

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

BOTSWANA

31 July 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. 05AA009; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January to June 2005; Appeal coverage: 1.2%; Outstanding needs: CHF 460,951 (USD 358,160 or EUR 295,390).

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

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

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Programme summary: The Botswana Red Cross Society¹ continued providing support to HIV/AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) and persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) through projects for OVC, community home-based care (HBC) and youth peer education with emphasis on positive behavioural change. The HIV/AIDS programme targets 30,000 youths in Kasane/Kazungula while the HBC, with 13 trained care facilitators, provides services to 70 PLWHA in Chobe district.

In collaboration with the government and other partners, volunteers actively advocated for strong support for PLWHA and OVC. The PLWHA continued receiving counselling, referral to health facilities and food parcels from government. Many of them are on antiretroviral treatment (ART) provided at government hospitals.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Botswana: Norah Moplabane, Secretary General, Botswana Red Cross Society, Gaborone; Email: brcs@info.bw; Phone: +267.35.24.65; Fax: +267.31.23.52.
- In Zimbabwe: Françoise Le Goff, Federation Head of Southern Africa Regional Delegation, Harare; Email: ifrczw02@ifrc.org; Phone: +263.4.70.61 55, +263.4.70.61.56; Fax: +263.4.70.87.84.
- In Geneva: Terry Carney, Federation Regional Officer for Southern Africa, Africa Dept.; Email: terry.carney@ifrc.org; Phone: +41.22.730.42.98, Fax: +41.22.733.03.95.

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.

¹ Botswana Red Cross Society- <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=34>

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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

AIDS is the leading cause of Botswana's high mortality rate with HIV prevalence rate among pregnant women aged between 15-49 years at 37.4 %, one of the highest in the world. As the number of people infected and affected by the pandemic grows, school enrolment is projected to decline due to escalating drop out rates, increased illnesses and children having to provide care and support to their sick parents. Youth and children are thus a priority group for the needed protection, support and guidance.

Botswana Red Cross Society is implementing various activities, based on ARCHI 2010, to reduce the vulnerability of those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. A support group, with a horticultural project, was established where members meet to share experiences and coping mechanisms. Through the meetings and the sharing of testimonies, stigma and discrimination are now slowly eroding. Anti-stigma campaigns were also conducted in all branches of the national society during the World AIDS Day commemorations which the national society was a key organizer, among other stakeholders.

Anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and food parcels have improved the health conditions of many PLWHA, with some now returning to work. At the moment, the workload of care facilitators has reduced as they have fewer bedridden PLWHA to look after. The care facilitators have an important role in working with the PLWHA on ART adherence though.

The national society decided to scale up its support for orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) because of their increasing number through caring for sick parents or siblings, dropping out of school, facing stigma, discrimination and abuse. Since the scaling up had to be based on a firm knowledge about the situation on the ground, a situation analysis on OVC was conducted in Chobe, Moshupa and Kanye where Botswana Red Cross Society already has HIV/AIDS programmes.

From 1999 to 2001, the Botswana Red Cross Society went through a trying period as it did not have a functioning management and governance structure. Most of its programmes, projects and branches became non-functional during that period. With support from the Federation, however, the process of rejuvenating the society began in 2001. An assessment team headed by the regional organizational development officer was sent by the Federation's regional delegation to the national society in 2002 and upon request from the national society; a follow up mission was carried out by a consultant in 2003.

During the Southern Africa Partnership of Red Cross Societies (SAPRCS) meeting held in November 2004, the Botswana Red Cross Society held a working lunch to update the Federation, ICRC and other interested partners on the situation in the country and to request for additional support. Subsequently, a mission was undertaken in the first quarter of 2005 to review the situation of the national society, assess the needs and to identify strategies for continued support in management, governance, branch development and capacity building.

Health and care

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

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

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Progress/Achievements

OVC receive psychological and social support.

- In response to needs identified by a care facilitator in Kasane/Kazungula, Botswana Red Cross Society started a mentor project in July 2004 with the aim of promoting a healthy development programme for OVC. A total of 20 mentors have been trained and are being monitored as they work with the children. Activities undertaken by the mentor include assistance with schoolwork and recreational activities.
- A three-day camping trip for 30 OVC and 15 mentors was held in Kasane during the April school holidays. During the camping mentors were trained in organizing camping.

Table 1: Statistics on OVC

District	No. of OVC registered	No. of children on ART	No. of adults on ART
Chobe	520	20	241
Moshupa	477	11	142
Kanye	1,989	43	449
Total	2,986	74	832

Improved knowledge, attitude, practices and behaviour amongst additional 20,000 youths and 30,000 adults.

- All the Botswana Red Cross Society's youth peer educators are trained in community-based first aid, HIV/AIDS prevention, anti-stigma and discrimination, dealing with peer pressure, importance of staying HIV negative and voluntary counselling and testing.
- The peer educators work in pairs and according to their own schedule, which is normally communicated to the project officers. They work closely with schools heads/patrons and visit schools three or four times a week for at least two hours per session. During their visits, the peer educators enlighten the school communities through health talks, drama and condom distribution.
- The national society has a total of 124 trained youth peer educators based at Tonota and the surrounding villages of Leomboko, Semotswane and Mandunyame. Kasane, Kanye and Moshupa have 25 youth peer educators each.
- 30 youth peer educators, from the refugee community, are based at the Dukwi refugee camp and the host village. The youth peer educators provide training in their vernacular to facilitate easy communication with the beneficiaries.
- The youth peer educators also assist some government departments in giving HIV/AIDS prevention advice at their work place, for example in Tutume, Kasane sub-district.

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

- Kasane/Kazungula has 15 volunteers trained in community-based first aid and HIV/AIDS prevention. Most of the volunteer care facilitators are HIV-positive and are on ART. The volunteers are thus role models who inspire others to go for voluntary counselling and testing (VCT).
- With the support from the Rotary Club of Francistown, Botswana Red Cross Society gave new wheelchairs to three PLWHA under the HBC in Mabesekwa.

Impact

- The HIV/AIDS prevention and HBC initiatives have changed the lives of many people in Botswana as it had empowered them with knowledge on prevention and the effects of stigmatisation and discrimination.
- Through the sharing of experiences by the HIV-positive volunteer care facilitators, the number of PLWHA under HBC visiting VCT centres has increased, with an increased number now on ART.
- Most people now can speak openly about their HIV status and are becoming mentors.
- Through knowledge gained from HIV/AIDS campaigns, there is a marked increase in the acceptance and use of the female condom that was formerly perceived as prostitution.
- Parents and their youth now more openly discuss issues on sex, HIV and AIDS.

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- The mentor project has put smiles back on the faces of many OVC and PLWHA under HBC through the emotional stability built on mental and psychological support.
- The mentor project has also brought OVC closer in sharing experiences and planning for the future.
- The general health improvement of the HIV-positive care facilitators living positively with HIV/AIDS encourages other community members to know their status and enrol on the ART programme if HIV-positive.

Constraints

- The few children and parents on ART wait until they are extremely sick before going for VCT.
- Some PLWHA on ART interrupt the treatment once they feel better then they become very sick again.
- Care facilitators need to undergo further training to equip them for their new role in promoting ART adherence.
- Stigma and discrimination are still strong and prevent people from going for VCT and treatment.
- Alcohol abuse is widespread and increases risky behaviour and exposure to infection.
- The number of OVC requiring support in the country is increasing on daily basis.

Humanitarian values

Goal: The Red Cross' Fundamental Principles and Red Cross Humanitarian Values are known and respected in Botswana.

Objective: Botswana Red Cross Society has a positive image and a better understanding of the Movement Principles and values.

Progress/Achievements

- Botswana Red Cross Society, like many other national societies in the region and the world at large, launched a fundraising initiative as part of its response to the Tsunami disaster that befell south East Asia and East Africa. The amount of money raised in response to the appeal, by the end of February 2005, was BWP 154, 000 (CHF 35,420). The information department of the national society was and is still on the forefront of these activities as more money is still coming in for the disaster fund.

Increased awareness of the Red Cross Principles by local authorities, government ministries and other sectors.

- The information department of the national society set up a stall to publicise the work of the Movement and to create awareness about the Red Cross principles, values and activities during the commemoration of the World Health Day, which was officiated by the Minister of Health.

Improved profile, image and positioning of the Botswana Red Cross Society as a leading humanitarian organization in the country.

- As part of tracing services, the Botswana Red Cross Society took part in the repatriation of the Namibian refugees in April.
- Volunteers from the national society visited three Namibian detainees who are in the central prison in Gaborone and provided them with toiletry, clothing and shoes.
- In late December 2004, the national society provided support to the Francistown flood victims after torrential rains swept through the town and its neighbouring villages. The exercise was publicised through local media, which helped in raising assistance for the affected communities.
- In an attempt to promote its image and a better understanding of the auxiliary role it plays to the government, the Botswana Red Cross Society produced and circulated a quarterly newsletter, 'Out Reach'.
- The national society organized activities during the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day celebrations, under the theme "Protecting Human Dignity." The event was attended by the president of the Botswana Red Cross Society, first lady Barbara Mogae, who gave presents to elderly people.
- The national society organized and held a successful fundraising dinner dance in Gaborone two weeks after the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. Over BWP 80,000 (CHF 18,400) was raised.

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- In an effort to strengthen the capacity of the information department, the national society information officer attended multi-national peacekeeping exercise, 'Exercise Thokgamo', which was conducted in June in Gaborone by all Southern African Development Community (SADC) member countries. Observers from India, China, international organizations, the government and non-governmental organisations also took part in the exercise. The national society was responsible for mobilizing the communities to participate as displaced persons in the exercise.
- A total of 3,000 soldiers participated in the field training exercise which aimed at preparing SADC member states forces to conduct multi-national peacekeeping operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. The exercise gave the national society an opportunity to apply some of the principles and values that are applicable in war situations. The national society advised the peace-keeping forces on the treatment of civilians, prisoners of war, wounded soldiers and ex-combatants with reference to the Geneva Conventions and its two additional protocols.
- During the exercise, the Botswana Red Cross Society team worked together with the Maun volunteers in ensuring providing shelter, food, safe drinking water and some other essential household items. A total of 105 blankets were distributed as relief material to villages.

Impact

- The Tsunami fundraising enabled the national society to reposition itself as a leading humanitarian organization in the country as the government advised all well-wishers to channel their donations through the Botswana Red Cross Society.
- Positive media reports during the fundraising exercise helped in creating a better understanding of the role of the Red Cross in disaster situations thus improving relationships with the other partner organizations.
- Participating in 'Exercise Thokgamo' provided the national society with an opportunity to practice how to ensure protection and provide assistance to civilians and military victims of armed conflicts on a strictly neutral and impartial basis while promoting the international humanitarian law.
- The exercise presented a good opportunity for the national society to put knowledge into practice. The information department is now equipped with practical knowledge on how handle conflict situations.

Constraints

- Lack of equipment still affects the operations of the department.

[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 ----->				466,544		1.2%
OPENING BALANCE				5,593		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				5,593	CHF	1.2%

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	