

# 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

## SIERRA LEONE

23 March 2006

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 183 countries.

For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA023; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: July to December 2005; Appeal coverage: 53.3%; Outstanding needs: CHF 1, 530,095 (USD 1, 158,285 or EUR 977,697).

[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List](#) or [here for the one available on the website](#).

Programme Update no. 1 dated 15 July 2005- <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA02301.pdf>

Appeal target: CHF 3,274,955 (USD 2,601,200 or EUR 2,109,500).

Related Emergency Appeals: Appeal no. 05EA018- [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?05/05EA018.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA018.pdf) (Sierra Leone: Floods).

**Programme summary:** Implementation of programmes has been heavily constrained by the shortage of resources. Only 53.3 per cent of the funds appealed for were received, which inevitably affected progress. Many of the planned activities that could have benefited a society emerging from an 11-year long war were hence not implemented. In the face of such financial problems, the achievements of the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society<sup>1</sup> are impressive. The national society, through its countrywide network of volunteers and dedicated staff, has done a remarkable work to address the humanitarian challenges that face thousands of people in Sierra Leone. The focus has been on reducing vulnerability to preventable diseases such as Malaria and HIV/AIDS - by raising the awareness; empowering the population to drive the development of their own future; offering different skills training opportunities to women and former combatants to allow them to find jobs and sustain themselves and their families; helping war-affected children to reintegrate into their home communities; and encouraging a divided society to reconcile with the traumatic experiences of the past and move towards a more durable peace.

The progress would not have been possible without continued support of a few committed partners – the Canadian, Danish and Swedish Red Cross Societies and their governments- whose contribution is greatly appreciated.

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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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).

<sup>1</sup> Sierra Leone Red Cross Society - refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=152>

*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

The operational environment has remained stable. On 31 December 2005, the largest UN peacekeeping operation in its time- the UN Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) - left the country. Despite the broad success of the mission, the country is still only at the beginning of the long road to recovery. An array of problems remains to be solved. Some 75 percent of Sierra Leoneans continue to live on less than two dollars a day, and one in four cannot afford a basic diet. Two thirds of the population is illiterate and unemployment hovers at 70 percent, with two million jobless young people. These include a large pool of ex-combatants, including women and children, who could potentially take up arms again.

Compared to the mass killings of previous years, Sierra Leone now enjoys relative peace but it is a relative peace that has to be translated into jobs, incomes, education, and good health before the war is truly a thing of the past. The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, with financial and technical support of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners, has played an important role in contributing to the collective efforts to build a sustainable peace in Sierra Leone. The section below outlines the progress made by the Society in the second half of 2005 in the four core areas – health and care, promotion of humanitarian values, disaster management and organizational development. Achievements are reported against the original programme/project goals and objectives as outlined in the annual appeal 2005.

## Health and care

**Goal: The morbidity and mortality rate of under-fives and women of childbearing age has been reduced and the health status of the most vulnerable improved while HIV/AIDS/STI prevalence has been stabilized.**

### Community based health care project (CBHP)

**Objective: The morbidity and mortality rate of under-fives and women of childbearing age has been reduced and the health status of the most vulnerable improved.**

#### Achievements

**Health promotion and education:** The health education work has been expanded to 30 new communities bringing the total number of communities the Society is engaged with to 146. Red Cross volunteers and hygiene promoters visited 9,875 homes reaching 27,105 women with basic but essential health messages on the most common preventable illnesses such as, malaria, lassa fever and HIV/AIDS. 350 women and other 115 pregnant women in Kono and Bombali were provided with treated mosquito nets donated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). All the women the Red Cross volunteers talked to were encouraged to use the nets as a precaution against malaria. Community sensitisation efforts also focused on the importance of immunisation and breastfeeding, as well as personal and environmental hygiene. The importance of breastfeeding was particularly highlighted during the World Breastfeeding Week in August. During that week alone, Red Cross volunteers talked to some 3,342 lactating women.

In an effort to respond to a cholera outbreak that, according to the Ministry of Health, killed 56 people in Freetown, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society mobilized its staff and volunteers – hygiene promoters, peer educators, first aid workers, traditional birth attendants (TBAs) and community supporters – to make door-to-door visits to the people living in the affected areas and raise their awareness of preventive measures. The cholera prevention campaign mounted by the Society reached some 874,000 people. In addition, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society operated six cholera treatment centres that provided oral re-hydration, IV fluids and medication to 1,194 people. The centres were open for two months and were run in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. The Ministry was supported with a cholera kit, 50,000 Tetracycline caps, 5,000 pairs of gloves and four gallons of disinfectant. Volunteers

observed positive behavioural changes in the areas they worked. For example, food handlers at markets now take greater caution and their stalls are cleaner. The analysis of the epidemiological data shows the number of diarrhoea and vomiting cases has decreased.

**Clinics:** The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society operates 11 static health clinics through which it provides medical consultations, treatment, essential drugs, immunisation, and growth monitoring services to the most vulnerable people, particularly women and children. During the reporting period, medical consultations were provided to 34,753 patients including pregnant and nursing women and children under five. 9,387 children were immunised against vaccine-preventable childhood diseases including tuberculosis, polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles and yellow fever. 11,812 children were seen for growth and nutritional monitoring. Health education talks on the importance of breastfeeding, malaria and cholera control, HIV/AIDS prevention, family planning, environmental and personal hygiene preceded the clinic sessions. Through health promotion efforts at the clinics, the Red Cross reached other 34,594 people.

In addition to the fixed clinics, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society operates two mobile clinics on the Bonthé Island. Their objective is to achieve greater access to remote areas to provide primary health care services, offer assistance with referral of seriously ill patients and complicated deliveries, and respond to epidemics and health emergencies. During the reporting period, the mobile clinics assisted a total of 3,156 people.

In partnership with the National Commission for Social Action and the European Union, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society also worked with 432 prisoners and ex-combatants from Liberia, held by the authorities in Port Loko and Tonkolili. National society branch nurses visited them regularly to offer primary health care. The government of Sierra Leone supports the initiative with the supply and transportation of essential drugs. Health care was also provided to 2,345 Liberian refugees in Freetown and Bo. The services were delivered in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Throughout the reporting period, the Red Cross clinics collected and analysed epidemiological data. The disease pattern shows malaria ranks the highest with a total number of 23,378 reported cases followed by Acute Respiratory Tract Infection (14,441 people), worm infestation and anaemia. Pregnancy related deaths are common too. To reduce the latter, the Sierra Leone Red Cross trains and provides supervision to traditional birth attendants (TBAs). Currently, the national society oversees 860 TBAs in 11 of 13 Red Cross branches. During the reporting period, they assisted in 822 deliveries and provided ante- and post-natal care to 6,731 women. All women received advice on family planning.

In an effort to improve their nutritional condition, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society has been also supporting mothers to grow their own food. Mothers clubs, formed with Red Cross encouragement, are operational in 11 branches and a total of 7,820 women are involved. The Red Cross provided them with seeds and agricultural equipment to plant cassava, yam, potato, rice, green leafy vegetables and pepper. The harvest this year was good and the profit from the sales helped the women sustain themselves and their families.

**Water and Sanitation:** The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society works in 146 communities to improve the sanitation conditions and increase access to safe water. During the reported period, community workers chlorinated 313 wells, brushed grass and cleaned drainages. 382 new plate racks were also constructed and 276 clothe lines were erected. Measures were taken to protect water sources. The national society also engaged in rehabilitation and/or construction of traditional latrines. Local labour committees were formed in 12 communities to construct 75 VIP latrines. Construction materials- sand, stones and sticks- were pre-positioned by the communities themselves, and construction works will start shortly. In addition to these efforts, Red Cross volunteers promoted personal and environmental hygiene and encouraged local communities to keep their latrines clean. The follow-up visits found that the Red Cross recommendations are being followed: 743 toilets inspected by national society workers met the minimum sanitary norms.

## **HIV/AIDS**

**Objective: HIV/AIDS/STI prevalence has been stabilised, stigma and discrimination is reduced and support to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS is provided in Sierra Leone.**

**Achievements**

To reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and discrimination of people living with it, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society is working to undermine one of the factors – the lack of awareness. Via a network of trained peer educators (520 in total), it promoted safe behaviour. During the reporting period, Red Cross peer educators held sensitization talks with 3,532 people. The focus was on schoolchildren and their teachers. Information about the virus prevention and transmission was also disseminated via regular radio talk shows. Four such shows were aired for the population in Bo, Kenema, Bombali and Kono districts. Prejudices against people living with HIV/AIDS were challenged via drama performances. Via songs, dancing and art, the Red Cross volunteers reached both literate as well as the larger illiterate communities. In total, 28 performances were conducted for 15,752 people. In partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), the Society has also been providing home-based care to 28 people living with HIV/AIDS.

**Humanitarian Values**

**Goal: A culture of non-violence and sustainable development is promoted in communities.**

**Job Aid for Amputees (JAWA)**

**Objective: The self-reliance of 680 war-affected amputees is improved through JAWA.**

**Achievements**

Unfortunately, the project was seriously under-funded. The original target was to assist some 686 war amputees to achieve a level of economic self-sufficiency. The lack of funds meant that the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society could work with only 40 people in Kailahun and Koinadugu. Specifically, 40 war amputees were sponsored to attend a training course in tailoring and were provided with sewing machines. Four of them were assisted to find a job. The remaining balance of the available funds was used to procure 150 goats for 150 amputees. No support could be offered to farming groups. The plan has been to assist 230 amputees with seeds and agricultural equipment.

**Community Animation and Peace Support (CAPS)**

**Objective: War-torn communities' capacity for poverty reduction and post-war reconstruction and development is strengthened through CAPS.**

**Achievements**

This project also experienced serious financial constraints wherefore many of the planned activities could not be implemented. Despite the difficulties, however, Red Cross animators continued their work in 48 communities in four chiefdoms in Bo and Moyamba districts. The focus was on helping the target communities to improve the harvest management to minimise the loss. Efforts were also made to improve the sanitation conditions i.e., communities were mobilized to clean their compounds. People were encouraged to use latrines and hang their clothes on line as opposed to drying laundry on the ground, which is a common practice for many in Sierra Leone. The animators also facilitated group discussions on the responsibilities of the recently re-established local councils.

Two workshops were held in Moyamba and Bo districts with the participation of Red Cross branch staff, volunteers and community representatives to establish a common understanding of the project's phasing out strategy. The strategy envisages a withdrawal of the project staff by the end of December 2005. Beyond that, the Red Cross engagement with the communities will continue via its branch volunteers and Community Peace Consolidation Committees. To illustrate, the branches have decided to continue holding annual peace and harvest festivals with their own limited resources.

To facilitate the smooth phasing out, the efforts of last three months of the year concentrated on strengthening the links between the community groups and the Red Cross district branches. In 2006, it is planned to provide the Community Peace Consolidation Committees with refresher training in conflict transformation and participatory development to strengthen their capacity to take on responsibilities from the Red Cross animators and continue the work independently.

## **Child Advocacy and Rehabilitation (CAR)**

**Objective: War-affected children are rehabilitated and integrated into child friendly communities through the CAR.**

### **Achievements**

Via its child advocacy and rehabilitation centres in Kambia, Waterloo, Port Loko, Kabala and Kailahun, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society works with ex-combatants of 10-18 years old helping them to come to terms with their experiences during the war, to catch up on basic schooling, learn some new skills, such as traditional gara tie dyeing, soap making, construction or tailoring, and resume normal life in their communities. Currently, there are some 750 children engaged in the project. Many had never attended school before either because of their family's economic circumstances, displacement, or abduction. 750 children are now learning how to read as well as write and 1,642 children have graduated from the Red Cross literacy classes. Some have enrolled in formal institutions and continue their education. Twice a week children are provided with basic health care. The clinical services focus on treating the most common ailments such as cough, cold, skin diseases, malaria and sexually transmitted infections. The treatment is complemented by health talks with emphasis on safe sexual behaviour and HIV/AIDS prevention. Regular individual and groups sessions were held to help children address their traumatic experiences and emerging issues and concerns. Home visits and family meetings were held to engage the local communities in understanding the difficulties their children are experiencing. Red Cross project staff held regular meetings with children's relatives, neighbours and community leaders to raise their awareness of the issues related to child protection and welfare. All centres have organized different sport games and competitions. Every day from Monday to Friday, children are served a meal. For many it is their only meal of the day.

The centres offer a number of skills training opportunities as well. Currently, there are 750 children attending different skills training classes. 450 young people have so far graduated from the skills training classes and some have started their own businesses. The project also has an agricultural component through which the CAR centres support local communities in starting up an income generation initiative. 21 communities are involved in farming; other 5 communities breed sheep or goat.

## **Organizational development**

**Goal: The capacity of the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society to deliver sustainable and effective programmes that support the most vulnerable population is strengthened.**

### **Achievements**

As part of a membership recruitment drive, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society organized first aid training for 100 people. 85 were recruited as new members bringing the total number of Red Cross members in Sierra Leone to 9,858. All new members attended induction sessions. A number of training opportunities were offered to Red Cross volunteers too to help them improve their capabilities and hence, the quality of their services to people the Red Cross engages with. This included training on cholera preparedness, lassa fever prevention and control, community based first aid, HIV/AIDS prevention, and community animation. A total of 155 volunteers attended the training. Red Cross volunteers were visible at major outdoor functions such as soccer matches, concerts and the like, where they readily provided first aid services to the injured. To encourage and motivate its youth, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society held a four-day national youth camp in July 2005.

To acknowledge the important role of youth and volunteers as equal partners of the national society, the Sierra Leone Red Cross is developing youth and volunteer policies. Several workshops were held to discuss the content of the policies. Draft versions were shared with the National Society's management team for inputs and further discussions. Once finalised, they will be submitted to the Sierra Leone Red Cross central committee for approval.

The Sierra Leone Red Cross has been under pressure from its members and partners to address the financial and management deficiencies. A complete restructuring of the national society's finance department has subsequently been achieved. With the technical support of the Federation delegation, the Sierra Leone Red Cross finalized a plan of action to improve the financial management practices in the national society i.e., to achieve a greater transparency, accountability and accuracy. The implementation of the plan will start in 2006. In the meantime, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the national society's president, the secretary general and the

Federation head of delegation to underscore the responsibility of the national society to account for their action. To strengthen the internal control systems, the Sierra Leone Red Cross has also decided to recruit an internal auditor in 2006 and has started paying the salaries of its branch field officers from its own resources. The latter has not been an easy task given limited capacities of the Sierra Leone Red Cross to raise funds locally as well as the difficult socio-economic condition in the country compounding the task of finding alternative internal resources. In the past, the salaries were supported by the Society's international partners. At the partnership meeting in December 2005-attended by both Movement and non-Movement partners, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society also committed to improve the timeliness and quality of its reports.



**Flash floods in Pujehun District left 15,000 people without shelter**

As part of the decentralization efforts, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society has introduced a position of regional field officers in three of the country's four regions. The officers are to oversee the management of the Society's programmes within their regions. The new setup, it is believed, will also contribute to improving coordination between the Red Cross units at various levels. To systematise its human resource development efforts, the national society also recruited a human resource development officer.

The management team of the national society, both at headquarters and branch levels, met regularly to discuss various administrative and operational issues. The heavy dependency of the Sierra Leone Red Cross on external financial support was one. As mentioned, the dire socio-economic situation in the country complicates the challenge. To attempt to tackle the problem, the national society

recruited a fundraising and resource development officer. The officer has started consultations within and outside the organization to seek ideas for the emerging resource development plan. In the meantime, the income from the local fundraising efforts (membership fees, Red Cross clinics and other) during the last quarter of the year 2005 stood at: SLL 22,120,350 (USD 7,400).

## Disaster Management

**Goal: The affects of disasters in Sierra Leone are mitigated through efficient interventions of the Sierra Leone Red Cross and enhanced collaboration with government and partners.**

### Achievements

Every time there was an emergency in the country, the Sierra Leone Red Cross mobilised its staff, volunteers and emergency stocks to offer help to the affected population. Shortly after an alert was received about a landslide in one of the villages in Freetown, the Red Cross search and rescue teams were on the site helping extract bodies from under the debris and offering psychological support to those who survived. The national society was quick to respond to the floods in the Kono district as well. The floods were triggered by heavy rainfalls injuring some 22 people, removing the roofing from over 200 houses and causing displacement of 3,759 people (537 households). More severe flash floods were experienced by people in Pujehun District in southern Sierra Leone. The floods rendered over 15,000 people homeless, destroyed hundreds of houses, contaminated wells and destroyed many acres of farmlands. Supported by the Movement partners, the Sierra Leone Red Cross assisted some 500 families (3,656 people) with basic relief items - clothing, blankets, plastic sheeting, kitchen sets and jerry cans. For further information on the Red Cross response to the floods, please see [Operations Update no. 1](#).



**Sierra Leone Red Cross Society was quick to mobilize its resources to assist some 500 families affected by the floods in Pujehun District**

Every weekend, the Red Cross Action Teams (RCAT) - of six volunteers- were on standby at the Lumley beach in Freetown to offer first aid services to the injured.

### **Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships**

The Federation Secretariat, through its delegation in Sierra Leone, continues to provide technical support to the national society offering guidance and coaching on ongoing management as well as operational issues. The aim is to empower the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society so that it can deliver quality and sustainable services to the most vulnerable Sierra Leoneans. To strengthen the capability of the Federation delegation to achieve its aim, the delegation, in line with the recommendations of the internal audit, has taken measures to improve its financial management system including the mechanism that regulates the disbursement of working advances to the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society. As the first step, a new finance and administration officer was selected. The recruitment, however, has been constrained by the lack of funds to support the position.

The delegation participated in a number of meetings with the UN and other national as well as international counterparts to coordinate programmes while maintaining its neutral and independent role. A good working relationship has been maintained between all components of the Movement. This was particularly evident in a joint needs and capacity assessment exercise undertaken by the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society in partnership with the Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The assessment had three objectives:

- To establish current humanitarian challenges in Sierra Leone and identify possible scenarios on future developments;
- To assess the appropriateness of the current Sierra Leone Red Cross policies, programmes and activities and their impact on the most vulnerable in Sierra Leone;
- To map the current human, material and financial capacities of the national headquarters, branches and regional offices and recommend the way forward for the national society to meet the humanitarian challenges.

Findings will feed into the emerging strategic plan of the Sierra Leone Red Cross, based on which a Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) will be developed.

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

APPEAL No. 05AA023

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

07/02/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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## CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3,274,955	TOTAL COVERAGE 53.3%	
BRITISH - RC		40,000	GBP	87,240	14.01.05	CAPS
BRITISH - RC		30,000	GBP	65,430	14.01.05	CHILD ADVOCACY & REHABILITATION
BRITISH - RC		40,000	GBP	87,240	14.01.05	COMMUNITY BASED HEALTH
BRITISH - RC		30,000	GBP	65,430	14.01.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - RC				75,000	22.03.05	DELEGATE FUNDING
BRITISH - RC		30,000	GBP	65,430	03.06.05	COMMUNITY ANIMATION & PEACE SUPPORT
BRITISH - RC		25,000	GBP	54,525	03.06.05	COMMUNITY BASED HEALTH PROG.
BRITISH - RC		21,390	GBP	48,642	31.10.05	NS FINANCE DEPT
BRITISH - RC		3,463	GBP	7,824	02.12.05	EXTERNAL AUDIT
PARTHENON		52,420	GBP	114,328	05.05.05	COMMUNITY BASED HEALTH PROG.
DANISH - RC		169,947	USD	192,380	11.01.05	HIV/AIDS, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FINNISH - RC		2,000	EUR	3,114	28.09.05	AUDIT
ICELANDIC - RC		1,000,000	ISK	18,100	21.02.05	50% HOD COSTS
ICELANDIC - RC		7,000,000	ISK	128,100	07.06.05	CAR
SWEDISH - GOVT		500,000	SEK	85,500	08.03.05	HOD
SWEDISH - RC		2,500,000	SEK	420,750	10.05.05	CAR, HEALTH
SWEDISH - GOVT		200,000	SEK	33,660	04.07.05	HUMANITARIAN VALUES/JAWA
SWEDISH - GOVT		25,000	SEK	4,207	08.07.05	EXTERNAL AUDIT
SWISS - RC/SOLIDARITY CHAIN				137,760	03.05.05	CAR KAMBIA
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,694,660	CHF	51.7%

## KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CANADA	DELEGATE(S)			8,400		
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			41,800		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				50,200	CHF	1.5%

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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**ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET**

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