

LIBERIA: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

25 August, 2000

appeal no. 01.05/2000

situation report no. 1

Period covered: 1 January - 30 June 2000

Although a lack of funds and donor support has had an impact on operations, hampering the implementation and planning of institutional development activities and programme co-ordination of the delegation as described in the appeal, most objectives were achieved and the progress is encouraging. Further funding is required to maintain the momentum of the ongoing programmes and to implement the full range of planned activities, particularly as the Liberian Red Cross Society (LRCS) is experiencing management and governance challenges.

The context

Liberia, is a country struggling to recover from a war that ended three years ago. The civil war resulted in considerable disruption of productive, economic and commercial activities and the loss of livelihood for whole communities. There was widespread destruction, loss of public and private property and serious damage to the physical and social infrastructures. The war also caused massive population movements and human suffering. Almost half of Liberia's pre-war population of 2.5 million was displaced either internally or externally, and approximately 200,000 people were killed. The conflict has seriously weakened the country's economic, social and productive sectors. In short because of the war, Liberia's economy has collapsed and the social situation in Liberia is characterised by crushing poverty, excessively high unemployment rates and rising prices. However, the major constraints to revitalise the economic growth and productivity continues to be depressed by investors confidence: the burden of external debt (at \$2.8 billion owed) and the lingering donor concerns of human rights abuse and perceptions about good security and good governance.

Due to the social situation, poverty has become widespread in Liberia, and the quality of life and standard of living have grossly declined. The UNDP Human Development Report for 1996 and for 1997 rated Liberia 158 and 156 respectively out of a total of 174 countries. Although, very few reliable recent demographic statistics on Liberia exist, available figures reveal serious social, economic and educational development gaps. On an estimated population of 2.5 million, about 55% of which is of school-age and 45% of which have no access to education; illiteracy is near 70% and over 70% of the population is engaged in subsistence agriculture; unemployment is estimated at 80%. The per capita

GDP income has dropped to \$192 by 1998, 80% of the population lives in absolute poverty; and on the average a family lives on less than \$2 per household per day.

Despite slight economic growth, widespread poverty continues and living conditions continue to deteriorate. According to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the social problems have worsened: teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, school dropout rates and crime have increased rapidly. Some 1.6 million people have migrated to the capital of Monrovia, a city built to accommodate 800,000 persons. The population movement is mostly due to deteriorating living standards in the countryside: lack of social and health care, employment, schools, health centres, and water/sanitation services. To this end, the issues of improved access, opportunities, equity, quality, in social services as well as programmes aimed at reconciliation, trauma healing, and other psycho-social rehabilitation will continue to feature prominently in current and future national reconstruction and development plans for some years.

The Appeal 2000 programmes focus on the need to develop the capacity of the Headquarters, Chapters and Branches so that they can effectively deliver assistance and meet the emergency needs of the vulnerable population, particularly in the areas of health, water and sanitation and shelter. At the same time, the appeal reflects the need to further encourage self-sufficiency (resource mobilisation, management and development). By pursuing this strategy it is intended that the NS will eventually become independent in administrative and financial management, in responding to emergency disaster and conflicts, and in the provision of basic health and social services to the vulnerable communities.

Latest events

In January, a UNDP/UNHCR/World Bank team visited Liberia as part of a sub-regional visit. The focus of the mission was a study of post-conflict Sierra Leone and ways to promote and ensure the peace as set out in the Lome Accord, signed in July 1999. While in Liberia, the team had extensive discussions with the President and several key Cabinet Ministers, and during that visit the border between Guinea and Liberia was reopened.

The Liberian government, citing security reasons, closed STAR Radio and suspended the Catholic Radio Veritas on March 15, 2000. On 20 March in protest of the closure, the independent media staged a news blackout, and on 22 March, the Government lifted with immediate effect the suspension of the Roman Catholic radio station, however, today, STAR Radio remains closed.

In May, UNHCR assisted in the repatriation of Liberia refugees from Guinea (which will end in December 2000) and from Cote d'Ivoire (ending in June 2000). During May 2000 there were 7,800 returnees and 3,800 in June. This brings the cumulative total of Liberian assisted to repatriate since the start of the Voluntary Repatriation exercise in May 1997 to 360,000. The Government has requested UNHCR to relocate 15,300 Sierra Leonean refugees from Sinje camps to Gbarmba, Klay district, Bomi county (away from the Sierra Leone border) due to perceived threats to national security and the practice of diamond mining, which is believed by the Government to be common practice among the refugees. UNHCR estimates that it would cost an estimated \$2-3 million to relocate the refugees on 200 acres of land, and with no funding available the issue is pending.

In June, the EU suspended \$53 million in development aid to Liberia because Britain claimed that Liberia was helping Sierra Leone's rebels with guns selling them arms for diamonds. Later, President Taylor advised British nationals and NGOs to stop working in certain regions of Liberia (Lower Lofa and Grand Cape Mount counties which borders Sierra Leone and the adjacent Bomi county), because of "some anti-British sentiments being harboured by some individuals".

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

The planning and implementation of Red Cross activities in Liberia is characterised by uncertainties resulting from political tension and instability in Liberia and neighbouring countries. The closure of the border between Liberia and Guinea, looting of Red Cross property at the Lofa Chapter and the lack of access to vital areas of operation are some factors influencing the delivery of assistance and implementation of the planned operation. Also, the early onset of the rainy season in April meant that the already poor road conditions in Liberia further deteriorated; and the shortage of trucks continued to challenge timely transport of relief goods, construction materials, drugs and returnees to the south-east region of the country. Despite a considerable carryover of 1999 funds, overall funding of the Liberia operation remains problematic. During the first quarter, the Delegation worked on implementing activities or revising the budgets. However, certain programmes such as ID/RD, health and programme co-ordination remain under serious funding constraints. Despite this, during the first half of 2000, major developments and considerable progress was achieved in all core programmes.

Disaster Preparedness and Response •

Taking into account the current socio-economic situation in the country and the regional and in-country instability and insecurity, the LNRCS considers the development and strengthening of the Disaster Preparedness and Response services to be one of its priorities. During the first six months of the year, the National Society made efforts to improve the capacity of the Disaster Action Teams to provide an efficient, timely and comprehensive response to emergency situations, training of the staff, purchase of uniforms and equipment, and to create reserve relief stocks. The construction of three zonal warehouses is in progress. In addition, the following Appeal objectives have been achieved:

- w** Registration and transport of IDPs back to their village of origin;
- w** Preparation for seminars and workshops for staff and volunteers;
- w** Stock piling relief supplies at strategic locations in the districts;
- w** Distribution of relief supplies to IDPs and returnees;
- w** Provision of DP and first aid training and materials:

Objective 1: To assist 150,000 IDPs to return and resettle in their pre-war homesteads and communities with a provision of shelter materials. Achievement: From January 2000 until June 2000, a total of 14,303 IDPs were resettled to their villages of origin. Due to logistical constraints, under *Phase IV* of the programme, only two assisted resettlement transports to the south-east were completed, providing assistance to seventy one persons by road to Sinoe and two hundred and forty seven persons by sea to Sinoe and Maryland. Under *Phase III*, shelter kits were distributed to 2,663 IDP families from regular shelters around Monrovia were resettled to Lower Lofa, Bomi and Grand Cape Mount counties. *Phase III* of the operation was completed on 15 March, while the registration for resettlement for an estimated 9,000 remaining IDPs continues under *Phase IV*. This brings the cumulative total of IDPs assisted by the Red Cross, Liberian Repatriation Refugee Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) and UNDP/UNOPS to 140,138 persons since the programme commenced in March 1998 to June 2000.

A total of 2,830 shelter kits, plus household utensils (pots, pans and jerry cans), agriculture tools (including watering cans, vegetable seeds, fertilisers) were successfully distributed to 14,303 persons (2,860 families) during the reporting period (January-June 2000). Distribution of second-hand clothes and shoes donated by the Swedish Red Cross and hygiene kits consisting of bath and laundry soap were distributed to returnees. The Red Cross Disaster Teams assigned to the Transit and Distribution Centres are responsible for the registration, distribution of food and non-food relief assistance to the beneficiaries; and the First Aid Teams provide medical care and distribute food and water aboard the vessels. Constraints: Due to insufficient funding and the lack of a “safe sea worthy” vessel to transport by sea, the programme was suspended temporarily. However, the transport by land to Sinoe and Grand Gedeh is underway.

During the implementation of the programme the following relief items were distributed from January-June 2000:

Relief Items	Quantity	Beneficiaries	Location/County
Shelter Kits	2,830 kits	14,303 persons/ 2860 families	Bong, Lofa, Cape Mt. Bomi, South-east
Pots /Pans	493 pcs	490 families	Grand Kru, Bong
Jerry Cans	745 pcs	431 families	Bong
Buckets	415 pcs	415 families	Bong, Grand Kru
Agricultural Tools	338 pcs	338 farmers	Lofa, Bong, Bomi, Grand Bassa, Rivercess
Assorted seeds	4 metric tons	700 farmers	Lofa, Bong, Bomi, Grand Bassa, Rivercess
Plastic Sheeting	2,842 pcs	14,303 persons/2860 families	Bong, Lofa, Cape Mt. Bomi, South-east
Used Clothing	377 bales	14,509 persons	Grand Kru, Sinoe, Grand Gedeh, Bong, Bomi
Shoes	242 bales 75 pairs/bale	13,491 persons	Grand Kru, Bong, Bomi, Grand Gedeh,
Bath/laundry soap	10,475 pcs	26,640 persons	Bong, Cape Mount, Lofa, Montserrado, Sinoe, Bomi, Grand Gedeh, Margibi
Family tents	14 tents	Sierra Leone refugees	
Stationary / laundry soap; School chairs	95 boxes	15 orphanages / 10 Red Cross schools	

Ration Size for Shelter Kits - one kit per family. The shelter kit consist of 2 PCs cutlasses, 1 pc hammer, 1 pc axe, 2 kgs wire nails and 1 pc plastic sheeting.

Objective 2: Train 100 volunteers in Advanced First Aid, Introduction to Disaster and Disaster Preparedness on a quarterly basis. Achievement: In strengthening the capacity of the LRCS in Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Management, a workshop was conducted focusing on disaster management, the national and regional DP context, the role of the government and the role/responsibility of the disaster committee. Forty-two participants from the Headquarters and Chapter senior and Disaster Preparedness staff, First Aid Volunteers and representatives of the Government. Based on the conclusions drawn by the participants of the workshop, the National Society recommended that the following exercises be undertaken by the Relief department: a Training of Trainers (ToT) session, drafting of a contingency plan to respond to community violence and the promotion of a disaster awareness and preparedness campaign. The National Society also recommended that a VCA be carried out to identify both hazards and capacities within the communities, and as a part of the preparation of a national disaster plan, plus define the role of the LRCS within the national disaster preparedness plans. The workshop was well organised and co-facilitated by the Regional DP Delegate.

A second workshop was held during the second quarter for staff and volunteers from Sinoe and Grand Gedeh chapters in Greenville. Ten volunteer received training in subjects related to DP skills in distribution, warehousing, reporting and First Aid. Also, 1,000 First Aid kits and stretchers were purchased to support the Chapters in disaster response. Constraints: Many volunteers lack motivation, are unemployed, poor and need to be paid for volunteering. Due to the poor economic and living conditions in the country, the volunteers in Liberia need economic incentives on top of transport and meal assistance, which is contrary to Federation policy. However, if the National Society is to develop a solid volunteer base at the chapter level it will have to review and develop a new policy on “volunteer management” to enable better recruitment, motivation, training and retention of the volunteer networks in the community.

Objective 3: To build the capacity of the LRCS to render prompt assistance by constructing two zonal warehouses and one zonal multi-purpose building and stockpiling relief supplies at strategic locations (zonal areas) in the three districts. **Achievements:** The LRCS is in the process of constructing a multi-purpose building in Montserrado county and two warehouses in Bong and Grand Gedeh counties. The land has been acquired and the deeds secured; tenders were placed in the press and bids were received from several competent construction firms. A Consultant Engineer has been employed to analyse the tender documents, recommend the award of the tender, supervise the construction and provide technical advise on the construction workmanship and certify the work and payments to the contractor(s). Also, a Construction Advisory Committee has been established consisting of technical representatives from both LRCS and the Federation to ensure a transparent process starting from the pre-construction phase to the completion of the facilities by the contractors. Funds donated by the Finnish Red Cross have been committed for the costs of the construction of the three facilities.

Meanwhile, two mini warehouses have been constructed to provide office and warehouse space for the Red Cross Branches in Gbarma in Lower Lofa and in Tienni in Cape Mount counties. The objective is to build four mini warehouses at the branch level in areas which have high risk of disasters such as flooding, violence, internal conflict and population movement. **Constraints:** The time frame in which to achieve the construction of the three facilities was too short, plus the time allocated to construct the facilities was during the rainy season which was not feasible. In addition, not enough time was allocated for the planning process: to acquire the land (which takes a minimum of two months), bidding process - tender document preparation (takes another 1-2 months because the GOL and NGO tendering procedures requirements is extensive and time-consuming), advertisement (requires 2 weeks publicity), tendering documents and analysis (2 months). Also, the general environment in the country, such as the poor road infrastructure compounded by the rainy season and the insecurity.

Tenders were issued and the following disaster preparedness emergency relief stock was successfully procured and is currently stored in the main Federation warehouse:

Relief Item	Quantity
Blankets	3,000 pcs
Mosquito Nets	1,000 pcs
First Aid Kits	1,000 kits
Community Kits	1,000 kits
Agricultural Kits	1,000 pcs
Buckets	500 pcs
Jerry Cans	500 pcs
Pots/pans	1,000 pcs
Generators - 5KVA	3 PCs - will be used in three warehouses.
Plastic Sheeting	780 pcs
Bath Soap	6,000 bars
Laundry Soap	1,124 bars

The DPP plan entails stockpiling emergency supplies to provide assistance for 10,000 families.

Objective 4: To rehabilitate and reconstruct five schools and to construct institutional latrines and wells in five communities in western (Bomi, Lower Lofa Bong) and south-east (Maryland, Sinoe, Grand Kru) counties. **Achievement:** Community committee members have committed to support the self-reliance education activities and a preliminary assessment of five communities have been completed. Contact with the Ministry of Education is established to ensure that we are in compliance with the academic requirements and standards. Also, discussions are on-going with other organisations who are experienced in developing community base and supported school projects, such as the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH), a non-profit, non-governmental organisation. With respect to impact, these schools will be servicing approximately 1,500 elementary students. **Constraint:**

Not enough time was allocated for the technical assessment of school infrastructure, negotiation of project agreements with the community and local construction team members, and the actual construction of the schools. However, this process is underway and should be completed by the fourth quarter. Funds have been committed for the construction of the schools by the Finnish Red Cross.

Objective 5: To provide operational support to the LNRCS to set up systems for effective radio communications in seven LRCS Chapters. **Achievement:** HF radio base stations were installed in seven chapters - Maryland, Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, Nimba, Bong and Robertsport during the second quarter. The impact is a well established system of communication between the HQ and the Chapters and also between the Chapters. This is a major achievement which has never been available before in the history of the LRCS, not even before the war.

Health/Water and Sanitation/CBFA •

The first six months of the year has been a very busy time for the Liberian Red Cross health and watsan department. The health staff and volunteers continue to provide clinical and laboratory services at the headquarters’ and integrated primary health and watsan activities in the south-east region (Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru and Maryland counties) and several Chapter clinics in the north-western region. The Headquarters clinic management team continues to provide support in the areas of management and evaluation of services, training and workshops for MCH activities, EPI, reproductive and sexual health and IEC, and order drugs and non-medical supplies for the Chapter and community-based clinics. The clinics provide a range of curative and preventive services.

To ensure that accurate and uniform medical services and information is provided in all Red Cross clinics, the LRCS National Health Supervisor continues to monitor and conduct health education workshops on a monthly basis. In another development, the department in collaboration with the Chapter health staff and community health committee members will conduct a base-line health and demographic survey in the counties in July. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the impact of the health programme in the communities.

HQ Clinic statistics from January-June 2000:

Services	January	February	March	April	May	June
Consultation	1,053 pts	982 pts	967 pts	937 pts	1,132 pts	993 pts
Laboratory	448 pts	601 pts	655 pts	746 pts	842 pts	681 pts
MCH	44 pts	54 pts	34 pts	36 pts	75 pts	101 pts
EPI	1,635 pts	1,506 pts	3,012 pts	2,568 pts	2,579 pts	2,581 pts

Common diseases: 68.2 % of the patient consultations was for malaria, and other consultations was for RTI, UTI and diarrhoea.

Immunisation was one of the major activities undertaken during the period under review.

Daily EPI activities continue in Monrovia with a strong “no-missed opportunities” policy in place. A EPI Technician and Vaccinators from the Headquarters clinic provide scheduled outreach EPI activities to the towns and villages that fall within the catchment areas of the clinics. In March, 3012 children under five and women (14-49 years old) were immunised. The Red Cross community health workers also play an active role in disease surveillance, particularly in the area of vaccine preventable disease. In several instances measles were detected by this system, allowing for a co-ordinated emergency outreach EPI response to the affected areas. For example, in February, five cases of measles were received at the clinic and based on a survey completed by the department, three deaths resulted where there was no medical intervention. The Health department with vaccines supplied by UNICEF engaged in a massive immunisation campaign in the affected areas.

National Immunisation Days (NIDs) - The LRCS has been an implementing partner in all the NIDs providing support both in terms of logistics, as well as personnel. Phases one, two and three of the

NIDS commenced in January-March respectively. Under phase one 776,867 children under five years were vaccinated nation-wide with a national coverage of 112%; phase two 868,925 children and a coverage of 126%; and phase three, 876,753 children were vaccinated with a national coverage of 127%. The LRCS and Federation provided medical personnel, clinic facilities and logistics support to the Ministry of Health county health team. As part of the awareness campaign under the auspices of the NIDs Social Mobilisation Committee (in which the LRCS is a member), an anti-polio walk was held in Monrovia and the various county capitals in Liberia. The walk in Monrovia brought together foreign diplomats, officials of Government, local and international NGOs, UN agencies, students and children of all ages. The LRCS provided First Aid, drinking water and juice for the participants.

Youth peer education on HIV/AIDS and STD prevention and control continues in junior and high schools in Monrovia and surrounding towns.

Chapter Watsan projects: In March, the Nimba Chapter watsan unit completed the construction of 31 wells with Afridev hand pumps, 11 institutional latrines and 93 family latrines in Saclepea, Mah Zoe-geh and Yarwin Mehnsnonoh districts. The project is funded by the Federation and UNICEF. Also, the CBFA officers during the period under review, conducted a three-day sensitisation for members of the Mother’s Health Club. The Margibi Chapter in collaboration with other local NGOs based in the district, completed the construction of 11 wells equipped with hand pumps in Kakata.

The Netherlands Red Cross funded programme **“Integrated Health and Water and Sanitation”** project in the south-east aimed at improving the health status of 31,715 people in 22 targeted communities in Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru and Maryland counties, through the provision of clean and safe water, construction of institutional latrines, family latrines, and the construction of a health facility in each county. The project was started in March 1999, after a very slow start (due to an internal management crisis within the LRCS) the implementation of the programme reached its intended objectives. In January, a joint (LRCS, Federation and the Netherlands Red Cross) review of the project was conducted and based on the findings, the implementation procedures were revised, the number of hardware facilities were reduced and the donor approved the programme extension from 15 December 1999 to 30 June 2000. During the past six months the project has been implemented according to the revised objectives set in the LRCS Federation and NRCS project proposal, though with significant delays. To prepare the health and watsan staff and volunteers to implement the new revised project plan of action, a 3-day workshop was provided for thirty health/watsan staff, facilitated by an External Consultant and LRCS/Federation Health Co-ordinators.

Integrated Health and Water and Sanitation achievements:

	Grand Gedeh County	Grand Kru County	Maryland County	Total
Facility	Target/Completed	Target/Completed	Target/Completed	Target/Completed
Wells Constructed	10/9	8/7	11/12	29/29
Wells Rehabilitated	0/1	2/0	4/1	6/2
Institutional Latrines	5/5	8/8	14/14	27/27
Family Latrines	95/95	70/70	130/130	295/295
Clinic Construction	1	1	1	3/3
Volunteer Recruitment	9 site supv 30 labourers	none	9 site supv 31 labourers	
Workshops	8 watsan technicians	15 watsan technicians	15 watsan technicians	

During the reporting period, two workshops were held for the Chapter Watsan Officers and Technicians, the topics covered included chlorinating and site safety procedures, well and latrine construction, site selection of wells, demonstration of fabrication of ferro cement well culverts, family latrine slabs and institutional latrine slabs; repairs and maintenance of Afridev hand pumps and the usage, repair and maintenance of dewatering pumps. No specific training has been organised for the pump technicians and community based committees due to time constraints and the workload to complete the construction of the hardware by the scheduled deadline. However, training is planned during the month of August for 42 technicians and 42 members of the community based (two persons from each of the 22 towns), on hygiene education and promotion, pump operation and maintenance, and the development of spare parts network.

A total of twenty-nine wells were constructed during the period under review and equipped with hand pumps. With the additional wells, the quantity of water per person is increased to 15 litres, thus meeting the minimum SPHERE standards. Sanitation achieved a 100% coverage rate, with a total of 295 family latrines constructed and functional. During the final phase of the project, the participation of the beneficiaries improved, however, there is a need to continue to sensitise community involvement in the construction and basic maintenance of the facilities.

The health clinics in Jarowdee, Manolu and Baryclayville are fully operational, but the number of patients are low. The clinic operate a cost recovery system charging patients between 10-15 Liberian dollars and this covers both the cost of consultation and medicines, but most patients are unable to pay this amount, therefore the fees will be reassessed.

The country's economy remains in deep depression in the aftermath of seven years of civil war, and given to the economic recession being experienced by the country and probably for the next five years, it is unrealistic at this point to assume that the economy will improve to the point where the population in many areas of the country will be able to support their own medical needs. Therefore, a proposal has been submitted to the donor to extend the programme for another three years fully funded, and to re-evaluate the project after two years to determine if 100% donor funding will be required or if it can be reduced on a sliding scale.

The implementation of the CBFA programme has not been that successful, even though the LRCS has expressed the desire to continue the programme. The National Society activities need to be improved to fit to the programme activities, and an appropriate qualified officer must be selected.

Capacity Building •

As reflected in the Country Assistance Strategy Plan 2000, the most important and challenging objectives facing the Liberian National Red Cross is the rehabilitation and re-activation of its Chapter and Branch networks in thirteen counties, strengthen the capacity of both the Governance and Management body at the Headquarters and Chapter level, and to develop a Resource Development plan linked to income generating and fund raising activities. As the National Society continues to undergo management transitions and in line with the objectives of the Appeal 2000, the Liberia Delegation assisted the Liberian Red Cross in recruiting the key management positions of the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General. The position of the Finance Officer was also recruited, this person will enable that standard accounting procedures are established and adopted and financial reporting and accounting procedures are improved. Also, assistance in the selection and appointment of the positions of Youth Co-ordinator and Women and Development positions was provided by the Federation.

During the second quarter, due to limited funding, much time was spent on revising programme activities and budgets based on available funding. Although, the funds were limited the intended capacity building and development of the LRCS has been maximised by using an integration approach of programmes and available funds. The following activities highlight the key achievements:

- w *Renovation and upgrading of the Bong and Maryland Chapters:*** The external repairs and the internal renovation of the main buildings; construction of the guest house for both Chapters have been completed; and basic office and household furnishings have been installed. The Bong Chapter is equipped with a 27 KVA generator to generate power for its income generating projects, and a palava hut is under construction which will be used as a multipurpose hall for workshops, seminars, and social activities. The facility will be rented out to local NGOs and the funds generated will be used to support Chapter activities and services.
- w *Rehabilitation of the Sinoe, Bomi and Grand Kru Chapters:*** The tendering process for construction and plumbing materials is finished, quotations were submitted to the tendering committee and approved, and the materials procured for the rehabilitation of the Chapter facilities. The Chapter purchasing committee has selected a contractor, agreements signed and the work orders have been issued, and the construction and reconstruction is underway for both Sinoe and Bomi Chapters. However, the refurbishment of the Grand Kru chapter is on hold until October, after the rainy season when the roads are accessible. In the meantime, the Chapter Field Officer with the support of the Red Cross Youth who are participating in the Vocational Skills programme funded by the Swedish Red Cross, are making clay bricks and cutting timber which will be used to assist with the repairs of the Chapter.
- w *Income generating projects:*** A Clerical Pool established at Grand Bassa Chapter, additional fishing nets purchased to augment the fishing project at Sinoe Chapter, also a cold storage unit to store fish and 10 rooms of the Chapter are being renovated to be used as Guest House for income generating. The Fuamah Branch of the Bong Chapter received a 5 KVA generator to support its income generating project to underwrite its core operating cost and to contribute to the community development. The Branch runs a self-supported Red Cross school for 800 children, conducts community hygiene education and provides vocational training for 50 war affected youth.
- w** Transportation, office equipment and communication support was provided in the form of two motor bikes (assigned to Grand Cape Mount and Bomi chapters), three typewriters (Grand Gedeh, Sinoe and Grand Kru chapters) on lap top computer (HQ), and 7 HF base radios was supplied to the LNRCS to support the core programme activities.
- w** During the reporting period, three working sessions were organised at Sinoe, Bomi and Maryland Chapters by the National Society supported by the Federation ID Delegate to revitalise Chapter Boards and improve programme and financial management for Chapter Management and Governance. The major topics discussed in the sessions: Good Governance/Management, volunteerism, job descriptions, office management, evaluation of chapter activities and income generating projects, financial accounting and reporting, and warehouse procedures. Workshops are scheduled for the remaining 10 Chapters during the year. Modifications on session plans will be incorporated into a systems manual on financial and office management. The manual is being developed by the National Society with the assistance of the Federation Finance and Development departments. With respect to the transfer of financial functions from the Federation to the NS, the current effort is to install a relevant accounting system in the LRCS which will be accompanied by the adoption of relevant reporting procedures and standard of transparency.
- w *Radio Communication:*** The installation of seven (7) HF base radio stations at Maryland, Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, Nimba, Grand Cape Mount and Bong Chapters, funded by the British Red Cross, was completed in early May. A base unit was also installed at the residence of the Head of Delegation for security reasons and the Monrovia unit was upgraded (installed wave mail via pactor link). The Telecom Delegate was assigned to the Delegation for two months to set up an HF voice network for the NS, install six VHF mobile radios, programme seven VHF mobile radios and four handsets, repair six HF and VHF mobile stations, and set up a Local Area Computer Network (LAN) at the delegation, and install six Ccmail accounts and upgrade the anti virus software. Plus provide radio and computer training for the delegation and National Society. Training was provided for six delegates, ten National staff, fifteen National Society staff and volunteers.
- w *Governance Meetings:*** During the first and second quarter, the National Society held its regular Executive Board meeting and its regular monthly Executive Committee meeting.
- w *Training and Workshops:***

- i. A six weeks computer training course was provided to six LRCS senior staff to enhance their job skills and performance in report writing and presentations.
- ii. The LRCS conducted a 3-day (19-21 March) SWOT Analysis Workshop of the Vocational Skills Training for War Affected Youth at the Bong Mines Branch. The workshop reviewed the quality and standards of training. Thirty-five participants including 20 students, seven teachers and eight members of the project Advisory Board participated in the workshop. The students' are enrolled in various vocational disciplines and accelerated academic learning programmes. The academic programme provides basic literacy and numeracy skills, and prepares the students for academic activities in regular schools in the community. Few of the students have some level of secondary education, while others are functionally illiterate, but all are desirous of acquiring basic skills in General Agriculture, Building Trades, or Home Sciences. The programme focuses on the training needs of war affected youths, former combatants and orphans. The student enrollment reflects a nearly balanced gender representation. Due to the success and the needs of the affected population, an extension of the project has been proposed to the donor. Graduation is scheduled in October for both centres in Bong Mines and Nimba counties and each graduate will receive an empowerment package for self-employment. The programme is funded by the Swedish Red Cross.
- iii. A Youth Leadership Conference is scheduled in July at Grand Gedeh Chapter to develop a policy on youth administration, management and guidelines on the implementation of youth activities. The conference will include representatives from 13 Chapters and the headquarters Assistant Co-ordinator and Management and Governance. The conference is funded by the Federation.
- iv. The British Red Cross has agreed to fund a five-day "International Management Development Programme" for the LRCS Secretary General and his Assistant (both acting) in August at the Ethiopian Management Institute in Debre Zeit.

Other Red Cross Activities •

In February, the Sinoe Chapter launched a Fishing Project in Greenville. A three-ton boat equipped with a motor and large commercial fishing nets was purchased. The project is funded by the Finnish Red Cross.

In collaboration with FAO an emergency supply of basic farm inputs to restore the productive capacity of war affected farmers were distributed. Seeds and tools, and training and monitoring was provided to farmers.

On 16 March, the LRCS held a "Ground Breaking" ceremonies for the construction a Zonal warehouse at Bong Chapter and the construction of a multipurpose building for the Montserrado Chapter in Monrovia. The capacity building projects are funded by the Finnish Red Cross.

On 24 March, the Gbargna Red Cross School held the "Ground Breaking" ceremony for the construction of its school. UNHCR has pledged to provide 80% funding to support the construction of two schools, in Gbargna and Bong Mines districts.

On 7 April, World Health Day, the LRCS Montserrado Chapter jointly organised a "Safe blood starts with me - Blood Saves Life" blood drive with the Ministry of Health and WHO. The LRCS recruited 50 Red Cross volunteer blood donors and the LRCS Secretary General and Federation Head of Delegation participated in a joint programme with the Ministry of health and WHO.

Leading up to the May 8th celebration, a joint press conference was organised and officiated by the LRCS, ICRC, and Federation on 3 May. More than 20 local journalists from both the print and electronic media participated in the conference which resulted in maximum publicity coverage of the LRCS upcoming itinerary of events for the observance of the 137th Anniversary.

On 8 May, the LRCS celebrated the 137th Anniversary of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies jointly with the Federation and ICRC. The celebrations included a nation-wide membership drive, and a parade through the principal streets of Monrovia by students, Federation delegates, volunteers and staff of the National Society, followed by an indoor programme at the Monrovia City Hall with speeches and remarks from the City Mayor, and Government and representatives.

In June, the LRCS Nimba Chapter held a re-opening ceremony of its newly renovated high school. The donor, IFESH, funded the cost for renovation. The LRCS and IFESH are collaborating partners, the Nimba Chapter is responsible for the distribution of education materials to the schools in the district.

The World Disaster Report 2000 was launched on 28 June at the Unity Conference Center in Virginia, Liberia. The programme was well attended by members of the Diplomatic Corps (US, Ghana, and Taiwanese Ambassadors were present), Ministers of Government, International and Local Non-Governmental Organisations, Trade and Business community and members of the Clergy.

Regional Co-operation •

- w** A Head of Delegation meeting was organised by the Regional delegation in Abidjan in January to discuss regional co-operation, needs and expectations of country delegation and how can the Regional Delegation be a better service centre to country delegations
- w** In February, three LRCS senior staff were screened and proposed for the Basic Training Course (BTC). In May, the Health Co-ordinator participated in the BTC in Iceland and in July was selected as a candidate for a post in DPRK. The Assistant Secretary General a.i. is nominated as a candidate for the BTC in Denmark in September.
- w** From 7-11 February, the LRCS Health Co-ordinator participated in the Regional Health Surveillance Team (RHST) sponsored by the Regional Delegation in Abidjan. The role and objectives of the RHST and the activities carried out by the team since February 1998 were discussed. Nine West African National Societies, Regional Health Delegates and the Director of the Health department, Geneva participated in the workshop. This was the first time that the LRCS attended the RHST co-ordination meeting.
- w** The Secretary General and the First Vice President participated in a Regional Good Governance workshop in Abidjan from 21-24 March.
- w** In April, the LRCS President, participated in a two-week education exchange programme with the Ivorian and Ghana Red Cross Societies sponsored by the Regional Delegation.
- w** The Regional Disaster Preparedness Delegate co-facilitated a DP workshop in Liberia on 27-29 March.
- w** The Bong Chapter Field Officer has been invited to participate in a Volunteer Management workshop in Dakar, Senegal in July sponsored by the Regional Delegation.

Outstanding needs

While initial donor support has been adequate for the Relief programme during the first half of 2000, further financial resources are required to implement the activities for ID/RD and programme management and co-ordination for the remainder of the year. Therefore, it is essential that financial support continues in order to allow the LRCS to re-build a strong base for future activities.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Regular meetings are held with the Government Line Ministries, and co-ordination meetings at the Headquarters and field level in order to ensure the smooth running of the operation, to avoid duplication of efforts and to promote the sharing of available resources. At the same time, effective working relationships with relevant Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies such as WHO, WFP, EU, and GTZ, are maintained by the Programme Managers. These contacts have played a vital role in the success of good co-operation and sharing of resources between agencies. Good collaboration exists

with the embassies present in the country, and the Taiwanese has expressed an interest in funding the capacity building of the LRCS. The Delegation also maintains good contact with the United Nations agencies, particularly UNDP/UNOPS, and UNHCR.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

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This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

Liberia						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.05/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED			31/08/00	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3,193,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 80.3%
Balance carried forward from 1999				1,136,331		
FINLAND - GOVT/RC		336,375	EUR	528,950	05/05/00	
FINLAND - GOVT/RC		86,280	EUR	134,269	30.05.00	ID
NORWAY - GOVT/RC		45,523	NOK	8,986	01/12/00	
NETHERLANDS - RC				61,900	18.01.2000	PERSONNAL COST: S. DEMEKE DELE
NETHERLANDS - RC				55,400	01.08.00	PERSONAL COSTS HEALTH DEL.
NETHERLANDS - GOVT/RC		351,600	NLG	248,259	10.07.00	COOKING UTENSILS
UNITED KINGDOM - RC		51,500	GBP	134,415	10/05/00	REFURBISHMENT OF CHAPTER AND CASSAVA PROCESSION MACHINGE IN BOMI CHAPTER
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		145,000	SEK	27,304	30.05.00	RELIEF & DP
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		300,000	SEK	56,490	29.05.00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2,392,304	CHF	74.9%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Finland	Delegate(s)			60,123		
Netherlands	Delegate(s)			11,335		
Sweden	Delegate(s)			24,969		
Great Britain	Delegate(s)			29,897		
USA	Delegate(s)			45,996		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				172,320	CHF	5.4%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
PLR002, PLR003, PLR501, PLR510, PLR520, PLR521, PLR522.						