

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

BOTSWANA

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In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA009; Programme Update no. 2; Period covered: July to November 2005; Appeal coverage: 1.2%; Outstanding needs: CHF 460,951 (USD 351,335 or EUR 297,868).

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

Programme Update no. 1 dated 31 July 2005 issued- <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA00901.pdf>

Appeal target: CHF 466,544 (USD 370,600 or EUR 300,500)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Programme summary: In line with the government HIV/AIDS strategic framework, the Botswana Red Cross Society¹ is concentrating its efforts on HIV/AIDS prevention, advocacy and home-based care support- including psychosocial support to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC).

The national society took part in the measles and Vitamin A campaign which concentrated on three districts- Ngamiland, Chobe and Kgatleng. The campaign focused on social mobilization, screening and recording of beneficiaries.

The Botswana Red Cross Society has successfully conducted a General Assembly and new governance structures have been put in place at national and provincial level. The Federation regional delegation and the Danish Red Cross have been providing support in organizational development, governance and management issues.

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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 Botswana Red Cross Society- <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=34>

Operational developments

Based on ARCHI 2010, the Botswana Red Cross Society is implementing its activities to reduce the vulnerability of those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The support groups are being strengthened to provide a platform where people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) meet to share experiences and coping mechanisms. The government continued providing anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and food parcels to PLWHA and home-based care (HBC) clients.

The Botswana government has taken a strong lead in the fight against HIV/AIDS but very little progress has been made so far in terms of reducing infection rates. Botswana was the first country in Africa to offer ART and a countywide prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) programme. However ART take-up has been low so far and stigma remains the biggest obstacle in fighting HIV/AIDS and accessing voluntary counselling and testing (VCT).

The secretary general of the national society put forward a request to the Federation for support with an organizational development delegate for a period of three to four months and the Danish Red Cross responded by availing its bilateral delegate from Malawi to regularly visit the Botswana Red Cross Society and to coach senior management in close relation with the regional organizational development officers. The Federation regional delegation continued to prioritize support to the Botswana Red Cross Society in the area of organizational development in order to assist building up the institutional capacity and its progress towards operating as a well-functioning national society. An assessment mission was undertaken in the first quarter of 2005 by Federation regional delegation and Danish Red Cross to review the situation, assess the needs and to identify strategies for continued support to strengthening governance, management, branch development, finance development, resource mobilization, HIV/AIDS intervention and disaster management.

The Botswana Red Cross Society held an Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 29 September 2005 and elected a new president and board. The AGM follows after a series of branch elections conducted earlier in the month. The Federation head of regional delegation, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) cooperation delegate and the Southern African Partnership of Red Cross Societies (SAPRCS) chairperson attended the AGM and assisted in the procedures and protocol to ensure concrete results and an effective elections process. The new president set up priorities for the Botswana Red Cross Society and expects feedback by March 2006. The former president, who is the first lady, remains as honorary president.

The national society updated the telecommunication and information technology system, in view of improving connectivity and office effectiveness and efficiency. A short term volunteer is working with the national society to upgrade the communication infrastructure and has finalized the project proposal which is still under funded.

Health and care- HIV/AIDS

Goal: Sustainable improvements in the health and well being of targeted vulnerable populations.

Objective: The impact of the HIV/AIDS programme has increased by the end of 2005 through the quality and reach of the programme.

Progress/Achievements:

Knowledge, attitudes, practices and behaviour of additional 20,000 youth and 30,000 adults is improved.

- The youth peer education programme continues in Moshupa, Kanye and Tonota districts where young adults are provided with life skills development, drama skills and knowledge on HIV/AIDS prevention.

A total of 200 people in Chobe and Tutame districts receive care and support.

- The government supports ART and food parcels provision which have greatly improved the health condition of many PLWHA, with some able to function well and to return to work.
- Care facilitators are now mainly focusing on community-based health education as they have fewer bedridden HBC clients to look after. The care facilitators play an important role in working with the PLWHA on ART adherence.

A total of 500 OVC receive psychological and social support.

- Small numbers of OVC have been supported so far, mainly through the mentoring programme in Kasane district. However, in view of the scale of the increasing number of OVC in Botswana and the needs of children who have not only been orphaned (120,000 children have been orphaned through AIDS so far) but also children who are made vulnerable through caring for their sick parents or siblings, dropping out of school, facing stigma, discrimination and abuse, the Botswana Red Cross Society decided to scale up its support to OVC.
- A situational analysis on OVC was conducted in Chobe, Moshupa, and Kanye where the national society has HIV/AIDS programmes. A detailed project proposal has been developed on the basis of the data collected and this will be marketed to potential donors for support and consequently scaling up in 2006.

Increased openness and acceptance of PLWHA and OVC.

- The Botswana Red Cross Society is implementing various activities, based on ARCHI 2010, to reduce the vulnerability of those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. For example, a support group with a horticultural project was established in Kazangula where members meet to share experiences and testimonies, stigma and discrimination are slowly eroding.

Improved capacity of national society to implement the HIV/AIDS programme through their branches.

- The Botswana Red Cross Society recently employed a new branch development officer who conducted assessments in branches, identified their needs and assisted with preparations for the Annual General Meeting.
- In areas where there were no committee, new people were elected and guided on their responsibilities as well as on the mandate of the Red Cross. A follow up was made to train committee members on administration and financial management during the AGM. It is essential that branches become stronger so that they can take ownership of programmes to be scaled up in 2006

Impact:

The situation analysis conducted on the plight of OVC provided information on their need allowing the national society to identify a niche for Red Cross support, ensuring a firm foundation for the new OVC programme to be implemented in 2006, complementary to other stakeholders' programmes in the country.

Constraints:

- Due to a high turn over youth peer educators, further training is required for new youth peer educators.
- The previous HIV/AIDS coordinator left the national society in March 2005 and was not replaced until September. This gap in programme management and supervision meant that field officers, staff and volunteers working on the HIV/AIDS programme received little support and guidance.
- Intensive work needs to be done immediately to ensure that existing HIV/AIDS projects are well functioning and are of quality before scaling up.

Disaster management

Goal: Improved disaster preparedness and response mechanisms to enable vulnerable communities to cope with the effects of disaster through capacity building and appropriate interventions.

Objective: Enhanced national society capacity in disaster management through capacity building and community empowerment interventions.

Progress/Achievements:

Botswana Red Cross capacity in disaster management is strengthened through the establishment of minimum standards of a well prepared national society.

- Due to non-funding of the disaster management programme through the Federation annual appeal, none of the planned activities could be implemented during the reporting period.

Improved national society preparedness and response through capacity building of staff and volunteers.

- The regional disaster response team (RDRT) trained members continue to offer a pivotal role in disaster management in the national society. During the reporting period, they assisted with distributing relief items to 200 Lotsane Senior Secondary School boys in the form of blankets and clothes after their hostel caught fire and burnt to ashes. Furthermore, ten families with 74 beneficiaries were assisted with blankets, clothes and tents after they lost property through several domestic fire incidences.
- The national disaster management officer attended a RDRT training workshop held from 16 September to 1 October 2005 in Windhoek, Namibia. The RDRT training is an initiative considered as the basis of building and enhancing regional disaster response capacities. The objectives of the training are to increase skilled personnel, improve the quality of disaster assessments, and encourage close co-ordination with a variety of partners, quick decision-making and rapid deployment of resources. The RDRT training curriculum follows the disaster response cycle, including policies of disaster response, assessment, tools of disaster response and support functions to disaster response. To date the Botswana Red Cross Society has five active RDRT trained members whilst seven others have left the national society.

Vulnerable communities empowered through community disaster awareness training, risk and hazard analysis in three disaster prone regions.

- The Botswana Red Cross Society held a disaster risk reduction commemoration day on the 12 October 2005 at the Gaborone City main mall. Information on disasters response was displayed and video cassettes on the Fundamental Principles were played for the members of the public.
- The national society continues to play a key role in the initiatives of the National Disaster Management Committee and the Technical Committee.

Improved refugee services in health and care are achieved through well coordinated services.

- Refugee services at Dukwi Refugee camp, funded through the UNHCR, are continuing but Botswana Red Cross Society services are limited due to lack of funding. The Dukwi refugee camp is experiencing sanitation problems because of continued littering and vandalism of community latrines.
- The Botswana Red Cross Society is providing supply of building material for a total of 280 family latrines and would like to strengthen interventions on environmental cleanliness. The community provides the labour in terms of digging the latrines. The project is however hindered by lack of resources.
- The national society has realised that little or nothing is being done for needy, unaccompanied and orphaned children at Dukwi refugee camp and is planning to extend OVC support to the camp.

Impact

- The Botswana Red Cross Society continues to be the leading disaster management agent in the country and is the first to respond to any disaster. It has been able to provide relief to the affected population within the country and continues to mobilize resources locally to respond to disasters.
- In 2005 Botswana Red Cross Society offered relief to more than 600 people including those not classified as refugees but in difficult situations.

Constraints

- The disaster management department has limited financial and human resources affecting the implementation of planned activities.
- The department also lacks a laptop for purpose of field visit, assessments, reports and information documentation. It had limited access to internet which makes it difficult to draw very critical information for early warnings and preparedness.

Organizational development

Goal: The Botswana Red Cross Society has an improved capacity to deliver quality services to the most vulnerable people through the implementation of characteristics of the well-functioning national society requirements.

Objective: The capacity of Botswana Red Cross Society governance and management has been developed for improved service delivery by national society.

Progress/Achievements:

The Botswana Red Cross society has well structured governance that supports the effective implementation of programmes.

- Botswana Red Cross Society has been putting efforts in reviving its branches, strengthening governance and management capacity. The national society has also started working on the volunteer policy and developing its volunteer base. The newly recruited branch development officer aims at harmonizing working relationship with social and community development department in the district councils to utilize the services rendered.
- The branch development officer undertook a trip to assess the situation of branches, identify needs, and prepare for the AGM. With the support of the Federation regional delegation and Danish Red Cross, the trip was successful and mobilized a good turn-out for the AGM. In areas where there were no committees, such committees were elected and guided on the responsibilities as well as the mandate of the Red Cross. The national society now needs governance and management orientation on their roles and responsibilities in early 2006. A follow up was made to train branch committees on administration and financial management and the link with the head office after the AGM.

Botswana Red Cross Society has in place effective management systems that support programme implementation.

- Technical and financial support is still required to help the national society reorganize its programme section and human resources for the key areas if meaningful programme and projects are to be implemented. The national society has already started the discussion to review its Statutes and to develop a more comprehensive strategic plan. The society also submitted a capacity building proposal to the Federation Capacity Building Fund.
- The national society runs children's day-care centres and during the reporting period has reinforced knowledge and skills of teachers to improve the quality of child care provided. A training workshop for 29 day-care centre teachers was conducted in April 2005. The workshop also included community-based first aid training for the teachers. A follow up on progress was conducted during this reporting period.

Botswana Red Cross Society has functional branches in place that are actively participating in project implementation.

- The national branch development officer conducted support visits to several divisions in August and September 2005, meeting stakeholders, government officials, chiefs and local councillors. During the meetings conducted with Red Cross branches, members were educated on their roles and rights as stipulated in the Constitution and were informed about the election process and Red Cross programmes activities.
- A number of recommendations were highlighted that needed to be undertaken by the head office and the branches and divisions. These were:
 - There is a need for field officers, with transport capacity in order to help in the programme development, monitoring and office administration in the branches and divisions that are active;
 - There is a need to process membership cards as soon as submissions are made to head office;
 - There is a need for headquarters' staff to visit branches and divisions regularly so as to motivate them and to clear pending issues which need technical advice.
 - Children day-care centres need to have separate accounts from divisions for purposes of transparency and accountability, pending resolution of divisional committee administrative issues, which is the main problem that needs immediate attention. In some situation, reports have disappeared and treasurers were nowhere to be found. This made it difficult for the incoming executive committee to follow-up on what has been done by the branches and divisions.

Botswana Red Cross Society improves financial skills of staff in finance department.

- The national society will carry out a human resource review which will be the basis upon which support in finance development will be based on in 2006. Some of the Red Cross branches have structures which are rented out to churches as a fund-raising initiative. However, due to lack of proper financial capacity, some of the funds have not yet been accounted for. The children day-care centres lack managers with proper accounting skills also rendering management problems.

Impact

Through the Federation regional delegation support, the national society held an AGM and a president and governing board member were elected. This was done with representatives from 12 branches and six divisions after eight years without holding elections of board members.

Constraints

- The Botswana Red Cross Society branches are ineffective and not well functioning due to lack of proper project planning, coaching, control and support. During visits, it became clear that some of the executive committee members elected into office, lack financial management skills. There is a need to continuously educate members on Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values.
- There is lack of youth integration within branches and divisions. Communication between headquarters and branches is inefficient leaving a lot undone in terms of programme implementation and follow up. Support visit to branches should be more regular to provide technical support. Some branches raised the need for field officers and vehicles in order to help in office administration. The issue was discussed at length and referred to the headquarters as it has implications on the budget.
- Another major constraint currently faced by the Botswana Red Cross Society is the challenge to retain staff as the national society offers lower salaries than the public and private sector. This will be addressed by the new governing board.

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

