FINNISH - RC		33,640	EUR	53,767	06/22/99	
FRANCE - PRICATE		10,000	FRF	2,437	06/06/99	
ICELANDIC - RC		200,000	FRF	4,066	06/04/99	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				275,370 CHF		

**KIND AND SERVICES (INCL.
PERSONNEL)**

DONOR	CATEGOR Y	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	C
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0.00 CHF		

**NOT REQUESTED
IN APPEAL**

DONOR	CATEGOR Y	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	CC
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0.00 CHF		

