

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

SWAZILAND

30 November 2004

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In Brief

Appeal No.01.18/2004; Programme Update no.2; Period covered: July to November, 2004; Appeal coverage: 12.5%; Outstanding needs: CHF 1,713,047 (USD 1,426,900 or EUR 1,120,000).

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

Appeal target: CHF (1,958,344 USD 1,470,780 or EUR 1,260,601).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Swaziland 2005 Appeal no. 05AA015 –

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA015.pdf

Programme summary: The Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society¹ focuses its programmes on alleviating the suffering of the people made vulnerable by natural disaster, HIV/AIDS and other communicable and preventable diseases. The national society is recognized by the government as a key player in health and disaster management and has a special mandate articulated to work with the government on key advocacy issues. The HIV/AIDS department in collaboration with the government are conducting prevention activities in correctional services. The national society conducted elections in all branches and all the 55 branches have committees. Divisional executive and national executive committee members were also elected in July and August 2004.

The national society was part of the team consulted in the crafting of the Swaziland national disaster management bill. Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society coordinates closely with the government departments, national disaster task force and vulnerability assessment committee. This has facilitated sharing of information and avoiding duplication of effort.

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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 Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society – <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=163>

Operational developments

The Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society works closely with the ministry of health (MoH) in the provision of primary health care services. The national society is running three clinics in the rural areas of Mahwalala, Sigombeni and Silele where the primary health care services were previously inadequate. Additionally, the national society conducts health promotion activities in the communities surrounding the clinic focusing on the prevention of malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. The clinics provide primary health care, mother and child care including immunization, family planning, home based care (HBC) and health education. Approximately 50,000 people benefit from the services of the clinic every year. The clinics are part of the government health referral system and the sentinel (transmission) survey for HIV/AIDS.

In line with ARCHI, Strategy 2010 and the Ouagadougou Declaration, HIV/AIDS interventions remain a priority for the national society. The Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society provides comprehensive HIV/AIDS services in demarcated geographic areas. These include prevention for youth and marginalized groups, HBC and psychological support. The national society remains the leading provider of first aid services in the country. In addition, the national society facilitates control and mitigation of water-borne diseases by providing basic sanitation and water services in selected communities including the HBC activities and provision of social welfare services to the destitute and orphan and other vulnerable children (OVC).

The national society continued to strengthen its prevention activities in the correctional services and through drama activities conducted by youth for the communities. This intervention has tremendous impact on the behaviour of the inmates as regards to HIV/AIDS prevention. The integration of food security component into HIV/AIDS activities will also be implemented in 2005; the Swedish Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross will support this activity financially.

Health and care

Goal: A sustainable improvement in the general health and reduction in HIV/AIDS transmission of the targeted areas through provision of community-based health and care interventions.

Health and Care: HIV/AIDS

Objective: Holistic care and support provided to HIV/AIDS infected and affected people in targeted areas.

Progress/achievements

5,000 correctional services officers and inmate countrywide practice safer sex by 2004, December.

The Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society sensitised prison inmates and wardens on HIV/AIDS issues and formed a committee called 'His Majesty's Correctional services HIV/AIDS Task Committee'. The committee meets monthly and Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society HIV/AIDS department staff member attends and complement the efforts on prevention in prisons. The prison committee established by the national society carried out a massive social mobilization at all 14 prison institutions throughout Swaziland. The aim was to create awareness on the benefits of voluntary counselling and testing (VCT). Approximately 2,000 inmates and prison staff were reached with information education communication (IEC) material. The outcome of the exercise prompted a number of reactions from both the inmates to go for testing. The number of inmates living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) following anti-retroviral treatment (ART) now numbers 40. The Swaziland National Emergency Council on HIV/AIDS donated video and television set installed in correctional services throughout the country. The commissioner of correctional services department is a member of the HIV/AIDS task committee. In August 2004 the commissioner established an office in Matsapha Prison College which is manned by the national society HIV/AIDS programme.

Knowledge, attitudes, behaviour and practices of youth improved in targeted communities by 2004 December.

The Swiss Red Cross funded the Piggs Peak youth recreational club trained in clowning by the visiting ICRC Berne comedians experienced in theatre and arts. The Piggs Peak youth clowns and the Zibonele drama group conducted live performances at eight schools and in five communities. The drama group made 40 live shows on various HIV/AIDS related themes in communities, hospitals and restaurants as well. The communities appreciate

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the strategy used by Red Cross in educating the communities on the effects and causes of HIV/AIDS. Through the initiative of the Swiss Clowns, more than 300 children were given some soup and bread to eat during the month of August – September 2004. The aim of the exercise was to assist young children to learn more about HIV/AIDS through comedy.

Botswana Red Cross Society youth visited the national society on an exchange visit in August 2004. The aim of the visit was to exchange ideas on HIV/AIDS issues through debates and drama. The youth participated in the Swaziland international trade fair and distributed 10,000 condoms. Initially, it was planned that ten condom outlets would be established and eventually 26 more areas were established as sites for condom distribution points due to increased need.

Establish a voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) centre to promote early diagnosis of HIV/AIDS at Sigombeni by 2004.

The national society is preparing to establish an ART clinic at Sigombeni clinic. The Swiss Red Cross has pledged support and has so far delegated ART / PMTCT / VCT expert to work with the national society. Since March 2004, the Swiss delegate has been facilitating programming, administration, coordination and implementation of the programme. Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society is negotiating with the government for the provision of consumables such as ART and diagnostic procedures. Approximately 60% of children born from sero-positive mothers are HIV negative in Sigombeni clinic as a result of improved PMTCT services. The Swiss Red Cross also funded VCT training for two staff members offered by the Swaziland AIDS information and service centre.

Approximately 80 clients were provided with counselling services between July and September 2004 and out of these 30% of them were HIV positive. Through the HBC programme, it was discovered that even though the national society has not started ART for PLWHA, the statistics showed that there are HBC clients already on ART provided by the government. The ministry of health and social welfare will support the initiative by signing a memorandum of understanding after an assessment. The preparation of the assessment is at an advanced stage. Currently, the Swiss Red Cross has pledged support for staff costs and provision of essential equipment.

The area of ART has many implications one of which is food security and patients will receive food packs every month from the Swiss Red Cross. To sustain this project, it is envisaged that after the expiry of the Swiss Red Cross funding the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria will take over.

Five national society staff attended an ART crash course from 26 July to 3 August, 2004. The facilitators of the workshop were from the Zimbabwe Swiss Aide HIV/AIDS Clinic. Another course is scheduled for January 2005.

The quality of life for 4,000 people with HIV/AIDS in all divisions is improved through the provision of HBC services.

Training for 28 coaches was conducted in July 2004. There were 11 participants from Mahwalala, ten from Sigombeni and seven from Silele HBC project. A total of 774 HBC clients received home visits and 73 were discharged while 138 died. Currently the HBC project has 636 clients. Sigombeni support groups were allocated some land by the community leaders. The support groups have developed and fenced the land to be used for income generating activities.

In July 2004 a Memory project workshop was conducted at Silele. A total of 23 participants from Silele, Sigombeni, Nhlanguano and Siketani were trained for five days. During the workshop, a VCT outreach campaign was organized that attracted 50 clients and community members.

Targeted communities and general public respect rights of PLWHA and orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) by 2004

Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society in collaboration with UNICEF and the coordinating ensemble of NGOs working on children's issues meet on monthly basis to look at the issues affecting children.

2,000 PLWHA and 5,000 OVC are food secure in five branches by 2004.

The Finnish Red Cross and German Red Cross have assisted 39,000 children with school feeding programme in Shiselweni and Hhohho district; however, it is not known exactly how many of these children are orphans.

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5,000 OVC in the clinics receive psychological, social, and material support by 2004.

A total of 570 OVC were assisted with school fees in Silele.

Impact

Prevention messages harnessed together with services such as food security and ART proved to be a motivating factor. Some clients expressed their feelings that the food packs given to terminally ill clients helped improve their nutritional status. That thinking was validated by the fact that there were positive changes in body weight and general psychological improvement of the clients. The campaign on VCT and issues on ART mobilized most people to go for HIV test. Care facilitators are building relationships and receiving psychological support through organizational learning during support meetings.

Constraints

Training on ART and community preparedness on the issue of drug adherence is still underway due to current budget limited flexibility. Staffing is an issue to be considered on ART roll out programme. It is recommended that a variety of personnel ranging from social work, legal and nursing to look into the issues of the clients especially that of PLWHA.

Inmates who are interested to go for VCT are subjected to extreme psychological trauma as these are conducted in the presence of a security officer. Confidentiality is compromised during discussion with the counsellor and many inmates are not comfortable; condom distribution is prohibited.

Coordination

The national society is a member of the National Emergency Response Counsel on HIV/AIDS sub-committees and has established a partnership with the CARITAS orphan aide programme based in Manzini. UNICEF also plays an important role in the support given to OVC in the form of provision of food and educational grants and on advocacy for children's rights. The national society is also a member of the coordinating assembly of non-governmental organization HIV/AIDS consortium (GANGO) which is a resources mobilisation body. Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society collaborated with the Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Federation, ICRC and Vetaid.

Disaster Management

Goal: The vulnerability of the people affected by natural disasters is reduced.

Objective: The capacity of Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society to provide appropriate and timely support to people threatened or affected by disasters is increased.

Progress/Achievements

National society capacity in disaster management is strengthened and exhibiting minimum standards of a well-prepared national society.

The disaster management programme has focused most of its attention on implementing food security activities. The Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society has continued with food distribution in collaboration with WFP, National Disaster Task Force and ECHO through the Finnish Red Cross to 55,000 vulnerable people (poor, elderly, widows, and elderly- and child-headed households), in three regions of Manzini, Shiselweni and northern Hhohho.

The Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society has been implementing a food security pilot project now in its third year of implementation. The project targets 430 vulnerable households (approximately 3,440 beneficiaries) in Maphungwane, Mahhashini and Sigombeni areas. The target population is responsible for managing the activities and the different groups have constitutions and committees that meet to discuss issues arising. Technical support to the project is provided through a food security specialist recruited by the national society and the Ministry of Agriculture. Further technical support is provided by the regional disaster preparedness officer and finance development delegate, who visited the projects to assess the progress and financial management respectively.

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Following the mid-term review of the disaster management project conducted in December 2003, an assessment was conducted in June 2004 as a basis for implementing some of the recommendations.

As part of capacity building the disaster management officer attended the refresher regional disaster response training (RDRT) held in Zambia in September 2004. The training enhanced the capacity to manage the disaster management programme as well as imparting knowledge to others. The national society in collaboration with the Finnish Red Cross representative trained volunteers on food distribution from the 22 to 23 November 2004. The training is aimed at strengthening monitoring and evaluation capacities of the volunteers. Through the regional delegation some funding from the Finnish Red Cross has been reallocated to the national society to enable basic disaster management training for 25 volunteers to take place in November 2004. The competent volunteers will become part of the national society disaster response team.

Impact

The distribution of relief food has been beneficial in alleviating hunger and improving the nutritional status of the vulnerable people. The food security pilot project has seen an improvement in the livelihood of the most vulnerable as they are now engaged in income-generating projects to supplement their diet. The project also serves as a case study (best practice) for southern Africa region; other national societies would like to replicate it.

Constraints

The disaster management programme has not attracted enough funding through the annual appeal, which has been detrimental to the implementation of the planned activities. The only guaranteed funds received from the Finnish Red Cross for the implementation of the food security pilot project and related capacity building activities.

Organizational Development (OD)

Goal: The lives of the most vulnerable in Swaziland are improved as Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society moves towards becoming a well-functioning national society.

Objective: Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society becomes a well-governed and functional national society by 2007.

Progress/Achievements

The national society is still being challenged by the consequences of high staff turnover. To improve its functioning in line with its statutes, Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society conducted elections across all structures. The branch committees were elected in all of the 55 branches; five divisional executive committee members were elected in July and August 2004. These committees include youth representatives. The national executive committee (NEC) members have also been elected. The induction and education of new committee members will start in November 2004, with the NEC induction to be held in December.

Finance Development, Human Resource and Administration

The Federation carried out a financial review on all programmes and the food security project review, and made recommendations on strengthening internal controls. The national society is now working with the new regional finance development delegate in the analysis of financial management systems. The national society is still waiting for the finalization of the external auditors' report for 2003.

Impact

The national society fulfilled its legal foundation by engaging in a democratic process of electing governing board members throughout its structure. Volunteers and members were able to interact and strengthen their relationships during the campaigns for the elections.

Constraints

Lack of funding has negatively affected the implementation of most of the planned activities and consequently the impact to the beneficiaries.

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

APPEAL No. 01.18/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

01/12/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,958,344		12.5%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				34,764		
FINNISH - RC		110,000	EUR	171,545	23.04.04	FOOD SECURITY
FINNISH - RC		25,000	EUR	38,988	17.05.04	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				245,297	CHF	12.5%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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