

# 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

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](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 05AA015; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January to June 2005; Appeal coverage: 26.2%; Outstanding needs: CHF 513,027 (USD 398,625 or EUR 328,760).**

*Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.*

**Appeal target: CHF 694,927 (USD 552,000 or EUR 447,600).**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A**

**Programme summary:** HIV/AIDS remains the scourge of Swaziland. According to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Swaziland has the world's highest HIV prevalence- 38.8%. The disease has claimed farm family heads, leaving behind children and the elderly, who cannot cultivate land. The effect of the scourge, compounded by drought, has been a decline in food production resulting to chronic food shortages.

The Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society<sup>1</sup> continued to respond to the humanitarian crisis by scaling up its HIV/AIDS activities, with focus on prevention and care. It finalized its disaster management policy/plan and initiated a pilot food security project aimed at addressing the linkage between HIV/AIDS and food insecurity. The national society also recruited more members, established 30 branches in five divisions and translated its constitution into the local language, SiSwati, for better understanding.

The Federation continued to provide the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society with technical and financial support during the reporting period. The Federation's disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) allocation of CHF 35,550 enabled the national society to respond to a storm that occurred on 25 January 2005 in the Manzini region, causing extensive damage to 250 households. The national society's staff and volunteers provided shelter, blankets and food to the 15,000 affected people.

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

- In Swaziland: Sibongile Hlope, Secretary General, Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society, Mbabane; Email: [sibongile@redcross.org.sz](mailto:sibongile@redcross.org.sz); Phone: +268.404.25.32; Fax: +268.408.61.08.
- In Zimbabwe: Françoise Le Goff, Federation Head of Southern Africa Regional Delegation, Harare; Email: [ifrczw02@ifrc.org](mailto: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](mailto:terry.carney@ifrc.org); Phone: +41.22.730.42.98, Fax: +41.22.733.03.97.

<sup>1</sup> Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society- <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=163>

## Swaziland; Appeal no. 05AA015; Programme update no. 1

*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**

The Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society works closely with the Ministry of Health in the provision of primary health care services through its three clinics in the rural areas of Mahwalala, Sigombeni and Silele. During the reporting period, the clinics assisted the communities through primary health care, mother and child care, immunization, family planning, home-based care (HBC), limited curative services and health promotion. Although the government partly funds the national society-run clinics, the support is insufficient to cover all costs, forcing the national society to cater for approximately 50% of the costs. The national society will not be able to cover the extra costs from its own resources this year and has prepared a plan of action for resource mobilization.

Having ventured into commercial first in 2003, the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society constructed a national training centre and continues selling kits and promoting first-aid training to public transport drivers. It continued introducing community-based first aid in the branches in 2005. During the reporting period, the national society provided first aid services, including training and operating first-aid posts.

Though support groups for persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) encountered huge challenges because of stigma and discrimination, the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society continued responding to the humanitarian crisis in the kingdom by scaling up HIV/AIDS activities, with focus on prevention and care. Through the HBC projects linked to its three clinics, it initiated health promotion activities focusing on the prevention of malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Prevention campaigns were also conducted for inmates in correctional facilities.

A number of HIV/AIDS food security projects, including rearing of indigenous fowls and backyard nutritional gardens for people affected or infected by HIV/AIDS, were implemented by volunteers. Anecdotal evidence shows that the high nutritional value of the gardens' produce has improved the nutritional status of the PLWHA. The project received backing from the government, which provided funds to establish the project. The National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS also provided 16,000 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) with chickens for rearing. Through the food security programme, informal gatherings for social exchange and psychological support for the affected and infected people have been formed and will be expanded. Stigma and discrimination will ultimately be reduced through interaction and psychological support from the income generating activities conducted by the support groups.

### **Health and care: HIV/AIDS**

**Goal: Sustainable improvement in health and well being of vulnerable population.**

**Objective: Holistic prevention, care and support provided to persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and orphans and other vulnerable (OVC).**

#### **Progress/Achievements**

*Reaching 5,000 correctional services officers and inmate countrywide with HIV/AIDS prevention messages*

- The national society trained four volunteers on HIV/AIDS counselling to assist in the correctional services. A total of 62 commandants and 30 inmates were trained and sensitised on HIV/AIDS prevention. A committee named 'His Majesty's Correctional Services HIV/AIDS Task Committee' was formed to assist inmates and commandants with counselling on a monthly basis.

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- Inmates were mobilized to go for voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) and, since 2004, 40 of them have been placed on anti-retroviral treatment (ART).
- As a result of the national society's initiative, the Swaziland National Emergency Council on HIV/AIDS donated five television sets to the correctional services.

### *Respect of the rights of PLWHA and OVC within targeted communities and the general public*

- The national society coordinated five support groups to advocate for the respect of rights of PLWHA and OVC by the general public.
- Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society, in collaboration with UNICEF and the coordinating body of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on children's issues, met on monthly basis to address issues affecting PLWHA and OVC.
- Community meetings sensitizing on anti-stigma and discrimination of PLWHA and OVC were also increased in three clinics' catchment areas.

### *Promotion of VCT and prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) in targeted communities in order to reduce HIV infection due to mother to child transmission*

- At the Sigombeni clinic, PMTCT has been successfully integrated into antenatal care education sessions.
- The construction of a new building to house the Sigombeni VCT centre is half way through and will be complete by the end of September 2005.
- Equipment, materials and drugs for the VCT centre in the maternity ward of Sigombeni clinic were procured to support PMTCT.
- The Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society's volunteers conducted five community sensitization meetings and VCT outreach campaigns, reaching 252 people in Sigombeni. Most mothers attended.
- The HIV/AIDS coordinator held monthly meetings with care facilitators and local chiefs on issues on HBC, prevention and health education. Information, education and communication (IEC) material was distributed.
- During the reporting period, 38 care facilitators were also trained on PMTCT.
- With the government's assistance, 32 expectant mothers were provided with Nevirapine™, to prevent mother to child transmission.
- A database of PLWHA has been established.

### *Home-based care project for PLWHA is expanded to reach a total of 2,000 clients*

- In July 2004, a Memory project workshop was conducted for five days at Silele clinic for 23 participants from Sigombeni, Silele, Nhlanguano and Siteki villages.
- During the workshop, a VCT outreach campaign was organized and attracted 50 PLWHA and community leaders.
- A total of 28 coaches– 11 from Mahwalala, ten from Sigombeni and seven from Silele were trained in HBC. The coaches consequently trained 177 care facilitators who supported 3,278 persons under the HBC. Sigombeni support groups were allocated some land by the community leaders for income generating activities.
- The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare declared Sigombeni ART centre the pilot project in the country, as it is the first in a rural setting. ART drugs and laboratory testing facilities were provided by the Global Fund.
- The national society maintains a comprehensive adherence counselling and treatment support systems for PLWHA in HBC, giving more emphasis on strengthening family support.



**Red Cross volunteers at Sigombeni clinic in Swaziland**

## Impact

- The HIV/AIDS mobilization activities conducted within correctional services resulted in more inmates and staff responding to counselling and voluntarily going for HIV test.

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- Volunteers from the national VCT centre now regularly visit inmates, on specific days, to support them in HIV/AIDS related issues.
- As a result of improved prevention of mother to child transmission services, approximately 60% of children born from sero-positive mothers at the Sigombeni clinic are HIV-negative.
- Community response to PMTCT is good and sero-positive mothers have stopped breast-feeding or breast feed exclusively.
- Expectant mothers from the villages surrounding the three clinics have access to safe delivery support.
- Anti-stigma and anti-discrimination of PLWHA and OVC campaigns have encouraged positive living and accorded OVC with access to basic primary education.
- Interested HIV-positive people have managed to access ART and VCT services while the chronically ill are assisted through HBC.
- Livelihoods of PLWHA have been enhanced through HBC, ART and food parcels distributed. The PLWHA are now feeding for their families.

### **Constraints**

- Insufficient financial, human and material resources hindered progress in the health and care programme, leaving a lot more people vulnerable.
- High staff turnover caused by staff opting to join organizations with more competent packages has also affected the most implementation of programmes.
- Chieftaincy disputes in some communities have affected the implementation of HBC and support group activities.

## **Disaster management**

**Goal: The vulnerability of 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**

- The Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society recently finalized its disaster management policy and plans.
- A disaster manager has been hired to take charge of scaling up and coordination of all disaster management activities in the country.
- The national society established a pilot food security project, targeting the chronic food shortage situation in the country and aimed at addressing the linkage between HIV/AIDS and food insecurity.
- In this reporting period, the Federation continued providing Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society with technical and emergency support. Following a storm that struck the Manzini region on 25 January 2005, causing extensive damage to 250 households, the Federation gave the national society a DREF allocation of CHF 35,550 to boost its response capacity. Consequently, the national society was able to provide shelter, blankets and food to 15,000 affected people.

### **Impact**

- Following the finalization of its disaster management policy/plan, Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society will provide further training in disaster management, consolidation and coordination of ongoing programmes to staff and volunteers in order to improve its response capacity.
- The drought-related food security project initiated by the national society has improved the livelihoods of the most vulnerable, notably PLWHA, the chronically ill and OVC.
- Through the project and support groups, the vulnerable are now generating food for consumption and raising income for other basic necessities.

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## **Organizational development**

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

### **Progress/Achievements**

- In the first and second quarters of the year, the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society was more active in implementing its organizational development through its change strategy. The most important elements of the change process were the review of the constitution and the development of a four-year strategic plan, which will be reviewed every year.
- Through branch development support, the national society recruited more members and established 30 branches in five divisions.
- The new board members elected in 2004 will remain in office until 2007, ensuring thorough seeing through of projects and programmes.
- Members have translated the constitution of the national society into the local language, SiSwati, for better understanding.

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

APPEAL No. 05AA015

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

04/08/2005

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|

## CASH

|                                |  |        |     |                |          | TOTAL COVERAGE             |
|--------------------------------|--|--------|-----|----------------|----------|----------------------------|
| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> |  |        |     | <b>694,927</b> |          | <b>26.2%</b>               |
| OPENING BALANCE                |  |        |     | 16,157         |          |                            |
| FINNISH - RC                   |  | 7,000  | EUR | 10,843         | 19.04.05 | ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT |
| FINNISH - RC                   |  | 30,000 | EUR | 46,470         | 07.04.05 | FOOD SECURITY              |
| FINNISH - RC                   |  | 70,000 | EUR | 108,430        | 07.04.05 | FOOD SECURITY              |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH     |  |        |     | 181,900        | CHF      | 26.2%                      |

## 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  |         |