

Annual report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

LESOTHO

Appeal No. MAALS002

30 April 2011

This report covers the period
01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010



Chief of Ha Makhoathi and LRCS staff member testing a newly fitted water pump /Photo LRCS

In brief

Programme outcome: Lives of the most vulnerable are saved and livelihoods are protected, while recovery from disasters and crises is strengthened through development of community resilience. Health promotion, disease prevention, care and support are provided to vulnerable communities following set criteria and guided by the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Strategy 2020.

Programme summary: Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS) activities were implemented under two core programmes: disaster management (DM) and health and social services. The programmes are integrated and have common beneficiaries, i.e. home-based care clients, chronically ill, tuberculosis (TB) patients, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and other vulnerable groups. The programme activities therefore complement each other, focusing on reducing the impact of a negative synergy of high HIV prevalence, food insecurity and poverty. Programmes contribute towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the strategic aims of the Strategy 2020 of the IFRC. LRCS interventions are guided by the Strategic Plan 2010-2012, which provides direction and control of activities while ensuring effective, efficient and economical execution of mandate of the National Society (NS).

LRCS continued utilizing community support structures known as lead farmers/gardeners and care facilitators to instil a sense of ownership by the community. These structures are supported by the Red Cross volunteers in the operational divisions to ensure sustainable implementation of the projects beyond the donor-funded period.

Financial situation: The original 2010 budget is CHF 612,503, of which CHF 56,327 (9 per cent) was covered during the reporting period (including opening balance).

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

Number of people we have reached: A total of 83,000 people were directly reached through programmes in this plan.

Our partners: LRCS has continuously benefited from the technical and financial support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), British, Norwegian Icelandic and Japanese Red Cross Societies and ICRC. The NS worked in partnership with the Government of Lesotho through the Ministries of Health and Social Welfare, Agriculture, Education and Training, Local Government, Gender and Youth Affairs, Disaster Management Authority and the National AIDS Commission. It is also working with Child and Gender Protection Unit and Child helpline to ensure safety of children and other vulnerable groups.

UN Agencies in partnership with LRCS include UNICEF, WHO, WFP Global Fund and UNFPA. The NS is working with other organizations involved in health and HIV/AIDS activities. They include: Christian Health Association of Lesotho (CHAL), Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI) and Lesotho Network of people living with HIV and AIDS (LENEPHWA).

The LRCS and IFRC wish to thank partners and contributors for their collaboration in 2010.

Context

The year 2010 was a relatively stable year politically with insignificant misunderstandings over the report on allocation of seats in Parliament and postponement of the local elections, which were due in April. The country experienced normal to above normal rains for the first four months, which was followed by severe drought up to October, thus delaying growing season for field crops by two months, September and October. There were also episodes of strong winds from January to March and September to October blowing off 200 houses in the northern, southern and central regions of the country. LRCS then provided temporary roofing in a form of tarpaulins.

The rains had direct impact on programming particularly the food security interventions. During the rainy months, efforts were concentrated on construction and seeding of keyhole and trench gardens. The yields were high and the beneficiaries enjoyed leafy green vegetables up to December. However, in areas where construction and seeding started towards the end of the winter, during the dry season, the vegetables were retarded and picked up only after the October rains while reseeded was inevitable in most of the gardens, therefore more seeds were provided accordingly.

Provision of health services at LRCS Health Centres has improved due to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between LRCS and the Government of Lesotho through the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare since April 2010. However, HIV and AIDS remains a public health problem in Lesotho regardless of a widespread knowledge of HIV and AIDS prevention among the 15 - 49 years age groups ranging from 90.6 to 96.8 per cent, therefore prevention activities were scaled-up. LRCS joined the fight and strengthened the PMTCT and other HIV prevention activities including condom distribution.

The purpose of the DM programme is to improve the capacity of communities and NS to respond to disasters through capacity building and community empowerment. The LRCS DM programme was implemented through four projects namely, food facility, protracted relief and recovery operations (PRRO) and livelihood interventions for vulnerable households in Lesotho. The latter phased out in March 2010, while the food facility commenced in April 2010.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme Component: Disaster Preparedness

Outcome 1: Human, financial, material resources and disaster management systems are enhanced through the implementation of a Disaster Management Master Plan (DMMP).

Achievements

- To ensure community-based disaster preparedness activities, disaster relief materials including tarpaulins and kitchen utensils were procured and pre-positioned at the divisions.

Programme component: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Outcome 1: Communities have in place local risk reduction strategies building on traditional coping mechanisms as well as contemporary knowledge on the cause and effects of natural phenomenon due to climate change.

Achievements

- LRCS in collaboration with the Disaster Management Authority trained 20 districts disaster management teams (DDMTs) on First Aid in preparation for the festive season, which is known for increased number of road accidents and manmade injuries that claim people's lives.
- The DM and First Aid departments jointly conducted a training of trainers (ToT) workshop for the divisions to increase their capacity and skills as well as enhancing techniques on DM and community-based First Aid.

Programme Component: Disaster Response and Recovery

Outcome 1: Disaster response mechanisms are efficient in meeting the needs of those affected by disasters.

Achievements

- LRCS reached a remarkable milestone when the response equipment ranging from step ladders, wheel barrows, saws, steel nails, hammers, rakes, spades, shovels, ropes, pick axes and fire extinguishers were procured and distributed to all ten districts. The teams were given a crash course on the use of the equipment. All teams were strongly advised to contact the police department in their respective areas for demonstration on the use of fire fighting equipment.

Outcome 2: LRCS capacity for the provision of assistance in the restoration of sustainable livelihoods in population affected by disasters in improved.

Achievements

- LRCS assisted 200 households with tarpaulins benefitting about 1,000 individuals in the six districts of Quthing, Mohale's Hoek, Mafeteng, Maseru, Berea and Leribe affected by strong winds.

Programme Component: Food Security

Outcome 1: Household food availability is improved.

Outcome 2: Household food utilisation is improved.

Outcome 3: Household access to food is improved.

Achievements

- In partnership with WFP, LRCS distributed food items amounting to 3,733,511 metric tonnes (Mt) in Mokhotlong, Butha-Buthe, Mafeteng and Quthing, which benefitted 57,843 individuals. OVC represented a larger portion among the categories with 19,903 receiving food packages, followed by household with clients on ART with 14,991 and 11,465 households with children under five years. Other categories include TB and PMTCT clients where 2,406 were reached through livelihood activities. The total tonnage to be moved in 2010 was 4,800Mt, but could not be reached because of the incompleteness of the food basket each month of distribution. Another contributing factor to the tonnage lower than the target was the unavailability of food for two months from August and September due to pipeline break down caused by delay in milling companies and other WFP suppliers.
- A total of 125 Lead farmers/gardeners were selected and trained in conservation agriculture. Seventy of them were from Leribe and Berea districts since the Food Facility project is implemented in the new areas where there are no existing community support structures. While 55 were from Mapholaneng, Kena, Mafeteng and Quthing. All lead farmers/gardeners installed their demonstration fields/gardens for crop diversification.
- Different conservation farming techniques were imparted to the beneficiaries resulting in construction of 1,622 keyhole, 878 trench and 804 compost gardens. All constructed gardens were seeded with inputs from LRCS.
- Seven seed fairs were held jointly with FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in Leribe and Berea, the idea of teaming with other organizations was to avoid competition between seed fairs and duplication of beneficiaries. A total of 968 beneficiaries were provided with vouchers to purchase seeds. The identified number was 1,038, but during verification of beneficiary list, it was discovered that 70 of them had already benefitted from FAO.
- Namibia and Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Societies visited Lesotho with the purpose of learning through an exchange visit on the food security and HIV and AIDS programme integration. The focus was on gardening and food preservation, integration and collaboration of lead farmers and care facilitators, LRCS clinics and projects.
- LRCS also had the pleasure of welcoming IFRC food security delegation two, seven members of the German Parliament and two representatives of the German Embassy to Lesotho and accompanied them to the projects sites to review and learn on the food security activities.

Constraints or Challenges

- There was an inconsistency supply of food commodities from WFP, which disrupted planned distribution schedule. In some instances, maize meal being the staple food item was not available hence distributions in some districts had to be suspended.
- Dry season experienced by the country inhibited the seeding activities between August and October 2010 and has further encouraged a rapid multiplication and infestation of bugs and harvester termites, which destroyed the tender crops that beneficiaries have grown.
- Late and heavy rains destroyed the already planted crops and hindered more ploughing and planting, thus, resulted into much acreage remaining fallowed.
- Staff turnover in the DM department, especially food security officers delayed some activities to a certain degree; however, the department's Coordinator took over the responsibilities until the positions have been filled.

Health and Social Services

Programme Component: Community-based Health and First Aid

Outcome 1: Communities have capacity to reduce their own vulnerability to health hazards through knowledge of community-based health and First Aid (CBH&FA)

Achievements

First Aid:

- First Aid training guidelines were developed to guide and control the boundaries in terms of constituencies and level of training, including general First Aid operations. This exercise was completed with inputs from First Aid instructors and their divisions, programme coordinators and LRCS management.
- The First Aids section compiled and distributed basic First Aid notes to the divisions in order to standardize training of First Aid.

Primary Health Care Services:

- LRCS is still maintaining provision of primary health care services by operating four health centres (Thaba-Bosiu, Kolajane, Kena and Mapholaneng) in partnership and supervision from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare through the respective District Health Management Teams. MoU between the Ministry and LRCS started operating in April 2010.
- The renovation of LRCS health centre at Kena supported by MSF has been completed and the building was handed over to the NS in April 2010. The purpose of the renovation was to address infection control, while patients are waiting for the services, so the area is now spacious and well ventilated.
- All four LRCS health centres provide PMTCT services and initiate ART except one in Thaba-Bosiu that is doing refills only.

Programme Component: Water and Sanitation

Outcome 1: Access to sustainable safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene practices improved in LRCS target areas.

Achievements

- The WatSan project is an essential component of OVC support, therefore rehabilitation of a water system was carried out at Mafeteng with the biggest OVC programme. 30,000-litre distribution tank and a water point were constructed to ensure availability of clean and safe drinking water. A 5,000 litres silt box was built in another area in Mafeteng in order to trap mud before the water reaches the water point. Two water tanks, which also serve as water points, were constructed in the same district.

Constraints or Challenges;

- Delays in the disbursements of funds by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare made it difficult to maintain required drug stock levels. Some commonly used items were out of stock, and patients could not always afford to buy available drugs.
- Insufficient funding to run the First Aid department since the fees charged for trainings are too low to cover all related costs. LRCS is considering reviewing the fees to enable the department to meet the running costs

National Society Development

Programme Component: Leadership and Management Development

Outcome 1: LRCS leadership (government and management) capacity has increased in developing and implementing policies and strategies for optimal organisational performance and accountability.

Achievements

- LRCS's national executive committee (NEC), secretariat and the divisions jointly developed the Strategic Plan 2010-2012 in January 2010 and the document was approved at the annual general meeting (AGM) held in May 2010.
- The NS paid off the outstanding statutory contributions and has a sense of belonging to the Movement.
- The AGM for the Youth was held in March 2010 where they elected their new committee.
- The national AGM was held on 29 May 2010, where the former president was re-elected for the second term, which is three years. The Minister of Health and Social Welfare was the guest speaker since LRCS is working in close collaboration with the ministry through the health and care activities.
- Implementation of the MoU between LRCS and the Government of Lesotho through the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare commenced in April 2010, which is the beginning of the government's financial year.
- LRCS signed the MoU with German Red Cross Society following discussions with the partner to facilitate smooth implementation of the project and at the same time respecting the rights of both parties and considering the guiding principles of the Red Cross Movement.
- LRCS organized and conducted a governance and management workshop for the NEC in September 2010. The aim was to orientate new members and remind others of the roles and responsibilities of the NEC in organizational development. The same workshop was conducted for the divisional chairpersons, their vices and the secretaries in November 2010.
- Exchange visit was taken by the NEC members to Botswana Red Cross to share and learn from each other. The members came back with concrete ideas to improve the general performance of the NS, especially in resource mobilization.

Programme Component: Branch Development

Outcome 1: LRCS has vibrant branches delivering quality services through their local volunteers and youth networks.

Achievements

- A one-week national youth work camp preceding the World Red Cross Day was held in Berea where 70 Youth from the ten Red Cross Divisions participated.
- The NS celebrated the World Red Cross Day on the 8th of May in Berea Division attended by all staff, some volunteers, government official, partner and other stakeholders.
- Membership recruitment campaigns were held in all divisions with the support of ICRC and Norwegian Red Cross. Berea division managed to attract more members therefore received an award for the job well done.

Programme component: Well-functioning National Society

Outcome 1: LRCS has capacity in planning, tracking performance and reporting as stipulated in the IFRC's Performance and Accountability Framework

Achievements

- A mid-term evaluation was conducted in Lesotho at Thaba-Bosiu and Mafeteng in February 2010 by the independent consultants engaged by IFRC. The overall goal of this exercise was to review the progress made by IFRC and its partners after two years of implementation of the Global Alliance on HIV in Southern Africa and inform future interventions.
- A baseline survey was successfully conducted as planned in Leribe and Berea in the 84 villages identified for the implementation of the food facility project.

Programme Component: Resource Development

Outcome 1: Capacity to mobilise resources and its own sustainability is enhanced through the implementation of well-designed income generating programmes.

Achievements

- As part of resource mobilization, LRCS is running commercial First Aid and trained 936 people from various companies including colleges. The department has scaled-up trainings due to the increased number of First Aid instructors.

Constraints or Challenges

- The NS did not have a NSD or organisational development coordinator to ensure that activities in all the divisions are well implemented and improved. Although the position has funding support from Norwegian Red Cross, 2010 Plan was not funded therefore sustainability of activities would be a challenge.

Working in partnership

LRCS acknowledges the role played by partners at both national and district levels for effective and efficient implementation of programmes, and therefore maintained the existing local and international partners. The NS also maintained a bilateral relationship with the German Red Cross in the implementation of the food facility project operating in Leribe and Berea. The same project is co-financed by the EU.

LRCS continued partnership with WFP in the implementation of PRRO and distribution of food commodities to the vulnerable groups in the four targeted districts. The NS also has a strong partnership with the Disaster Management Authority since the latter is the national coordinating body for disaster preparedness and response operations.

The Norwegian Red Cross plays a magnificent role in ensuring that LRCS meets the characteristics of a well-functioning NS as the only partner supporting a larger portion of NSD activities through a separate budget. IFRC Southern Africa Regional office increased effort in technical and financial support to the NS, which ensures continuity of the programmes. The ICRC plays a major role in the dissemination of information about the Red Cross Movement, visibility and commemorating the Red Cross events.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The NS ensures the participation of communities at planning and implementation levels such as the community support structures known as lead farmers/gardeners and care facilitators. This has increased ownership of the projects by the community, thus making them more sustainable. The Red Cross volunteers have been available at operational divisions to ensure sustainable implementation of the projects.

The LRCS headquarters' programme coordinators and officer conduct quarterly monitoring visits to the project sites to follow up on implementation and progress made on the annual plans. Other monitoring visits are conducted jointly with the partners.

For example, members of the German Parliament and Representatives of the German Embassy visited the food facility project site in Berea supported by German Red Cross. This gesture enhanced

recognition of the NS project and boosted the moral of the beneficiaries. LRCS is represented at district and national fora, which afford the representatives the opportunity to disseminate LRCS interventions, thus paving the way for sustainability of the projects with the support of other stakeholders.

The high yields owing to the learned farming techniques ensure availability of nutritious food and sale of excess as income generating project for backyard gardeners supported by LRCS, thus contributing towards eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; MDG 1.

Looking ahead

The NS is committed to maintaining existing partnerships and establishment of new ones. In addition, LRCS will continue strengthening its branches as the implementation of the activities is based on strong existing and newly established divisional structures. Monitoring will be maintained to continuously inform programme management and development at divisional and national levels. The IFRC through the Southern Africa Regional Representation Office will continue providing technical support and coordination according to the needs of the NS.

All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to:

Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

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