

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 لجمعية الصليب والهلال الأحمر

BOTSWANA

30 November 2004

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

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.12/2004; Programme Update no. 2; Period covered: July to November, 2004;
Appeal coverage: 8.0%; Outstanding needs: CHF 664,902 (USD 553,900 or EUR 434,700).
[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

Appeal target: CHF 723,016 (USD 543,009 or EUR 465, 411).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Botswana 2005 Annual Appeal no. 05AA009 –
http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA009.pdf

Programme summary: The Botswana Red Cross Society¹ participated in veldt fire fighting and assisted 24 victims of domestic fire at different localities. The annual general meeting was successfully held and interim committees established in three branches. The HIV/AIDS programme is targeting 30,000 youths, in Kasane/Kazungula reaching 122 orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC). The home-based care (HBC) project has 70 clients, and the care facilitators are working with 20 primary schools. Health and care programme targeted 800 people with disability for rehabilitation. The Federation supported the organizational development by financing branch volunteer base enhancement. However, high staff turnover has severely affected the implementation of programmes and volunteers are attracted to other organizations offering better incentives.

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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

The Botswana Red Cross is recognized by the government as an important humanitarian organization in disaster management and saving lives of the most vulnerable in the community. The national society has carried out a number of activities to build its capacity to respond timely and effectively to disasters. The Botswana Red Cross is reorganising volunteer management systems to improve its efficiency in service delivery. Programme policies are being put in place to revitalize the national society branches.

The country has very high HIV infection rate of 37.3%. As a result of the impact of HIV/AIDS, there are increased numbers of OVC resulting in increased child-headed families. The Botswana government meanwhile is providing food packs, formula for infants and education support to OVC. People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) have access to antiretroviral drug treatment (ART) provided by the government. The Red Cross responsibilities are related to training of care facilitators, to monitor clients for adherence to ART. The national society established six youth groups with an average of 30 members. Lack of funding negatively affected the Botswana Red Cross programming despite the increasing vulnerability in some communities. HIV/AIDS has distorted livelihood, consequently increasing the need for the national society to scale up its activities.

Health and Care

Goal: The general health of the vulnerable people in Botswana is improved through community-based health care

Health and Care: HIV/AIDS

Objective: Transmission of HIV/AIDS is reduced among 30,000 youths, and 1,000 PLWHA and OVC are cared for and supported by end of 2007.

Progress/Achievements

1,000 PLWHA receive care and support through HBC

The HBC projects in Kasane/Kazungula continue to provide care and support to 70 PLWHA and five of the care facilitators are living positively with HIV/AIDS. This has increased openness to other clients as they shared their own antiretroviral therapy (ART) experiences. At least one person is referred by care facilitators to voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) centre on daily basis, as ART is now available in Kasane. The care facilitators assist in the hospital twice a month and their caring experience is being enhanced in the process. The care facilitators conducted home visits to households for PLWHA to provide counselling and education on HIV/AIDS as well as to promote adherence to ART and tuberculosis drugs.

1,000 OVC receive psychological and social support

In Kasane, 20 mentors were trained to provide psychological support to approximately 100 OVC. The participants also included government officials and those from other stakeholders. Kasane district has one social worker responsible for nine villages and is overwhelmed by work. The OVC have been physically, emotionally, and sexually abused and some siblings have been separated. The national society therefore initiated the mentorship programme (Bo Nkgonne) to promote healthy development of the affected children. The project hopes to build bonds that will last for many years. The idea is not to replace the child's guardians or relatives but give a new brother/sister who is willing to help with homework, play games and be there to listen, advice and provide guidance, as well as meeting family members to share any important information about the child. During the family fun day with mentors, guardians reported positive working relationships and acknowledged the Red Cross for this initiative. The mentors and care facilitators are advocating for material support for the 122 registered OVC in Kasane. The mentors' programme has strengthened the work of the Red Cross in the district.

Botswana; Annual Appeal no. 01.12/2004; Programme Update no. 2

Nutritional support to vulnerable clients and OVC

Kasane/Kazungula districts have each established a vegetable garden to supplement the food rations provided to clients. Sometimes it takes time for new clients to receive food baskets from government and the national society makes provision of these foodstuffs.

Knowledge, attitudes, practices of 5,000 youths 400 adults is improved

In July, 25 youth peer educators were trained in Tonota bringing the total trained educators to 139 in Kanye, Moshupa, Dukwi and Tonota. In addition to the existing project, 12 schools in Tonota and surrounding settlements were visited by the peer educators. Approximately 34,400 youth were reached in the four districts. The adults were reached during first aid training and aids awareness campaigns. At least 1,000 condoms are distributed monthly and condom use education provided respectively.

Stigma and discrimination against PLWHA and OVC is reduced

PLWHA are disclosing their status and are seeking advice and referral for treatment. Promotional materials have been designed with messages of hope and encouragement for PLWHA to go for VCT. Stigma and discrimination remain a challenge especially in Kasane/Kazungula where some clients are reluctant to collect anti-retroviral drugs and food from the health centres. The Red Cross volunteers are working with clients and communities to reduce stigma through support groups.

Impact

More PLWHA are accepting and disclosing their HIV status and 37 out of 70 HBC clients in Kasane/Kazungula are already receiving treatment. A total of 30 clients were weaned and are receiving support visits from care facilitators and have joined support groups. There is improved personal hygiene to clients as a result of health education received from care facilitators. Where HIV/AIDS projects are operational there are strong networks with other stakeholders. There is notable improvement in nutritional status for clients and OVC due to the establishment of vegetable gardens and food parcels from government in Kasane/Kazungula. Due to the activities being carried on mentorship and psychological support, there is reduction of abuse to OVC.

Constraints

The effort of ART is affected by non-compliance to treatment by some clients. Clients on ART with improved health and livelihood are not conscious of the implications of unprotected sexual activity.

Disaster Management

Goal: Vulnerability if the community is reduced through implementation of disaster management interventions

Objective: Botswana Red Cross capacity in disaster management is enhanced through capacity building and community empowerment.

The disaster management department conducted a rapid assessment following a raging veldt fire that caused substantial damage to the environment and surrounding villages in Kasane district. The Red Cross volunteers assisted in the fire fighting and provided blankets, tents and clothing to the affected.

The Botswana Red Cross disaster management department and other officers joined the commemoration of the Risk Reduction Day organized by the national disaster management office (13 October). The commemoration provided the national society with an opportunity to profile its activities and increasing visibility.

During the reporting period a new disaster management officer was recruited to oversee the implementation and development of the programme.

Progress/Achievements

Improved national society disaster preparedness and response capacity through training of staff and volunteers and community involvement

In October five staff and seven volunteers attended an emergency preparedness training facilitated by the ICRC in preparation of the parliamentary elections held beginning of November. There was equal gender balance among the participants.

The regional disaster response team (RDRT) refresher course was held in Zambia in September and one RDRT trained member from the Botswana Red Cross attended. The training focused on complex emergencies with a special focus on refugees. Trained RDRT members have become valuable resources for the national society as they form part of the national disaster response mechanism.

The Botswana Red Cross collaborates with government to maintain community-based early warning systems and operations benefiting the vulnerable communities. The national society has good working relationship with government and has participated in various activities planned by the national disaster management office. However, non-availability of funding has hampered implementation of the planned activities thus not building disaster resilient communities.

Impact

The relief activities such as distribution of blankets and dousing the fire provided to people affected by the domestic and veldt fires have managed to alleviate suffering of the vulnerable people. There is now increased public awareness on disaster management issues and the activities of the Botswana Red Cross. RDRT trained members have become an important resource and are imparting their knowledge and skills acquired to others.

Constraints

Resource mobilization for the Botswana Red Cross has become a major challenge. All efforts are focusing on creating partnerships with other stakeholders and writing proposal to government to support the disaster management programme for the work it does country-wide in alleviating human suffering.

Lack of access to internet services is hampering effective information exchange and accessing the Federation Disaster Management Information System (DMIS), a valuable disaster management information site. The national society has limited human and material resources for effective disaster response activities including weak volunteer base and monitoring systems.

Humanitarian Values

Goal: The Fundamental Principles of the Movement and humanitarian values are promoted and understood by the public

Objective: Botswana Red Cross programmes and activities are promoted

Progress/ Achievements

The World First Aid Day was commemorated on 18 September under the theme 'First Aid: a gesture of humanity which makes a difference'. A march to the stadium was also organized; marchers carried messages promoting Humanitarian Values, the Movement's Fundamental Principles and International Humanitarian Law. Activities involved dissemination of information on first aid and Botswana Red Cross disaster management activities.

The Botswana Red Cross also joined the world in commemorating World Risk Reduction Day; the national society, with assistance from the regional delegation, shared press releases with the local media emphasizing the importance of reducing risk. An annual general meeting was also held to strengthen coordination and communication between officers at headquarters and the divisional coordinators in the promotion of humanitarian values. An information dissemination workshop was conducted for patrons of the eight newly established Red Cross youth clubs, supported by the ICRC.

Impact

The national society generated more interest in first aid training during the First Aid day and many people are being trained. There is increase understanding of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values among the communities.

Constraints

An information and tracing officer was recently recruited and requires intensive orientation and familiarization of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and actions. The information office is currently faced with lack of important tools for information gathering such as cameras.

Organizational Development

Goal: The Botswana Red Cross has improved in terms of foundation, capacity and performance through implementing the Federation's characteristics of a well-functioning national society.

Objective: The national society's institutional capacity and its progress towards operating a well-functioning national society is enhanced and programmes are responsive to local vulnerabilities.

Progress/Achievements

The national society has a legal foundation and capacity to effectively support its activities

The annual general meeting was held in August and the draft constitution, strategic and revival plan presented to the general assembly. The national society has been reviewing its constitution to improve its legal base and amended draft has been circulated to the Federation, ICRC and Red Cross branches.

The Botswana Red Cross Staff and volunteers have improved capacity in project management

A team building and annual planning retreat was held at the headquarters in January 2004. A capacity building exercise was carried out in which six branches, Maun, Kasane, Francistown, Bobonong, Molalatau, Palapye, were visited and volunteers mobilized, interim committees put in place and divisional annual work-plans developed. A vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) was carried out in the Bobirwa sub-district, a district hit hard by drought.

Information management systems at national and division level is enhanced

A multi-sectorial first aid retreat was held in Jwaneng to review curriculum conduct of first aid examinations for competitions and also to look at the coordination of first aid activities in Botswana.

Youth and gender activities are promoted

Youth groups were formed; four in Bobonong and one each in Molalatau and Palapye. The youth groups moulded 2,500 bricks towards the construction of an orphan care centre in Molalatau. Branch interim committees were established at Bobonong, Molalatau, and Palapye.

Impact

The adoption of the constitution and strategic plans is expected to improve the operations of the national society; the mobilization of volunteers, especially youth, will strengthen the branches.

Constraints

Most of the planned activities could not be carried out due to insufficient funding generated through the appeal. Due to inadequate human resources the national society is finding it difficult to implement and monitor progress on activities through out the country. It has become difficulty to retain volunteers due to competition with other voluntary organization as these organizations offer more attractive incentives.

Limited information technology systems and knowledge among staff and volunteers is also hampering development. This is also creating a cycle of repeated trainings due to continuous loss of trained volunteers.

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

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				723,016		8.0%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				58,114		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				58,114	CHF	8.0%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<p>Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.</p>						
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	