

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

MALAWI

30 November 2004

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In Brief

Appeal No. 01.14/2004; Programme Update no. 3; Period covered: July to November 2004; Appeal coverage: 6.5%; Outstanding needs: CHF 2,742,079 (USD 2,284,100 or EUR 1,792,800).
[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

Appeal target: CHF 2,933,344 (USD 2,203,037 or EUR 1,888,216)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Malawi 2005 Annual Appeal no. 05AA011 –
http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA011.pdf

Programme summary: The Malawi Red Cross Society¹ HIV/AIDS project is giving care and support to approximately 3,750 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). The food given to clients through the WFP-supported food security operation has improved their quality of life. Increased numbers of orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) have been supported through the community-based child care centres (CBCCC) run in collaboration with UNICEF and the support of the communities.

The disaster management programme has continued to implement two main programmes: care and maintenance of refugee support programme as an implementing partner of UNHCR in Dzaleka and Luwani refugee camps, and targeted food distribution for the chronically ill and supplementary feeding to malnourished children under-five and lactating/pregnant mothers.

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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 Malawi Red Cross Society – <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=110>

Operational developments

The Malawi Red Cross has signed a MOU with WFP to implement food distributions to tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS (chronically ill) patients in Salima and Karonga district. The vulnerability assessment committee also recommended to WFP to implement food-for-work development projects in the same districts. The national society has been monitoring the food security project which is supported by the Federation. There is active involvement of government and Malawi Red Cross divisions or volunteer groups in terms of proper use and maintenance of the irrigation pumps. In Mwanza, Karonga, Zomba, Mchinji and Dowa districts beneficiaries have increased food production from winter cropping enabled by the small scale treadle pumps irrigation project.

With support from the Federation regional delegation and bilateral partner national societies (PNS: Danish Red Cross and American Red Cross), the national society conducted a management review and analysis in August and September 2004. The review team consulted and interviewed governance and management at headquarters and district level, volunteers, stakeholders such as the government officials, auditors and supporting partners. The review concentrated on four core organizational development areas:

- governance and management;
- departmental structure and division;
- operational and financial management; and,
- human resource development.

Two board members were assigned to assist with the development of a volunteer management policy. Plans are already underway for the development of the national society strategy. The results of the review will be discussed mid-December 2004 with the Federation, ICRC and interested partners

Health and Care

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

Health and Care: HIV/AIDS

Objective: The spread of HIV/AIDS is reduced among 100,000 youths and the quality of life of 6,000 PLWHA and 25,000 OVC is improved by the end of 2007.

Progress and achievements

6,000 PLWHA have access to Malawi Red Cross Society home-based care (HBC) services

During the reporting period, the HIV/AIDS programme consolidated the HBC projects through monitoring visits to approximately 3,750 clients supported through the network of care facilitators. A total of 50 care facilitators attended refresher courses conducted in Lilongwe and Mchinji. These volunteers were further trained on how to conduct referrals, data collection tool, nutrition and basic nursing care. In Chiradzulu district, two new support groups were established and three old support groups re-activated.

The national society has put in place the criteria for clients' entry and exit from the HBC. A research on HBC volunteer management has been done and the findings will be presented to National AIDS Commission, and these findings will influence volunteer policy particularly on HBC volunteer incentives.

25,000 OVC have improved quality of life through community-based orphan care approach by the end of 2007.

The OVC material support strategy was developed and a monitoring system was revised to be in line with Malawi National AIDS Commission national monitoring, on OVC component indicators. Approximately 3,600 most vulnerable orphans were identified and 420 OVC received material support at CBCCC within HBC projects.

Training in preparation for integration of Memory work in the HBC program was conducted in collaboration with the Federation regional team and Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI) partners. Building material for three CBCCC were provided and 36 of them received recreational and educational materials.

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6,000 most vulnerable PLWHA and 25,000 OVC receive nutritional support through food security initiatives.

Fields for nutritional gardens for the three community-based childcare centres were procured and garden tools, fertilizer and seeds distributed. Nutrition gardens will benefit the 420 OVC at the CBCCC though supplementing their diet.

The rights of PLWHA and OVC are advocated for

The Chiefs' AIDS Campaign team in Mchinji continued to work within the community to reduce stigma and discrimination. Support groups provided forums to discuss stigma and discrimination including the two new support groups in Chiradzulu district. In total eight anti-stigma campaigns were conducted during the reporting period, one campaign per district in eight of the 12 districts.

Knowledge, attitudes, practices and behaviour of 100,000 youths/OVC (10-24 years) are improved through in- and out- of-school youth peer education by the end of 2007.

In all the projects, approximately 3,600 OVC have received education on HIV prevention. Approximately 120,000 condoms were distributed to youth.

Impact

Volunteer support visits have improved the emotional status of the clients. The clients have been motivated to go for VCT and a total of 210 were tested and are now on anti-retroviral drugs provided by the government. A study conducted in Mchinji HBC project confirmed that the quality of life for HBC clients has improved. The clients expressed self-esteem. They cited the food component to have helped them improve physically.

OVC in community childcare centres have at least a meal a day and consequently improved their nutritional status. A community involvement in care and support for OVC has increased, as communities are able to mobilize themselves to build structures for community-based childcare. Community leaders are supporting volunteers in organizing campaigns.

Stigma and discrimination has been reduced as more people are going for HIV testing and joining support groups. It is now acceptable by the community that HBC volunteers visit clients.

Constraints

The concept of integration is not well understood by all partner national societies supporting the program. It has been very difficult for partner national societies to understand the rationale behind integrating OVC activities with HBC. This led to delays in approving budgets for 2004 as much time was spent justifying integration. It is recommended that clear integration guidelines/policy be developed and disseminated to all stakeholders.

Delays in signing a MOU with the American Red Cross led to four projects failing to get adequate funding to implement planned activities. Management and the board made follow-ups and a proposal to support the affected districts was developed.

The HIV/AIDS department is understaffed at the national level, affecting monitoring and reporting. The four HBC projects in Blantyre, Mchinji, Lilongwe and Zomba have inadequate logistical equipment, such as computers and vehicles, leading to delayed programme implementation.

Health and Care: Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

Objective: Establishment of sound, sustainable environmental services for vulnerable population (15,000) in Mchinji district, Mduwa territorial area by 2005 in water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Detailed assessment of the project area, based on the demand for water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion and income received at the time of the assessment have redefined the objective and expected results of the project. The number of beneficiaries of the project has reduced from approximately 30,000 to 15,000 people as the income is less than the appeal budget. The actual 2004 income at the date of this report is CHF 159,000 from Irish Red Cross, with the remaining CHF 17,000 being income carried over from 2003.

Progress/Achievements

The water and sanitation team has completed the outstanding work from the 2003 project in Nkhotakota district. The 2004 project implementation began in June and it is expected that the project objective will be reached by the end of 2004. The water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion project coordinates with the Malawi Red Cross HIV/AIDS interventions in this district.

Hygiene promotion/ sanitation promotion volunteers effectively cover target population of 15,000 by year 2005

A total of 54 people have been trained in hygiene promotion in Mduwa area of Mchinji district (40 community volunteers, six SanPlats² sanitary platform (SanPlat) latrine slab casting artisans and eight government extension workers). They were trained in SanPlat latrine slab casting, hygiene promotion, and problem solving and planning and reporting. They are now working with the 15,000 beneficiaries to reach the project objectives and to improve hygiene behaviours.

Sustainable sanitation promotion (hardware) unit established in Medusa territorial area that distributes no less than 500 SanPlats to households who build adequate traditional latrines by 2005

Two construction hardware units have been established in Medusa and have produced and distributed 100 SanPlats.

37 viable, fully functioning and adequate community management water supplies in low-income villages by 200 (50 hand pump rehabilitations, seven new boreholes fitted with hand pumps)

A total of 44 boreholes have been rehabilitated and four new boreholes have been drilled in Medusa.

57 community-based operation and maintenance and cost recovery systems established and functioning by 2005

A total of 57 water point committees formed to manage the water points and 15 of the committees have been trained operation and maintenance.

Water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion projects efficiently and effectively implemented using demand responsive community management approaches by 2005.

The programme officer is an active member of the National Water and Sanitation Collaborative Council where lessons learnt and best practices are shared and advocated for amongst different partners in the water and sanitation sector. The lead is the ministry of water development.

Income received is the same as the income of 2003 and the project manager is planning to contact local donor agencies and the Irish Red Cross to advocate for increased funding in 2005.

Capacity to respond, (and response if necessary) to disasters requiring water, sanitation and hygiene promotion response

There were no disasters requiring a water, sanitation and hygiene promotion response in this reporting period. The project has trained technicians who are able to respond to water and sanitation needs in the event of a disaster.

Assistance to bilateral water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion projects

The regional water and sanitation department assisted bilateral projects funded by the Danish, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross, by supervising drilling and construction works, contracting of drilling companies, preparation of drilling contracts and training of water point committees. Over 39 boreholes fitted with hand pumps have been constructed in these projects and 13 water point committees trained in community management.

² SanPlat (sanitation platform) is a concrete latrine slab that can be integrated into any existing traditional latrine system.

Impact

Better access to safe water and sanitation not only leads to improvement in health, but also saves time and energy and enhances livelihood opportunities. Approximately 15,000 people were reached with hygiene promotion and 12,000 people now have access to safe water within a thirty minute round trip from their homes and with a capacity to ensure 15 litres of water per person per day.

Constraints

Federation and national society financial procedures continue to delay the project to a minor extent. Both organizations are working to improve these systems. The water and sanitation project is going over budget on personnel. The regional water and sanitation delegate is looking into the reasons for this under budgeting and this will be reported on in the final report. The financial report does not tally with activities as the Federation has yet to receive the invoices from the national society made against the activities completed.

Disaster Management

Goal: The vulnerability of communities in disaster-prone areas is reduced.

Objective: The capacity of Malawi Red Cross Society in providing appropriate and timely assistance to communities threatened or affected by disasters is increased by 2007.

Progress/Achievements

The disaster management programme has not attracted any funding through the appeal and therefore planned activities have not been effectively implemented as follows;

- Malawi Red Cross capacity in disaster management is strengthened and exhibits minimum standards of well-prepared national society.
- The long-term food security of 5,500 beneficiaries in Mwanza, Karonga, Zomba, Mchinji and Dowa districts is improved through a combined small-scale irrigation and seeds assistance by 2007.

Food security activities were implemented through partnerships with bilateral partner national societies, WFP and in collaboration with other programmes; water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS and health and care. The government has been offering technical support to the Malawi Red Cross Treadle irrigation project in Mwanza, Karonga, Zomba, Mchinji and Dowa districts.

Malawi Red Cross signed a MOU with WFP to support 25,300 people from July to December 2004. The programme will be implemented in Salima and Karonga districts and targeting HIV/AIDS and TB patients, and food insecure households to participate in food-for-work projects.

The food security programme activities being implemented include rehabilitation of roads, community forestry, growing fruit tree, irrigation canal excavation and seed multiplication. In Karonga district a water canal has been excavated and thereby increasing access of irrigation water up to three kilometres from the lake.

The disaster management has continued implanting the C-SAFE³ programme under which targeted food distribution for the chronically ill and supplementary feeding to malnourished under-five children and lactating/pregnant mothers in five districts, of Chitipa, Karonga, Rumphi, Ntchisi and Nkhotakota.

During the reporting period the refugee programme activities were implemented as planned and adhering to the SPHERE minimum standards and the code of conduct. Under this programme WFP is providing food and UNHCR is providing the funds for operating and capital costs. The national society's role is to provide psychological support services and conduct actual distributions of the food to the refugees.

Impact

The food security programmes implemented by Malawi Red Cross have improved the lives of the most vulnerable, which are now productive and feeding for their families. Rehabilitation of feeder roads has contributed to the socio-economic development of the population through easier access to markets and major social services.

³ C-SAFE – Consortium for Southern Africa Food Emergency

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Constraints

Lack of funding for disaster management sector has hindered capacity building in the core area. Insufficient funding to support the national disaster management coordinator and the plan of action for 2004 led to limited implementation of disaster management activities.

Organizational Development

Goal: The lives of the most vulnerable people in Malawi are improved as Malawi Red Cross Society works towards a well-functioning national society.

Objective: Malawi Red Cross Society capacity to design and implement their strategic directions is improved.

Progress/Achievements

National Society strategic plan

The national society began dialogue with all partners involved in the review of the strategic plan. Programme officers are preparing for this review which is aimed at redesigning the direction of the national society, with more focus on food insecurity. A strategic planning workshop is planned for December 2004 to finalise the document

National Society capacity building

The management review has now been completed by a local consultant, Management Services International and held meetings with the national executive board, management, Federation and partner national societies to discuss the report. A meeting to finalise the discussion and draft a plan of action for the implementation of the recommendations will be held beginning of December 2004.

Branch development

Since the engagement of the finance and development officer, the national society managed to provide technical support to the committees involved in the running of the maize mills. The main focus was on the development of a sound monitoring mechanism and support service. So far, the Mzimba maize mill is doing very well and the committee is motivated and an assessment for a possibility of the second maize-mill in Mzimba has been completed.

Finance Development

A finance development officer has been hired for a period of one year with a provision of extending for another six months depending on work progress. Main functions are:

- To review and update the current financial procedures;
- To review the current roles and responsibilities in the finance department and develop recommendations;
- To review and update the current financial controls;
- To recommend the accounting systems that will suit the Malawi Red Cross operations; and,
- To train staff and volunteers at every level on the new recommendations.

Resource Development

The construction of an additional office complex on the same plot with the headquarters office is at an advanced stage with roofing being completed. Tenants will occupy the offices in January 2005.

The rehabilitation of the national society training centre in Dowa is progressing. The training centre is expected to mobilize funds through hiring services to other organizations.

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

APPEAL No. 01.14/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

01/12/2004

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|

CASH

| | | | | | | TOTAL COVERAGE |
|--------------------------------|--|---------|-----|-----------|----------|---------------------------|
| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> | | | | 2,933,344 | | 6.5% |
| CASH CARRIED FORWARD | | | | 31,864 | | |
| IRISH - RC | | 101,175 | EUR | 159,401 | 16.03.04 | WATER/SANITATION PHASE II |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH | | | | 191,265 | CHF | 6.5% |

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 | |