

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

LESOTHO

30 November 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.13/2004; Programme Update no. 2; Period covered: June to November 2004;
Appeal coverage: 11.3%; Outstanding needs: CHF 1,494,237 (USD 1,320,000 or EUR 968,400).

[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

Appeal target: CHF 1,685,024 (USD 1,265,508 or EUR 1,084,663).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Lesotho 2005 Annual Appeal no. 05AA010 –
http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA010.pdf

Programme summary: The Lesotho Red Cross Society¹ conducts implementation of HIV and AIDS activities were undertaken to address the main expected results, which are to improve quality of life for 5,000 people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) through home-based care (HBC), reduction of stigma and discrimination against PLWHA and orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC), provide care and support to OVC through HBC and improve positive behaviour and knowledge of youth and other targeted groups. The activities were undertaken in the Mafeteng, Leribe, Berea and Maseru districts. The national society is in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) in food security initiatives, assisting the need in the targeted districts. The Lesotho Red Cross has an on-going information, education and communication (IEC) project in the Mafeteng, Maseru, Butha Buthe, Thaba Tseka, Qacha's Nek, Quthing and Mohale's Hoek districts.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents).

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

¹ Lesotho Red cross Society – refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=102>

Operational developments

The food security component was integrated with long term programming in September 2003, and the Lesotho Red Cross provides food to HBC clients in the Mafeteng, Butha Buthe, Thaba Tseka, Qacha's Nek, Quthing and Mokhotlong districts with support from the WFP. The districts without HBC projects were benefiting from the WFP rations while Berea, Maseru, and Leribe districts benefited from the national society food distribution. In the four districts with HBC project, food parcels, books, blankets, jackets and clothing are distributed to OVC. The partnership with the WFP is an opportunity for the national society to increase its capacity to implement food distribution programme, to improve the division structures through enhanced activities and profiling the Red Cross. The WFP has also provided computers and fax machines to in the respective divisions as capacity building support. The German Red Cross through ECHO funding is supporting the Lesotho Red Cross food parcels distribution programme in Berea division targeting 2,000 beneficiaries. Lesotho Red Cross has established a partnership with American Peace Corps for caring for carers within the HBC.

A new relief project started in Butha Buthe division, targeting 1,000 out of school OVC funded by the German government through the German Red Cross. The Norwegian Red Cross is supporting bilaterally a five-year OVC project in Thaba-Bosiu which started in 2004. Additionally, the Norwegian Red Cross is supporting finance and organizational development activities as well as disaster management projects through the Federation.

The priorities of the national society are reflective of the identified needs of the vulnerable people. Lesotho Red Cross is striving towards building a well-functioning national society through rendering community-based interventions, strengthening the management and governance capacity through recruitment and retention of staff and volunteers. To achieve this, emphasis is being made on human resources development and hiring staff capable of contributing to the efforts of alleviating the suffering of the vulnerable communities.

Health and Care

Goal: The lives and the general health conditions of vulnerable communities in Lesotho are improved.

Community-based health

Objective: Lesotho Red Cross provides quality health care in the four clinics and promotes community and commercial-based first aid in the ten districts.

Increased provision of adequate drugs, vaccines and medical supplies

During this reporting period, medicines were procured and supplied to the four clinics in Berea, Maseru, Mafeteng and Leribe supported by the Icelandic Red Cross. The ministry of health support the clinics with staff and funding the procurement of drugs. The drugs and medicines are bought through the government loan that was given to the national society in 2002. Similarly, free family planning supplies were received from the referral government hospitals in the areas of operations.

Improved health care and reproductive health services

The clinics were engaged in the national vaccination campaigns that were conducted in September 2004. The nurses followed up on tuberculosis patients, monitoring treatment and they also continued referring patients to hospitals with voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) centres for HIV and AIDS testing.

Conducting first aid for 80 volunteers in four divisions for the year 2004

A total of 75 volunteers were trained in basic first aid in the following divisions; Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka and Berea. Community-based first aid training was conducted and 83 volunteers were trained in the following divisions; 24 youth leaders for OVC project in Thaba Bosiu, 33 care facilitators for Mafeteng HBC project and 26 childhood care and development teachers trained in Mohale's Hoek.

Lesotho; Appeal no. 01.13/2004; Programme Update no. 2

Inclusion of first aid provision in the traffic bill

There is an urgent need to train more first aid training instructors in view of the Traffic bill about to be passed in parliament requiring all drivers in the country to have first aid training. The Lesotho Red Cross first aid training has no external funding and is sustained by income generated through commercial first aid.

First aid services were provided during the primary school amateur sports competitions. Basic first aid was conducted for various companies and examinations facilitated by the national society in Leribe for local companies. Marketing and sales for first aid training and sale of First Aid Kits continued.

HIV/AIDS

Objective: The transmission of HIV is reduced and the quality of life of PLWHA including OVC is improved.

Progress and Achievements

Improved quality of life of 5,000 PLWHA through HBC

Mafeteng, Maseru, Berea and Leribe district have the HBC projects and the care facilitators provide care and support to approximately 1,000 HBC clients. Psychosocial support to HIV and AIDS infected and affected was provided through the family visits in the areas where the integrated HBC projects exist. The HBC kits for the four projects were replenished in October 2004.

Integrated HBC projects in Maseru and Berea continued with the horticulture projects, serving as income generating activities for the affected households.

Table 1: Statistics of the clients supported in 2004

	M	F	Total
Number of HBC Projects			4
Number of care facilitator	14	71	85
Number of clients (total)	936	1,145	2,081
Number of clients registered this half year	148	200	348
Number of clients weaned	61	96	157
Number of clients died	83	95	178

Improved access to psychosocial and local material support through support groups and income generating activities

The care facilitators being in close contact with the client provide basic counselling and refer clients to the project officer who further provides psychological support. The community HBC coordinator meets the clients during supervisory visits and provides further counselling. A network has been established with the counsellors in Berea district. HBC clients will be referred for counselling on psychological problems and VCT.

The two support groups that have been initiated in Berea district have lost many members mainly those who are enrolled when their healthy situation has deteriorated. Efforts are being made to advocate for establishment of VCT for the communities so that clients are identified earlier and supported to maintain the support groups.

Stigma and discrimination against PLWHA and OVC

Stigma and discrimination in the communities make it difficult to identify volunteers willing to disclose their HIV status. Care facilitators encourage the community leaders to advocate for non-discrimination, has an ongoing process. IEC materials containing information on HIV and AIDS, stigma and discrimination were distributed to community leaders and other stakeholders. The caring and the importance of accepting of client as part of the community were stressed during meetings and community gathering.

Care and support to 5,000 OVC through integrated HBC

Psychosocial support and basic counselling was provided to OVC in the Thaba Bosiu project. Distribution of sports equipment and conducting activities such as singing and drama were among the activities. A workshop was held for the OVC with the purpose of equipping them with skills and knowledge towards the challenges in the communities. Blankets and jackets were delivered; school fees and books were provided to OVC during the reporting period. Some of the OVC were referred to the clinics for medical attention. Seeds were delivered to all OVC groups that were involved on horticulture projects.

To compliment the psychosocial support activities the programme coordinator and the OVC project officer attended a Memory workshop held by the Federation and Regional Psychosocial Initiative (REPSSI). Consequently, they conducted a training of trainers' workshop for three integrated HBC project officers and eight staff. The Memory work training was conducted in the OVC project in the Thaba Bosiu area. The training was held for local authority including chiefs; institutional leaders, care facilitators, teachers and the Maseru division staff and volunteers. The figures below are for the direct OVC project in the Thaba Bosiu area.

Table 2: OVC Supported in 2004

	M	F	Total
Psychosocial support	30	16	46
Access to health/medical attention	9	15	24
Educational material support	10	18	28
Clothing material and support	30	52	82
Income generating projects	30	52	82
Total	109	153	262

Improved knowledge, attitude practices and behaviours of 200,000 youth and other target groups

The Lesotho Red Cross division officers were coordinating with the existing support groups formed under the ministry of health and social welfare in the district of Quthing, Qacha's Nek, Mohale's Hoek, Butha Buthe and Thaba Tseka. Division officers are the members of the district aids task forces, they joined during the awareness campaign on prevention, use of condoms and IEC materials. There are now three prevention projects in the integrated HBC. Approximately 1,910 youth and adults were trained in prevention methods

Improve access to food and quality of life for PLWHA and OVC.

The most vulnerable households and the affected families were identified where OVC were provided with food parcels in the Berea, Leribe, Maseru and Mafeteng. Horticulture projects were encouraged among the affected families and the care facilitators assisted with screening and advocacy for the projects. In the Thaba Bosiu area seeds of potatoes and vegetables were planted in ten villages. Mafeteng district was lagging behind in horticulture project, although the clients benefited from the food parcels distributed by Red Cross in conjunction with WFP.

Impact

Due to the support visits that were made by the care facilitators in HBC project areas, many clients have improved health and are leading normal health lives. Those who are sick and not getting better were the TB patients whom the reports indicate that they were reluctant to attend VCT. However, most clients follow the advice of the project officers and the care facilitators and they go to the clinic/hospitals when referred.

The communities have increase knowledge on HIV and AIDS. This is reflected during the individual field visits whereby the care givers report that they have been talking to their patients about the importance of attending VCT. Prevention is one of the areas with progressing as the care facilitators reported that, there is increased acceptance and use of condoms.

Horticulture project showed good signs as people who witnessed their establishment in the Berea district were planting vegetables, something that was not happening before. HBC clients are benefited through income generating projects enabling some of them to pay medical fees and bus fare to the hospitals.

Constraints

Most of the patients were reluctant to go for the VCT due to stigma and discrimination. The Mafeteng horticulture project was behind schedule due to lack of funding.

Disaster Management

Goal: Lesotho Red Cross is adequately prepared to respond to disasters afflicting the most vulnerable people.

Objective: The disaster planning capacity of Lesotho Red Cross is strengthened.

Progress/achievements

Lesotho Red Cross national disaster management plan in place by the end of 2004

The consultation process for the disaster management policy and plan started and a number of stakeholders from the government and private sector are being consulted. Staff and volunteers have been given the opportunity to contribute to the drafting of the policy and plan. The final copies are expected to be completed by December 2004. This activity has been made possible through funding received from the Norwegian Red Cross through the 2004 appeal.

Training is carried out and trained personnel are in place.

In an effort to strengthen disaster response capacity of the national society, two staff members received advanced regional disaster response training (RDRT) in Zambia in September 2004. The training offered the national society an opportunity to strengthen its disaster preparedness and response capacities. These members of staff and others trained in basic disaster management have been used as resource persons in facilitating various disaster management related topics during food distributions.

Reduction in the impact of disasters

The early warning systems in selected disaster prone areas have not been established due to financial constraints.

Improvements in response during disaster situations

In an attempt to establish an operational framework, the Lesotho Red Cross has maintained its commitment to working with government and other stakeholders in disaster management. Lesotho Red Cross, as a recognized member of the national disaster management steering committee ensures that relevant reports are shared at all levels. In addition to that, Lesotho Red Cross ensured participation and representation of relevant stakeholders in disaster management workshops and trainings conducted by other stakeholders. In the ongoing joint food relief operation with WFP, Lesotho Red Cross society has been able to meet the standard operating procedures for distributions, showing an improvement in the management of food relief operations.

Better understanding of SPHERE standards by partners, and Lesotho Red Cross divisional and national levels.

The SPHERE training workshop was held from the 18 to 22 October 2004 and attended by 16 participants drawn from national society divisions, head office, including the secretary general and a participant from WFP. The training aimed at raising awareness on SPHERE minimum standards and humanitarian charter in disaster response and programming. The SPHERE trained staffs are expected to cascade the trainings to the divisions, communities they work with and other agencies, including the government disaster management department.

Improved food security to vulnerable population

Lesotho Red Cross, in partnership with WFP agency in Lesotho, is currently implementing food relief projects targeting 119,000 beneficiaries in Mafeteng, Thaba Tseka, Qacha's Nek, Quthing and Mokhotlong districts. The national society is embarking on a community-based food security pilot project targeting 500 beneficiaries, mainly HBC clients and OVC.

Lesotho; Appeal no. 01.13/2004; Programme Update no. 2

Impact

The on-going food security programme has helped beneficiaries improve their nutritional status, vital for the survival of HBC clients. The RDRT trained staff have also contributed to the increased disaster response capacity of the national society.

The knowledge and skills received during the SPHERE training assists in the drafting of the disaster management policy and plan, and improving the national society programming, monitoring and evaluation through the use of standards and indicators.

Constraints

The department realised limited funds and there is still a need for streamlining disaster management activities so as to support the Lesotho Red Cross's efforts to becoming well prepared national society.

Humanitarian Values

Goal: The Movement's Fundamental Principles and Red Cross humanitarian values are known and respected in all the Lesotho Red Cross ten divisions.

Objectives: Lesotho Red Cross has a positive image, the knowledge of the Movement is known and the national society has increased media visibility.

Improved image and better use of the emblem

The national society has established relationship with MoAfrika radio station and pays for 30-minute slots weekly to promote Lesotho Red Cross's role in fighting HIV and AIDS, the Movement principles and the proper use of the emblem.

Increased image visibility

A total of 67 volunteers undertook the information dissemination exercises during the food distributions in 236 villages. The Lesotho Red Cross information officer conducted dissemination sessions on humanitarian values, and raised awareness on the methods of reducing stigma and discrimination in Berea, Maseru, Mafeteng and Leribe districts. News items were also shared with the local media on the activities of the Red Cross commemorated days such as the World First Aid Day, International Risk Reduction day and The 6th Pan African Conference.

Materials promoting better understanding of the Movement are prepared and used in all districts sanitation, HIV and AIDS awareness and divisional development programme.

The Lesotho Red Cross quarterly newsletter was distributed in ten divisions, while four divisions distributed IEC materials only due to lack of funds.

Impact

The national society has support from the local media that provide timely coverage on the Red Cross important events. The response from the local media has increased the visibility of the national society as most of the media reports highlighted Red Cross activities.

Constraints

Due to limited funds the national society stopped using the Lesotho radio station, which has 95% coverage. However, the national society continues to use Moithapi radio station which provides a 30-minute radio programme for Lesotho Red Cross per week. Moithapi has a small coverage than Lesotho radio station.

Organizational development

Goal: Lesotho Red Cross has in place committed body of volunteers and staff as well as relevant structures that are sustained with appropriate leadership towards the promotion of a well-functioning national society.

Objectives: Change strategy towards increasing capacity at all Lesotho Red Cross levels is effective.

Lesotho Red Cross performance is improved at branch, division and headquarters level.

A new secretary general was hired beginning of October and has a long standing working partnership with Lesotho Red Cross through the government health and care programme that supports the Lesotho Red Cross clinics.

A total of 20 staff members from divisions and headquarters were trained in project planning process (PPP), which assisted the national society in preparing the 2005 annual appeal. In October the Federation supported the national society in training staff in skills development on how to apply SPHERE minimum standards in programme planning implementation and disaster preparedness and response.

Berea, Maseru, Mafeteng and Leribe districts with HBC project have also benefited significantly through the rental fees as income to the branch. This will invariably contribute to the division's core activities such as maintaining volunteer action teams.

Visibility and capacity of the national society is increased.

Some seven divisions (Mafeteng, Maseru, Butha Buthe, Thaba Tseka, Qacha's Nek, Quthing and Mohal's Hoek districts) engaged in the food security projects held disaster management training. The divisions played a lead role in recruitment and enrolment of their volunteers and members.

The financial capacities of divisional structures is improved

The regional finance development delegate visited the divisions to enhance their skills and knowledge on finance management. Financial management modules such as cash book analysis and ledger in addition to financial reporting were introduced. The aim of the Federation support is to strengthen the financial budgeting and reporting capacity of the national society.

Impact

The skills development training of staff has enabled the national society to produce project proposals on time and in some of the departments reporting has also improved. The computerization of the national society' accounting system has enabled the national society to prepare financial reports on time.

Constraints

Limited funding for Lesotho Red Cross 2004 annual appeal has negatively affected the implementation of the planned organizational development activities. There is still a need for the national society to strengthen its division and branches to effectively respond to the needs of the vulnerable communities. However, it is imperative that the regional organizational development continues to support the Lesotho Red Cross to become a well-functioning national society.

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

APPEAL No. 01.13/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

11/01/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,685,025		11.3%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				21,318		
NORWEGIAN - RC				126,000	19.01.04	FINANCE DELEGATE
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		230,000	NOK	43,470	25.04.04	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS/RESPONSE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				190,788	CHF	11.3%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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