

Programme Update

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MALAWI

Appeal No.
MAAMW002

31 August 2009

This report covers the
period 01 January 2009 to
30 June 2009.



A water point committee member on a borehole constructed by Malawi Red Cross Society.

In brief

Programme purpose:

Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) programmes are designed to contribute towards a reduction in the number of deaths, injuries, illnesses and impact from disasters, public health and emergencies; while increasing the capacity of local communities, civil society and the Red Cross to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability, to promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Programme summary

With the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), MRCS focused its efforts on responding to floods and a cholera outbreak. The implementation of disaster response, preparedness and mitigation, community-based health care (CBHC), HIV and AIDS, and water supply and sanitation activities continued at a slow pace, although efficiency has been revived following the closure of emergency operations. The National Society also catered for a caseload of 12,500 refugees by providing food and non-food items, psychosocial support, and agricultural inputs.

With financial and technical support from the Netherlands and Danish Red Cross Societies, the CBHC and WatSan programmes facilitated the provision of clean water, sanitation facilities and empowerment of communities in managing and maintaining the facilities. The Strategic Plan 2010-2014 was reviewed taking into account the priorities of the Johannesburg Commitment; through a consultative process that involved all key stakeholders, including other Red Cross Movement components.

Financial situation: The total budget for 2009 was CHF 1,290,946, of which 33 percent was covered. The majority of funds have been earmarked for disaster management (DM) and health and care. As such, the National Society has excelled in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and WatSan initiatives. Donors under this plan thus far include the Finnish, Irish and Spanish Red Cross Societies, and DFID. The National Society also receives funds under bilateral partnerships with the Danish and Netherlands Red Cross Societies.

The related emergency appeal launched during the reporting period:

[MDRMW004](#) – This DREF was launched on the 19 January 2009 for CHF 71,022, to support MRCS in assisting families displaced by floods and responding to the cholera outbreak. The operation was implemented over three months.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

No. of people we help:

MRCS reached 20,000 people through disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities supported through the DFID IS III framework; 768 households and 12 support groups with food security initiatives; 85,550 community members with WatSan facilities; and 12,500 refugees with monthly relief assistance. CBHC programmes, supported financially and technically by the Danish and Netherlands Red Cross Societies, assisted 14,000 households and 128,000 beneficiaries respectively.

Our partners:

Within the Movement, MRCS worked in partnership with the Danish, Irish, Icelandic, Netherlands, Belgium, Finnish and Swedish Red Cross Societies. Outside the movement, partner agencies included UN agencies (UNHCR, UNICEF), government agencies (ministries of Health, Agriculture, Home Affairs and Water) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as World Vision International and National Aids Council (NAC).

Context

Malawi is a landlocked country with a population of 10.6 million people, 85 percent of which live in the rural areas. It is ranked 163 out of the 177 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI) and per capita Gross National Product is USD 210. An estimated 64 percent of the population lives below the poverty line (less than USD 1 per day). The country is vulnerable to a range of shocks and hazards including natural hazards such as droughts, floods and storms, disease epidemics, air and water pollution and economic shocks. In the reporting period, Malawi succumbed to a localised flooding which displaced over 3,000 families. A cholera outbreak as direct impact of floods, recorded 5,198 cases and 113 deaths, as reported by the Ministry of Health (MoH).

Malawi remains a peaceful nation with a political climate that enables MRCS to operate in an environment conducive to delivering services to vulnerable populations. The general presidential and parliamentary elections were peacefully held on 19 May 2008. The incumbent ruling party maintain its mandate for the next five years.

The implementation of programme activities, such as time specific irrigation activities have over the period been delayed due to the late disbursement of funds from partners; hence will be prioritised in the next implementation period. The National Society coped with situation by promoting the sharing of resources within its programmes and by collaborating with sector agencies.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Expected Results:

- Humanitarian assistance is provided to 15,000 rural refugees in line with Sphere minimum standards to ensure they live with dignity.
- Communities' capacity in disaster preparedness and post disaster response are strengthened.
- MRCS capacity in disaster response and management is strengthened.
- Community resilience to disasters is improved for 5,000 households, with a focus on food security.

Achievements:

A total of 12,500 of the targeted 15,000 refugees received assistance from MRCS on monthly basis. The refugees were provided with psychosocial support, material assistance (food, household utensils, sanitary materials and blankets among others) through community-based services; based on the needs identified by the government.

In the five projects implementation areas, over 750 subsistence farmers were trained on irrigation-related themes such as plot layout, main canal construction and other crop husbandry practises. Subsequently, 180 agricultural starter packs that consisted of 5kgs hybrid maize seed, 15kgs of fertiliser, 5kgs of bean seed and 40g of assorted vegetable seed were distributed to the trained farmers. Three rainwater-harvesting structures (ponds) were constructed as a source of water for irrigating crops in an irrigation scheme for 100 farmers.

In disaster preparedness, MRCS held five sensitization meetings on participatory planning in flood and drought hazards in order to enhance the capacity of communities on preparedness. So far, communities have designed contingency plans to deal with the impact of disasters. In addition, five community drama groups were formed to help disseminate messages through performances in local languages. The drama groups have been trained on various aspects regarding DRR and mitigation, such as the riverbank protection against soil erosion.

MRCS also distributed fruit tree seedlings and vegetable seeds to 768 households and 12 support groups affected and infected by HIV and AIDS for the establishment of backyard gardens, communal vegetable gardens and orchards. The fruit tree seedlings included 1,500 pawpaw, 1,000 guava, 700 citrus, 1,000 mango and 500 banana suckers. Households with chronically ill beneficiaries are expected to benefit from the seeds provided to support groups. Targeted beneficiaries also received refresher training on making composite manure to improve soil fertility. Preparations for small-scale irrigation began with maintenance of the water sources and field preparations in readiness for planting.

In order to strengthen the capacity of MRCS in disaster preparedness and response, the National Society undertook disaster assessments and created the Internal Disaster Response Fund (IDRF). The funds accumulated in IDRF will allow the National Society to initiate response operations before disaster emergency funds are released from the IFRC.

Of the three planned disaster assessments, two were achieved in Salima and Nkhotakota, in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management Affairs through district assemblies. The assessment team comprised of MRCS staff and volunteers, district assembly officials, NGOs such as World Vision International, government ministry officials, local leaders and community representatives, and covered all disaster-affected areas. MRCS responded by distributing 316 shelter kits and 632 tarpaulins to affected households for the construction of temporally shelters.

Challenges:

The late disbursement of funds from partners delayed the implementation of programme activities and, as some activities are time specific, the late funding affected the progress of planned operations.

Health and Care Programmes

Expected Results:

- MRCS has increased capacity for mobilising resources and implementing WatSan projects. Access to safe water and adequate sanitation services have improved in MRCS target areas.
- Well-designed First Aid and WatSan programmes are integrated into emergency operations' protocol.
- MRCS capacity to deliver community-based First Aid (CBFA) is strengthened at headquarters and branch level.
- The most vulnerable groups, including children under five years and pregnant women, are protected from malaria and are seeking early treatment.
- Community home-based care (CHBC) and support for vulnerable children is scaled-up with holistic support to address education, food and nutrition, psychosocial support, social inclusion, and economic support.

Achievements:

During the reporting period, 36 communities were provided with safe water, serving 13,314 people in Blantyre, Mwanza, Lilongwe and Chiradzulu districts. In Mchinji, Karonga, Zomba and Balaka districts. A total of 33 water points were protected by putting a fence around them. The provision of water points to a larger extent allow women and girls to fetch water at a distance of 500 meters, round trip from home. In addition, it leads to the reduction of incidences of diarrhoea cases. The number of pupils attending classes in schools is also likely to increase; according to a primary education advisor from Lilongwe district.

Ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines were constructed in Lilongwe (30), Blantyre (2), Mwanza (2) and Zomba (1) primary schools, giving 1,920 pupils access to sanitary facilities. Of the 1,408 planned sanitary platforms (sanplats), 1,370 were produced serving 6,850 people; thus a 93 percent achievement.

Of the 87 water committees formed, 60 were trained in borehole repair and maintenance. The formation of the committees represents a first step towards building the capacity of the beneficiaries, as committee members play a lead role during projects/undertakings in their respective communities, which will eventually lead to programme ownership and sustainability. The remaining water point committees will be trained in the third quarter of 2009.

CBFA training was provided to 201 projects, where 18 project staff received basic First Aid training. MRCS also reached out to 21,000 community members with hygiene promotion messages aimed at reducing the spread of communicable diseases.

The CBHC programme continued, targeting 14,000 households in Zomba, Balaka, Mchinji and Karonga, with funding supplied by the Danish Red Cross. The programme aims to reduce vulnerability towards incidences and impact of health problems arising from poor hygiene, water supplies, sanitation, maternal and child health, and HIV and AIDS. In addition to hygiene promotion, protecting water points, training on the maintenance of water points, malaria control, support to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and HBC clients was increased.

With financial and technical support from the Netherlands Red Cross, MRCS also implemented a CBHC programme in Dowa and Kasungu districts. The project was designed sustainably improve the health of 128,000 vulnerable rural people in the targeted districts. Categorically, education support was provided to pupils in 12 secondary schools and six community-based child care (CBCC) centres with an average of 120 OVC each.

Organisational Development

Expected Results:

- MRCS leadership, governance and management are effective and empowered through structured capacity building.
- Navision accounting is operational and maintained at headquarters.
- Consolidated logical framework and integrated reporting framework has been developed.
- Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting is fully funded and operational.

Achievements:

The Navision accounting software has been fully operational at headquarters. The Head of OD unit briefed members of Mwanza Division on the intentions of the Eastern Branch of the Icelandic Red Cross to sign a twinning cooperation agreement. The partnership will ensure the development of the branch at a minimum cost. In other areas, branch leadership training was conducted for division committee members from Dowa and Kasungu.

The IFRC Zone office' planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) unit provided technical support to all National Society programmes including coordinating the baseline survey for CBHC programmes funded by the Netherlands Red Cross, participating in the development of the human pandemic preparedness (H2P) initiative and coordinating MRCS' 2010/2011 planning process. The National Society began the development of 2010 to 2014 Strategic Plan, which forms the basis for the development of a consolidated logical framework and integrated reporting format, as well as associated monitoring and evaluation systems.

Constraints or Challenges

Funding has been inadequate to fully implement OD activities.

Humanitarian Values

Expected Results:

- Promotion of Humanitarian Values and Fundamental Principles
- Sexual and gender-based violence prevention

Achievements:

The National Society's website has been established to facilitate the promotion and understanding of the mandate and Humanitarian Values of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement among the general public. The information office raised the profile and visibility of MRCS by coordinating activities to commemorate the 2009 World Red Cross Red Crescent day on May 8, and MRCS' fundraising week (flag week).

During the reporting period, MRCS organized an open day whose main focus was on youth involvement in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV). Activities concentrated on information dissemination on GBV. MRCS provided starter packs for income generating activities to three GBV survivors.

Constraints or Challenges

Funding was insufficient for information, education and communication (IEC) activities.

Working in partnership

During the reporting period, MRCS partnered with PNS active in Malawi, UN agencies, governmental agencies and NGOs at various levels of programming. Donor partners have played an important role in ensuring the successful implementation of MRCS activities through technical and financial support. MRCS' collaboration with stakeholders has contributed to the efficient implementation of programmes through information sharing, which has also reduced the duplication of efforts among stakeholders.

As auxiliary to the local authorities, MRCS activities complement the government of Malawi's efforts in serving vulnerable populations. As such, MRCS collaborated with relevant government line ministries such as the department of disaster management in responding to the disaster scenarios (floods, and cholera) and with the Ministry of Health in constructing a water point (borehole) at a MRCS-constructed health post to address the water problem in the area. The National Society also deployed a nurse and a medical assistant at this facility.

Contributing to longer-term impact

In order to ensure better management, learning and improvement of MRCS programmes, information sharing within and outside the National Society was promoted through planning workshops, quarterly review meetings, coordination meetings and field visits. In these meetings plans, achievements, lessons learnt and challenges in various sectors, experienced both within the National society and by other stakeholders implementing similar activities, were shared and collective decisions were made. This assisted in effectively tracking the progress of MRCS in the implementation of its interventions.

Looking ahead

Although the National Society effectively implemented the planned activities for the reporting period, some activities were postponed to the second quarter, thereby affecting planned second quarter activities. This implies that the National Society has to prioritise the activities remaining for this reporting period. MRCS will implement health interventions and scaling-up WatSan activities in three districts (Blantyre, Ntcheu and Zomba) with support from the Korean Red Cross. The National Society will also begin implementing the approved H2P initiative.

The OD department intends to devise an institutional strategy that supports the divisions. The wide consultations required would need the services of an external consultant, which would necessitate financial assistance. The PMER unit will support MRCS in developing systems and providing technical support to programmes, while the information office will finalize the development of the National Society's website and formulate a communication strategy.

How we work

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAMW002 - Malawi

Mid-year report 2009

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/6
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAAMW002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	752,825	300,744	51,155	22,158	164,064	1,290,946
B. Opening Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>DFID Partnership grant</i>	140,848					140,848
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		10,108				10,108
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>		57,281				57,281
<i>Irish Red Cross</i>		894				894
<i>Spanish Red Cross</i>			26,824			26,824
C1. Cash contributions	140,848	68,283	26,824			235,956
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>DFID Partnership grant</i>	127,172					127,172
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		9,141				9,141
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>		51,798				51,798
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	127,172	60,938				188,110
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	268,020	129,222	26,824	0	0	424,066
D. Total Funding = B + C	268,020	129,222	26,824	0	0	424,066
Appeal Coverage	36%	43%	52%	0%	0%	33%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0
C. Income	268,020	129,222	26,824	0	0	424,066
E. Expenditure	-171,811	-58,276	-25,834			-255,921
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	96,209	70,946	990	0	0	168,145

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAMW002 - Malawi

Mid-year report 2009

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/6
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAAMW002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination			
A		B						A - B	
BUDGET (C)		752,825	300,744	51,155	22,158	164,064	1,290,946		
Supplies									
Shelter - Relief	74,554	20,498					20,498	54,056	
Construction Materials	242							242	
Clothing & textiles	82,331							82,331	
Seeds,Plants	84,521							84,521	
Water & Sanitation	121,907							121,907	
Medical & First Aid	29,793							29,793	
Teaching Materials	39,854							39,854	
Utensils & Tools	14,600							14,600	
Total Supplies	447,802	20,498					20,498	427,304	
Land, vehicles & equipment									
Computers & Telecom	1,789							1,789	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	1,789							1,789	
Transport & Storage									
Distribution & Monitoring	570							570	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	94,713	15,933					15,933	78,779	
Total Transport & Storage	95,283	15,933					15,933	79,349	
Personnel									
International Staff	146,400							146,400	
Regionally Deployed Staff	12,906							12,906	
National Staff		5,721					5,721	-5,721	
National Society Staff	185,135	54,282					54,282	130,853	
Consultants		7,516					7,516	-7,516	
Total Personnel	344,441	67,518					67,518	276,923	
Workshops & Training									
Workshops & Training	206,602	1,476					1,476	205,126	
Total Workshops & Training	206,602	1,476					1,476	205,126	
General Expenditure									
Travel	14,000	11,805		33			11,838	2,162	
Office Costs	10,100	2,624					2,624	7,476	
Communications		17,214					17,214	-17,214	
Professional Fees	1,500							1,500	
Financial Charges		10,734	-1,195	-591			8,949	-8,949	
Other General Expenses	85,518	6,471					6,471	79,047	
Total General Expenditure	111,118	48,849	-1,195	-558			47,096	64,022	
Programme Support									
Program Support	83,911	11,168	4,371	1,679			17,218	66,694	
Total Programme Support	83,911	11,168	4,371	1,679			17,218	66,694	
Operational Provisions									
Operational Provisions		6,369	55,100	24,713			86,182	-86,182	
Total Operational Provisions		6,369	55,100	24,713			86,182	-86,182	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,290,946	171,811	58,276	25,834			255,921	1,035,025	
VARIANCE (C - D)		581,014	242,468	25,321	22,158	164,064	1,035,025		