

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

29 December, 2005

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. 05AA011; Programme Update no.2, Period covered: July to November, 2005; Appeal coverage: 37.8 %; Outstanding needs: CHF 535,493 (USD 408,150 or EUR 346,037).

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

Programme Update no. 1 refer to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA01101.pdf>

Appeal target: CHF860,784 (USD 683,700 or EUR 554,500)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Southern Africa: Food Insecurity 05EA023

Programme summary: Malawi is severely affected by the drought, particularly the southern and central parts of the country. The country is suffering from structural food insecurity, exacerbated by two consecutive poor harvests. The Federation launched the *Southern Africa Food Insecurity Appeal 05EA023 in October 2005*, for seven countries¹ including Malawi. Through a coordinated operation with Malawi Red Cross Society as the implementing partner, the Federation regional delegation appealed to support a total of 580,500 people with food assistance, livelihood approach, provision of safe water and adequate sanitation.

Malawi Red Cross Society has applied for the Federation Capacity Building Funds (CBF) for CHF 50,000 and a long term proposal of CHF 100, 000. The Federation regional organizational development department has already advanced the national society with CHF 25,000.

The regional finance development delegate in collaboration with a Microsoft Business Solution partner installed an automated accounting system, Navision in October 2005 at the headquarters to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in finance management. The national society has appointed a new secretary general, formerly director of programmes.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Malawi:** Lawson, Kasamale, Secretary General, Malawi Red Cross Society; Email mrcs@eomw.net; Phone + 265.1.775.290; Fax +265.1.775.590
- **In Zimbabwe:** Françoise Le Goff, Head of Southern Africa Regional Delegation, Harare; Email: ifrczw02@ifrc.org; Phone: + 263.47.06.15., + 263.4.70.61.56; Fax; + 263.4.70.87.84
- **In Geneva:** Terry Carney, Federation Regional Officer for Southern Africa, Email: terry.carney@ifrc.org;

¹ Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Malawi; Appeal no. 05AA011; Programme Update no. 2

Phone; +41.22.730.42.98, Fax +41. 22.733.03.97

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>

Operational developments

Malawi which is ranked 165 out of 177 countries in the world Human Development Index in 2005 is currently facing a life threatening food insecurity crisis. The country is prone to drastic climatic changes that expose the country to natural disasters of both extremes - drought which leads to food insecurity and heavy rainfalls that exposes the country to floods. The single major natural resource, agricultural land is under severe pressure from rapid population growth. On 14 October 2005, the government declared a state of disaster for all 28 districts due to the food insecurity situation. There are indications that the crisis may already be surpassing worst-case scenarios in some areas, particularly in the southern parts of the country. An estimated 46,000 children are severely malnourished, and a further 92,000 moderately malnourished children could become severely malnourished if they do not receive urgent food assistance. Although the government has responded by establishing the 'Feed the Nation Fund' and declaring the national disaster state that has resulted in the UN, EU, Britain and the World Bank pledging support of over US\$100 million, the food crisis has reached a critical point with unconfirmed reports indicating that over 37 people have died of the starvation related causes.

High levels of poverty leave many households with limited access to staple foods and an estimated 4.2 million people will require food assistance during the 2005/06 marketing year. However, if the price of maize rises significantly, the number in need of assistance could rise to 4.6 million people. The food gap that needs to be filled by humanitarian assistance is 272,000 metric tonnes (MT). During the reporting period, 150,000 MT (55% of the identified gap) has been pledged by donors leaving a gap of 122,000 MT that still needs to be filled. The water situation in the southern and central regions is critical and response to the crisis has been poor. The Malawi Red Cross Society is well positioned to respond to the crisis owing to staff experienced in relief as well as long term food security initiatives being implemented.

On 18 October 2005, the Federation regional delegation launched the *Southern Africa: Food Insecurity Emergency Appeal* to assist 1,5 million affected people in seven countries in the region, including Malawi. This nine month operation aims to support the population with targeted food distribution and building their capacities to enhance livelihood through community-based activities conducted by Red Cross national societies. The operation also reflects the Federation commitment to move from relief assistance into longer-term sustainable programming. Donor response to the Emergency Appeal had been slow which is limiting the initial phase of the operation, despite the need to scale up the assistance to the affected people. However, the operations operation has commenced in Malawi due to the fact that it is one of the countries most affected by the food insecurity crisis.

The government of Malawi launched the first national HIV/AIDS policy which focuses on disease prevention and education to combat the spread of the pandemic. The policy process confronted the stigma and secrecy around HIV/AIDS in Malawi by engaging the public in dialogue and addressing contentious issues. National HIV prevalence is about twice as high in the southern region as in the north and central regions. Most of the new infections in Malawi are occurring among the age group 15-24 years. Given this scenario it is envisaged that with the current critical food crisis, the spread of HIV/AIDS may increase due to desperation whilst the health of the already infected may deteriorate owing to lack of nutrition. Consequently this may increase the number of dependents in a country already overwhelmed by the number of orphans and other children made vulnerable by the

Malawi; Appeal no. 05AA011; Programme Update no. 2

effects of HIV/AIDS (OVC). Malawi Red Cross Society is currently implementing a number of home based care (HBC) projects in the country including the most affected areas such as Machining and Mwanza.

With support from the Federation regional delegation, partner national societies, government and other international organizations, Malawi Red Cross Society continues to play a significant role in providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities. Community-based health and care programme is operational in six districts; three funded by Danish Red Cross Society (Karonga, Dedza and Balaka) and the other three funded by Netherlands Red Cross Society (Kasungu, Dowa and Ntchisi). HIV/AIDS projects are implemented in 14 districts with funding from Federation, Danish and Icelandic Red Cross Societies, National AIDS Commission (NAC) and UNHCR. The Danish, Irish, Netherlands, Spanish Red Cross Societies and Federation have been supporting water and sanitation projects. Spanish Red Cross Society is supporting the treadle irrigation project in one district and income generation projects in three districts. UNHCR, WFP and NAC are supporting refugee programme operations in Luwani and Dzaleka camps.

ICRC provides support to strengthen the capacity of the information department in the areas of communication, tracing activities, dissemination of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values. Icelandic and Malawi Red Cross Societies have recently developed a memorandum of understanding to support the activities of the information department.

Following support from the Federation regional delegation and Microsoft Business Solution, Malawi Red Cross Society is implementing the Navision accounting software, starting at the headquarters rolling out to divisions. The implementation of the Management Review recommendations is being affected by inadequate funding and the Federation regional delegation is in the process of accessing the CBF to support the national society in the change process.

Health and care

HIV/AIDS

Goal: Sustainable improvement in health and well being of targeted populations.

Objective: Incidence of HIV infection in the community and staff has been reduced and quality of life of PLWHA and their affected families and friends improved.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Risk reduction behaviour promoted among 8,000 youths and general community

- Malawi Red Cross Society established seven new youth peer education projects where HIV/AIDS prevention activities and psychological support targeted at OVC will be provided. The national HIV/AIDS coordinator also organised four youth peer education refresher courses conducted in the districts. Since the prevention activities target the youth and communities, 11 youth clubs were established to increase coverage of the project. The national society printed and distributed 700 T-shirts with HIV/AIDS messages as promotional material for the prevention project.

A non-discriminatory workplace environment is promoted in which PLWHA are able to be open about their HIV status to management without fear of stigma or discrimination

- The Malawi Red Cross Society workplace policy was adopted by the board and a work place health care task force established to develop a medical scheme for workers. A member of staff attended training on management of HIV/AIDS work place programmes in South Africa supported by UNHCR and will be instrumental in supporting the development of the work place policy.

Capacity of national society to monitor and supervise program activities is improved

- All 12 district project officers were trained in the National HIV/AIDS monitoring framework in order to improve the management of the projects. Malawi Red Cross Society shared its report on HIV/AIDS

Malawi; Appeal no. 05AA011; Programme Update no. 2

initiatives with the National AIDS Commission on a monthly and quarterly basis, resulting in raising the profile and image of the national society among key stakeholders.

- The HIV/AIDS department has successfully conducted its programme planning and review meetings on quarterly basis as planned. In this manner the programme is able to monitor and evaluate progress on the project, and mapping out action plans to cover the gaps.

Impact:

- Malawi Red Cross Society management and the board are giving priority to the work place policy and health and care of its employees. Such non-cash benefit will go a long way in motivating staff and lengthen their service with the national society.
- Through HBC, HIV/AIDS prevention activities, the numbers of HIV positive HBC clients are disclosing their status, going for voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) and accessing antiretroviral therapy (ART).
- Through peer education activities, many youths have gained valuable information and skills on HIV/AIDS. The life skills imparted have contributed to the change of beliefs and attitudes of youths. There is a marked increase of the use of condoms where 440,000 were distributed during the reporting period.

Constraints:

- There are no vehicles in Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mchinji and Zomba districts, making management of HIV/AIDS programmes difficult. Poor information management in four districts is making it difficult to manage information. The food insecurity situation persists and this increases the vulnerability of the HBC clients and OVC.

Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

Objective: Establishment of sound, sustainable environmental services for vulnerable population (10,000) in Lilongwe district, Masula territorial area (T/A) by 2006 in water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Sustainable sanitation promotion (hardware) unit established in T/A Masula that distributes no less than 400 Sanitary Platforms (SanPlats) to households who build adequate traditional latrines by 2006

- The water and sanitation department planned to fabricate 400 SanPlats and 15 were fabricated from January to June and another 200 during the reporting period. A total of 117 family latrines have been constructed and the project is in the process of purchasing materials for casting more SanPlats in the project areas.

40 viable, fully functioning and adequate community managed water supplies in low-income villages by 2005 (35 hand pump rehabilitation, 5 new boreholes fitted with hand pumps)

- The objective called for the rehabilitation and establishment of a total of 40 water points. From the beginning of the year, 23 water points have been rehabilitated with 18 during the reporting period. The project is in the process of finalizing rehabilitation work and drilling for new water points in Masula.

40 community-based operation and maintenance and cost recovery system established and functioning by 2006

- The national society revived 25 and formed five new water point committees cumulative from beginning of the year. The project is in the process of forming more water point when the work starts in other villages.

Increased resources for water/sanitation and hygiene promotion projects, and contribution to sector policies, best practices, coordination and cooperation by 2006

- The Federation regional delegation submitted the European Commission – ACP-EU Water Facility Actions in ACP countries proposal on 15 September 2005 for a total of EURO 2,752,568. If successful, Malawi Red Cross Society with support from Federation regional delegation will work the with Irish, Netherlands, and Spanish Red Cross Societies on the planned three years water and sanitation project.
- Malawi is one of the four countries with Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe in the region to benefit from support in WatSan activities from the European Commission. The proposed Malawi Red Cross Society action supported by the Federation regional delegation will build upon these general targets and the

Malawi; Appeal no. 05AA011; Programme Update no. 2

Millennium Development Goals by improving access to primary level of WatSan facilities and household food security, targeting the most vulnerable and under-served rural communities. This will also reduce the incidence of water-borne diseases and the number of people suffering from hunger. The irrigation component of the intervention also aims at increasing the income generation of small holder farmers, and thus increases the access of the targeted beneficiaries to other basic services such as education or health services. For a successful and sustainable water and sanitation project the community participation and ownership is crucial and recruiting volunteers amongst the beneficiaries will ensure community involvement.

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

- The water and sanitation programme officer attended the Federation regional delegation coordinated Regional Disaster Response Training (RDRT) held in September, in Windhoek Namibia, adding the number of trained technicians to three within the national society. Their skill is instrumental in case of emergencies that require water and sanitation interventions.

Assistance to bilateral water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion projects

- The WatSan department supported bilateral projects funded by the Danish, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies through supervising drilling and construction works, contracting of drilling companies, preparation of drilling contracts and training of water point committees.
- A total of 27 boreholes fitted with hand-pumps have been constructed in these projects (Spanish Red Cross Society funded) and 42 water point committees trained in community management (Spanish 38 committees and Netherlands four committees).
- The department has also recently facilitated the preparation of drilling and construction contract for eight boreholes for the community-based home care (CBHC) in the southern districts of the country programme funded by the Netherlands Red Cross Society.

Impact:

- In developing the water collection points, the safety of women and girls is also put under consideration. Many women/girls are sexually molested or raped when they go and fetch water or collect firewood in unsafe areas (streams, rivers, wells), which are secluded from the community.
- The locating of the water points and the type of water pump also add convenience to children and women during water drawing. For example the manually operated Afridev water pump can be operated by a child 6 -7 years old. Before rehabilitation the beneficiaries were drawing water from rivers and ponds, which are far from homes (1 – 2 km), not safe for girls and women. Apart from using the borehole water for drinking, the water is used for making bricks which are used to construct new latrines and new houses constructed using burnt bricks were being constructed.
- The design of the latrine is according to the local traditional pit latrine improved by providing SanPlats, which add the hygiene and safety part lacking in the traditional pit latrine. Although it is difficult to measure the hygiene promotion impact in a short time, focus is given on important practices (hygiene messages during critical times) that can rapidly influence people behaviours and avoid risky unhygienic practices.

Constraints:

- The progress in project implementation is affected by delayed disbursement of funds to the national society. The Federation and Malawi Red Cross Society are working to improve these systems for timely disbursement of funds to the project.
- Delays in submission of working advance returns by Malawi Red Cross Society were observed to be the main cause the financial disbursement delays on the project.

Disaster management

Goal: Increase disaster management capacity of Malawi Red Cross Society in reducing human suffering when disasters occur through community involvement

Objective: Malawi Red Cross Society disaster management capacity improved with the participation of the vulnerable communities.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Malawi Red Cross Society capacity in disaster management is strengthened and exhibiting minimum standards of well prepared national society.

- The national food security officer also 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.
- The Finnish Red Cross Society has an existing food procurement pipeline in the region and with support from the Federation regional delegation logistics department is taking the lead in the food procurements for the Malawi Red Cross food insecurity operation. An order for food inputs assistance for Malawi (500 MT maize; 100 MT pulses; 100 MT CSB²; 40,000 litres of cooking oil) has been placed and the delivery is expected to take place in early December 2005. This order represents an in-kind donation from Finnish Red Cross Society. Procurement for additional food items (555 MT of maize; 111 MT of pulses; 111 MT of CSB; 44,400 litres of cooking oil and 10,000 agricultural starter packs) is being finalized and is supported from the DREF allocation. The logistics team developed the terms of reference and checklist for the modalities of making procurements through the Finnish Red Cross Society.

Improved refugee services achieved through well coordinated programmes

- Malawi is hosting refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Rwanda, Burundi and Somalia. The national society is providing care and maintenance support as an implementing partner of UNHCR in Dzaleka refugee camp which is housing some 14,000 refugees. Since the mid-1980s, the national society has been heavily involved in various refugee management programmes, for example the government-appointed Malawi Red Cross Society as the agency to distribute all food and non-food items to over 1.2 million refugees throughout the country during the Mozambique refugee programme (1986–1995).

Impact:

- The refugees at the camps have improved health condition because of the access to food and health facilities. The tracing service carried out with support of the ICRC has enabled family reunification. Women are more self-sufficient through development projects being run in the camps that target women.
- The RDRT trained members continue to offer a pivotal role in disaster management in the national society, especially towards the food security operation.

Constraint:

- The disaster management programme is being affected by the inadequacy of funding which is hindering implementation of programme in the wider geographical area, to respond to the increasing vulnerability.

Organizational development

Goal: To decrease vulnerability of people living in Malawi through improved service delivery the Malawi Red Cross Society.

Objective: The organizational and operational capacities of the Malawi Red Cross Society improve through better functioning of governance and management Bodies and reinforced branches.

² CBS ó Corn Bean Soya

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Organisational Development

- Malawi Red Cross Society submitted proposals for CBF through the Federation regional delegation at the end of August. The funds are expected to assist the national society in the management and governance development as well as assert management. The funds advanced to Malawi Red Cross Society by the Federation regional delegation have enabled the national society to start its change and succession process by paying off the recruitment and gratuities of two senior staff. The former head of programmes was appointed the new secretary general and the former HIV/AIDS coordinator elevated to the director of programmes' position. The national society is working on finalising its strategic plan to be implemented beginning of 2006.

Finance Development

- The regional finance development delegate and a Microsoft Business Solution Partner visited Malawi Red Cross Society to carry out demonstration on the Navision Accounting Software and appraising the system to cope with the national society's reporting requirements. These issues were successfully addressed and the national society has given the regional delegation a positive feedback requesting for the final implementation and the installation of the system.
- The implementation comprising the Navision server installation was carried out in October 2005 so that all users could access the Navision database from a central point. The individual Navision client workstations were also installed and connectivity was tested from all the workstations and this proved to be 100% successful. On-the-job training was conducted with the users to ensure that all the setups and functionality could be evaluated and tested. Overall the implementation was very successful as users were completely satisfied with the systems functioning capacity and design. The International Federation, Danish, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies covered the cost of the implementation.

Impact:

- The human resources succession process taking place in the national society can be viewed as a positive development and will encourage junior and senior management to support the development of the national society as they see the management rein as something that they can all achieve one day if they work hard.
- The national society was able to submit a short term to long term capacity building proposal, which has enabled it to start the implementation of the management review recommendations.
- The installation and implementation of the Navision accounting system will assist the society to be proficient in reporting and to capture financial transactions on timely basis.

Constraints:

- The implementation of the management review recommendations has been delayed as funding has been difficult to secure for this process.
- The national society did not facilitate for exit packages over the last past ten years making it difficult to pay for gratuities of the senior and junior staff that have been affected by the new human resource restructuring and contractual hiring agreement.

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

APPEAL No. 05AA011

PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/12/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				860,784		37.8%
OPENING BALANCE				5,257		
FINNISH - GOVT		80,000	EUR	123,520	27.05.05	WATSAN RELIEF PROGRAMME
IRISH - RC		26,737	EUR	41,509	07.10.04	VEHICLE FOR WATSAN PROGRAMME / CONSTRUCTION AND FIELD ACTIVITIES
IRISH RC		100,100	EUR	155,005	14.02.05	WATSAN
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				325,291	CHF	37.8%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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	