

Programme Update

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

EASTERN AFRICA ZONE

Appeal No. MAA64001

29/08/2008

This report covers the period 01/01/2008
to 30/06/2008.



Participants of the June planning meeting at EAZO. Source: Federation

In brief

The programmes in the Eastern Africa (EA) Zone are aligned to the Federation Global Agenda goals and Framework for Action Areas of improvement.

Programme purpose:

Build up well-prepared, stronger and more efficient National Societies that are able to predict, prevent and reduce risks and respond to the high level of humanitarian demands in the region posed by small and medium scale disasters, mitigate their impact as well as cope with their consequences.

Build and strengthen the capacities of the 14 National Societies in the Zone to address public health needs in their respective countries in a sustainable manner, according to the ARCHI 2010 and the Algiers Plan of Action priorities.

Pool resources with all Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Partners to maximize effectiveness of organizational development and capacity building including ensuring guidance on and common understanding of organizational development and its importance in relation to service delivery and programming.

Strengthen the capacities of National Societies in communications and profiling the Federation Humanitarian Principles and Humanitarian Values and its member Societies in the region.

Promote an organizational culture of continuous learning and performance measurement in the Zone to improve quality, impact and accountability.

Programmes summary: The Zone disaster management department continues to strengthen human resource capacity within the region such as Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) while encouraging early response to disasters. In relation to this, RDRTs were deployed in Ethiopia and Djibouti for drought needs assessments. National Societies were also supported and encouraged to access Federation resources such as the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT) RDRT and the Emergency Response Unit (ERU). DREFs were issued in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan and Madagascar for various emergencies including droughts, disease outbreaks, floods and food distribution.

The Zone health and care support unit continued to strengthen the capacities of NS staff and volunteers in health and care programming. Focus has been on programme technical support in HIV and AIDS programming, strengthening community health and emergency programming in National Societies and promotion of water, sanitation and hygiene.

For improved National Society performance and accountability, technical support in organizational development focused on governance and branch development, information technology and telecommunications (IT&T) as well as finance development. Review of statutes, leadership trainings, branch capacity assessments, IT assessments, financial systems and HF/VHF radio installations have been carried out in several National Societies.

The PMER unit focused on improving understanding of key programming elements in the core Federation programmes by National Societies and Federation staff, strengthening NS PMER systems, capacity building in PMER including training workshops and planning support visits, development of PMER tools including introduction of a new monitoring and evaluation schedule, as well, sharing and utilising PMER guidelines. In collaboration with the Zone finance and programme units emphasis was placed on clearing the backlog of reports from 27 to 6 and coordinating programme review meetings to track progress in relation to the 2008 Zone plan.

The zone communications unit provided support to launch the Food Security initiative for Africa in Addis Ababa in March. The unit also participated in Global Communications Forum in Washington where it was agreed that next year's global gathering will be organized in Nairobi. The unit is actively involved in the preparation for Pan African Conference (communications part) in Johannesburg in October.

Financial situation: The total 2008 budget is CHF 3,278,576 (USD 3,122,453 or EUR 2,005,245), of which 47 per cent covered. Expenditure overall was 84 per cent of the total funding received. The initial budget was CHF 3,220,822 (USD 3,067,450 or EUR 1,969,922) but the figure increased after slight adjustments on PMER budget.

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

No. of people we help: Much of the Zone technical departments' work is institutional strengthening and identifying primary beneficiaries can be a big challenge. The EA Zone supports a total of 14 National Societies in the region

Our partners: The zone technical departments have been working in partnerships with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the American, Finnish, French, German, Netherlands, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies. Other existing partnerships include the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO), the British Government's Department for International Development (DfID), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), UN agencies such as Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). The zone also works

with other organizations including the East Africa Roll Back Malaria Network (EARN), the Regional Health Emergency Group (RHEG), the Water and Environmental Sanitation Coordination (WESCORD), inter-agency working group (IAWG) on HIV and Sexually Gender-based Violence (SGBV) in emergencies as well as National Society partnerships with people living with HIV and/or AIDS (PLHIV) associations.

Context

The eastern Africa region continues to experience major disasters which claim many lives, destroy property and erode the already weak livelihoods of the affected communities. During the first half of the year 2008, National Societies in the zone experienced various challenges. Kenya experienced a post-election crisis, while Uganda and Tanzania experienced outbreaks of health epidemics and floods respectively.

National Societies redirected their efforts in terms of personnel and resources responding to these crises slowing down the pace and extent of normal programme implementation. The Kenya Red Cross Society was appointed as the lead agency in managing the camps for the internally displaced persons (IDPs) during the post-election violence that rocked Kenya. Due to the scale of the crisis, the National Society deployed its staff and volunteers from normal programme implementation in order to handle the crisis effectively.

In Uganda, the outbreak of Hepatitis E virus and influx refugees fleeing violence in Kenya not only strained its resources but diverted the Uganda Red Cross Society from normal programmes.

This period was marked by rising tensions in various parts of Sudan. Violence, inter-tribal clashes and population movements compounded daunting humanitarian conditions that face thousands of people in Sudan.

Increased cases of violence and insecurity coupled with targeted attacks and kidnapping of humanitarian aid workers reduced the ability of humanitarian actors to work in the field in Somalia. The National Society however, continued to operate its programmes without interruption in its clinics and the hospitals it supports, as well as at branch level in disaster preparedness and community-based first aid (CBFA) activities.

In Eritrea, the period was marked by acute fuel shortage which became a major challenge to humanitarian work. The unresolved border dispute with Ethiopia remains a major concern also. The suspension of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea (RCSE) affected the implementation of the programmes in the first half of 2008.

In Ethiopia, some parts of the country have experienced prolonged drought that have exacerbated food insecurity.

In the Indian Ocean Islands, political conflict in Comoros slowed the progress of branch development; Madagascar was affected by several cyclones including Cyclone Ivan causing deaths and destruction of homes. The mobilization of resources for the emergency response to Cyclone Ivan prevented the National Society to fully apply its resources to original organizational development and disaster management plans. In addition, some of the National Societies are going through a restructuring process. Across the sub-zone, the National Societies are faced with the challenge to clearly define and disseminate the role of the National Societies as an auxiliary to government.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Outcome 1: Preparedness of National Societies and effective disaster response improved;

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period.

Outcome 2: Improved integration of disaster management and health and care programmes at zone and National Societies level;

Achievements:

- No update for this reporting period.

Outcome 3: Enhanced National Societies capacities to provide timely and adequate emergency response;

Achievements: Two RDRTs were mobilized in April 2008 for drought needs assessments in Ethiopia and Djibouti. Needs Assessment and plans of action (PoA) were drafted as a result of the mobilization and these were used to draft the preliminary emergency appeal for Ethiopia.

Ten DREFs have been issued to six National Societies and one to the zonal office to support various emergencies including disease outbreaks, droughts, floods and food aid.



Food items distribution in process in Ethiopia. Source Federation

The Rwandan Red Cross was selected as one of the national societies to be included in the DRR project funded through Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR). The Rwandan Red Cross is being assisted by the Zone disaster management staff to prepare a detailed proposal for DRR activities.

Internal task force emergency response meetings have been held during the first quarter. The meetings aim to bring together all departments engaged in support to a particular disaster response to ensure information is shared and support to National Societies is coordinated.

Outcome 4: Increased National Societies capacities for longer term food security programming

Achievements: African National Societies longer-term Food Security Programme initiative was launched in April 2008 in Addis Ababa. Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia and Rwanda National Societies were selected to implement the strategy. These National Societies are being supported to develop their strategy in line with the global strategy. The strategy is to address vulnerable people in these countries in building their resilience to future shocks. So far Uganda Red Cross Society has made its country launch. KRCS's proposal has been finalized and submitted for comment and fund-raising in Geneva. Similar support and follow-up will continue for the National Societies in Ethiopia and Sudan. National Societies technical capacity is still a concern. Availability of funding is also a problem.

Technical planning for food security database in the zone office has started. The database entails compiling and documentation of National Society longer-term food security proposals implemented in the past years and currently ongoing and keeping them for use by all stakeholders. Currently the disaster management department is finalizing the details of projects that have more than two-year implementation period by National Societies. The expertise the NS has, the kind of activities, partners supporting these initiatives and the level of expenditures will be documented. In addition, good practices will be documented and will be available in the website to be used by other National Societies and partners. The major challenge is that National Societies have not yet submitted proposals that have food security HIV and AIDS integration approach. The way forward is working with National Societies to finalize the database.

Discussions with Geneva and Zone IT on how a web page will be developed by zone and National Societies are ongoing.

The Climate Change programme offers National Societies the opportunity to engage in Climate Change adaptation projects in their country. A stakeholder's workshop was held in Tanzania and attended by the Zone disaster management manager in March. Following this meeting, National Societies are now encouraged to undertake Climate Change risk analysis and develop programmes to address these risks. Mauritius and Seychelles Red Cross Societies are now in the process of developing their Climate Change proposals. Three other National Societies are intending to engage in the programme (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda). The follow-up of this programme is complicated by bi-lateral communication between the Climate Change Centre in Netherlands and the National Societies. Tanzania Red Cross National Society received support from the zone office to implement and evaluate a Tsunami Early Warning System project on the Coast.

Outcome 5: Increased National Societies' capacities for disaster risk reduction programming.

Achievements: In Burundi, 25 supervising teachers of Burundi Red Cross sections and 25 secondary school students in two provinces were trained and sensitized on disaster risk reduction in schools. Small-scale food security projects and soil conservation have been developed.

In Ethiopia, 23 participants have been sensitized on basic disaster management. A total of 40 participants have been trained under the flood early warning training. A tree planting project has also been supported in two branches.

Under Tsunami Early Warning Project, a total of 100 community members and volunteers have been trained on community disaster preparedness and planning in Tanzania. The Zone disaster management and PMER staff made a monitoring visit to the project to analyze results and lessons learned for possible inclusion in a future expansion of the project.

Outcome 6 (FFA): Partnerships with key zonal DM and food security actors strengthened and coordination mechanisms reinforced.

Achievements: The disaster management department has been participating in the following forums (mostly monthly): Regional Food Security Working Group (RFSWG), OCHA Regional Information sharing meeting, Inter Agency Working Group Meeting. Attendance at the FSWGM enabled the department to update their information on climate and drought outlook and discuss challenges in the Ethiopia response which greatly assisted in formulating the appeal.

Constraints or Challenges: The high number of medium and small scale disasters in the zone in the last few months has resulted in a continuous workload for the disaster management department on DREF and Emergency Appeals. This makes it difficult for the team to concentrate

on developing appropriate plans and strategies for the disaster management activities of the zone office, including important support to National Societies on DRR and Climate Change initiatives. Additional capacity in the disaster management department to cover the work done by Disaster Management Units (DMUs) in other zones need to be considered for 2009 onwards.

Health and care

Outcome 1: Strengthened community health programming at National Society level

Achievements:

- No updates for this reporting period

Outcome 2: Better prepared teams in emergency health response

Achievements:

- No updates for this reporting period

Outcome 3: Strengthened HIV and AIDS in emergency programming at National Society level.

Achievements:

- No updates for this reporting period

Outcome 3: Strengthened HIV and AIDS programming at National Society level.

Achievements: Information, education and communication (IEC) materials from the secretariat in Geneva to commemorate the World First Aid Day have been distributed to the 14 National Societies.

Through the health department in Geneva, new funding for tuberculosis (TB) integration in to HIV and AIDS programme was sourced for Kenya Red Cross Society. The project integrated into home-based care programmes, will target TB patients, the health system, PLHIV, relatives of patients and community members with focus on strengthening of community health information system, intensified case finding among PLHIV, advocacy for TB uptake, infection control in the community and defaulter tracing. It will be implemented in two project sites, targeting a total target number of 540 patients (360 for Mombasa (20 patients per month) and 180 for Siaya (10 patients per month) who will be direct beneficiaries including women, children and men. The project is funded for two years, at CHF 25,000 per year from 2008.

Nine National Societies have been supported in refining their country plans of HIV Global Alliance. They include Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia and Madagascar. The health and care department, with support from PMER refined the plans and posted them on the Federation website. The Global Alliance on HIV provides a common framework for resource mobilization along the seven ones.

Technical support mission was undertaken to Sudanese Red Crescent on development of HIV strategic plan. A draft strategy for Sudanese Red Crescent has been developed for the period 2008-11. Upon completion, the strategy will form a basis to future National Society programming in the areas of prevention, stigma and discrimination reduction, care and support activities.

In order to facilitate learning, the HIV officer participated in the annual review of the Southern Africa Global Alliance on HIV programme. Important lessons have been drawn from this experience which will be useful in guiding implementation of the eastern Africa component of the Global Alliance. Meetings have also been held with Partner National Societies (PNS) including the Swedish Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross to review support for the Zonal HIV

programme. In addition, a review of the KRCS' family health and home-based care (FHHBC) programme integrating antiretroviral therapy (ART) to determine programme challenges in view of post-election violence has been done. The programme plan has been reviewed taking into consideration delays in implementation and need to reallocate more funding towards nutritional support.

Specific country-based support was provided to the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (working jointly with the British Red Cross HIV Advisor) in the implementation of a knowledge, attitude, practice and behaviour (KAPB) survey to set the ground for development of a long-term HIV programme for ERCS. This entailed: refinement of the terms of reference (ToRs) for the study, study design and methodology, supporting in the selection and recruitment of consultants for the baseline, discussions with consultants on expectations for the baseline, support in field work data collection process as well as review of draft report and findings of the KAPB. ERCS now has in place a baseline against which HIV programme interventions will be reviewed and progress measured. The review of ToRs for the end term evaluation of the Norwegian Red Cross-supported HIV programmes for Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda has been done. These evaluations will take place this year (2008).

Public health in emergencies guidelines were distributed to 14 National Societies. The guidelines will further harmonize and bring into focus common epidemic control measures and protocol for response.

Outcome 4: Strengthened National Society WatSan programming

Achievements: Three National Societies participated in trainings in Somali, Ghana and Sudan, with the support of the EA Zone's health and care department. The training for Community WatSan programming includes Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and community management. Training of 26 branch level staff and volunteers has been undertaken in Juba as a follow up to the flood response. Similar training has been done for staff in Ghana, where 18 participants (mothers, youths and volunteers) were trained as core facilitators in the PHAST methodology in Ghana. The first ERU training took place in Austria in June 2008, where the WatSan delegate in Sudan participated as a facilitator and also trainee for a new water treatment system based on scan water technology

The health and care team was part of an annual evaluation workshop for the Lake Victoria Programme held in Mwanza, Tanzania and attended by five national societies, including Swedish RC team and other programme heads from the zone and national societies.

The WatSan manual, curriculum and handouts have been reviewed in readiness for publishing. Water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) cluster training materials have also been reviewed. The manuals provide a basic outline of the key water and sanitation and hygiene promotion programming processes within the RC/RC context, with tools as summary extracts on facilitating the contents in the manual. The tools and manual fill in a gap in reference materials in WatSan programming as it attempts to consolidate good practices from RC/RC and other sector actors. The manual targets field staff as reference guide, while the tools are for coaches and volunteers to use during facilitation. The strategy is for senior programme staff at headquarters level to facilitate an adoption process to fit into local context. The final training and sharing workshop was conducted in end June and a total of 19 participants drawn from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Sudan participated. The participants were WatSan Coordinators and Managers as well as branch Secretaries and field officers.

In addition, in April the WatSan unit reviewed the WASH cluster training materials and trained 22 participants drawn from Uganda Red Cross Society and other agencies involved in WASH during the WASH cluster hygiene promotion pilot workshop held in Uganda.

A total of four National Societies (Somali, Kenya, Sudan and Ethiopia) have been supported in in-country evaluation, including quarterly reporting for Kenya-EU funded project. The key Areas of support have been in the development of monitoring tools, as well as with field evaluation and donor reporting.

The WatSan unit as part of their technical support to the European Union-Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (EU-ACP) multilateral project for Machakos took part in a planning meeting and subsequent field visit to the project sites in June.

The WatSan unit took part in the quarterly partnership coordination meeting for all agencies implementing EU-ACP funded projects. Partnership meetings for WatSan ACP project in Eritrea were held in Nairobi, in June where representatives from Netherlands and Danish Red Cross Societies attended. Also in attendance was a Senior WatSan officer based in Geneva, the Country Representative from Eritrea, the Secretary General of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea (RCSE), the Head of Zone Eastern Africa and the senior WatSan officer for EA Zone. The meeting agreed on steps forward following the improvement of the situation in Eritrea for the RCSE to operate. A starting date for the project was agreed as August 2008, and recruitment of an expatriate/advisor is already ongoing and coordinated by the Netherlands Red Cross which is leading PNS in the consortium.

Outcome 5: Increased resilience to disease outbreaks

Achievements: A new kit has been procured, mainly composed of water treatment and storage plant for 10,000 persons. This is a start up component on Sanitation. This kit was replacing one that had been deployed to Sudan during the 2007 floods response in Wau and Central Equatorial

Constraints or Challenges

The late recruitment and arrival of the health and care coordinator and the departure of the senior health officer have presented major constraints to the unit in terms of implementation of activities per plan. This slowed down implementation of unit programming. The existing health and care team reallocated roles to fill in the gaps. The recruitment of the coordinator and the planned recruitment of the Senior Health Officer will address this.

Organizational Development:

Outcome 1: Improved NS skills to implement DM, health and care, OD and PV programmes

Achievements:

- The OD department coordinated the work of the disaster management, health and care, and communication RC-Net Working Groups through meetings and exchange of correspondence.

Outcome 2: Improved NS performance and accountability

Achievements: The RC-Net Working Groups for Disaster Management, Health and Care, Communications, and Organizational Development presented their draft plans of action (PoA) for 2008-2009 to the RC-Net Steering Committee meeting. The PoA will be discussed and adopted during the RC-Net meeting planned for September. The meeting will also revise the working group's terms of reference. Also coordinated by the OD department, the Lake Victoria Programme held its annual conference in Mwanza, Tanzania, during which programme activities in 2007 were reviewed, and an opportunity provided for information exchange among the five National Societies. The role of the OD department in coordination and facilitation was discussed and agreed.

Tanzania Red Cross National Society (TRCNS) held its first strategic planning workshop that was attended by 20 regional coordinators and secretaries. They took questionnaires for filling and eventual analysing. So far, only 13 regions have returned questionnaires. In the meantime, the Zone has continued supporting this process through resource mobilization. Funds have been transferred to TRCNS for the strategic planning and audit exercises. A plan of Action for the remaining activities has been drawn up by the National Society. In addition, TRCNS is seeking means of funding the shortfall in its budget for drawing up the Strategic Plan.

All National Societies in the zone have received the New Operating Model (NOM) and participated in discussions relating thereto. However, a lot of work needs to be done to interpret, disseminate and effectively use the model in programming.

A branch capacity assessment was conducted in Eritrea, with support from Swedish Red Cross. The capacity assessment will result into a three-year branch development plan that will guide the interventions for strengthening the RCSE branch networks. The recruitment of a branch development delegate for Juba, Southern Sudan has delayed for several reasons. The short listing has been concluded and plans are underway to conduct interviews.

Forty-nine (49) District Management Committee members, drawn from 4 districts attended a leadership course organized by Tanzania Red Cross Society. Plans are underway to conduct trainings in Ethiopia this year.

Outcome 3: Improved governance and management relations and service delivery at the NHQ and branch levels

Achievements: Reminders have been sent to NS in the zone regarding review of statutes ahead of 2010. In total, 10 National Societies are at various stages of reviewing their statutes in accordance with the new guidelines issued by the Joint Statutory Commission.

Outcome 4: Improved communication and networking among branches and the HQs

Achievements: The Zone IT/Telecoms officer participated in the recruitment and induction of the IT officer for Burundi Red Cross. The Zone IT team also trained the IT Team in Sudan on radio operations and maintenance. With the aid of a consultant, the IT team installed and trained Sudanese Red Crescent staff in the operation of Sage Accounting software. The planned training for all National Societies on standards will be deferred to 2009 when resources would allow.

An email system has been installed in Burundi Red Cross. In addition, HF and VHF radios have been installed at the headquarters and branch offices of Burundi and Sudanese RC. In addition to improved communication, costs savings have been realized from using this communications technology. To address the challenge of sustainability, staff have been recruited and trained in the operation and maintenance of the equipment. Operation manuals were also provided. In the case of both Burundi and South Sudan, PNS have been asked to contribute towards a sustainable network solution. Follow up missions were subsequently conducted to ensure sustainable use of radios.

Outcome 5: Improved financial accountability

Achievements: With the assistance of Norwegian Red Cross, a consultant has been identified to work with Rwanda and Burundi Red Cross Societies in the development of financial systems.

An accounting software (Sage) was installed in Sudan, and staff trained in its use. In addition, computer equipment and Navision accounting software were procured and installed in Rwanda and Burundi Red Cross Societies. Full customization was however delayed by the departure of a finance development delegate and the delayed recruitment of an OD coordinator. Now a Finance Development consultant has been engaged to re-start the process and she has

undertaken a mission to the two countries. A plan of action has been approved for completion of remaining works, and a contract will be soon be signed with the software developers (Vega Software Ltd) for site support, training and software customisation. The consultancy will be financed from assistance made available to Rwanda RC and Burundi RC by British RC.

Support in finance and branch development has been requested by most National Societies in the zone. The zone needs a fully functional OD structure to be able to respond effectively. It is therefore highly recommended that the OD employs a programme officer with finance (and grassroots) development to boost the current staffing.

There has been reported improvement in financial reporting at Sudanese Red Crescent following the installation of Sage Accounting. However, more still needs to be done to ensure all modules are operational and sustainable capacities built.

Constraints or Challenges

The position of Zone OD coordinator was filled as from 1 June 2008. The delayed recruitment affected the implementation of a number of programme activities. However, during the period January to May, several officers were routinely assigned responsibilities in acting positions. While this ensured some business continuity, the net effect of this has been that a number of planned activities were deferred to the second half of the year.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)

Outcome 1 (FFA): Improved understanding of the key programming elements in the core programmes by NS

Achievements: At the invitation of Kenya Red Cross Society, in mid-April, the PMER department facilitated a reporting workshop for a total of 20 KRCS headquarters and branch staff. On 27-30 May, a PMER workshop was held in Rwanda Red Cross. The National Society was supported in developing their country plan, resource mobilization plan, log frame as well as the monitoring and evaluation plan for 2009-2010. A similar PMER workshop was held in Burundi on 9-12 June 2008. Feedback has been received from a KRCS branch staff, which sent to the department a quarterly branch report which was of good quality. The National Societies of

Burundi and Rwanda have produced very good country plans (2009-2010), which are being shared with other National Societies so that they can borrow a leaf.



Participants from Burundi Red Cross displaying their certificates after a PMER workshop

Planning, resource mobilization and reporting guidelines/tools developed by the PMER department in Geneva were shared with the 14 National Societies during the initial planning meeting that was held in April 2008. One of the areas of concern in relation to the PMER tools including reporting templates was translation of tools and guidelines to French. This was addressed and the Francophone countries received the tools in French.

Two follow-up planning meetings were held: on 17-18 June 2008 with National Societies and Partners to get feedback on the country and Zone plans as well as to be informed on the priorities of the PNSs and ICRC. All National Societies were present, apart from Djibouti. On 19-20 June, a Secretariat planning meeting was

held. Country plans were reviewed and zone technical departments had an opportunity to present their priorities for 2009-2010. Comments on the country and Zone plans were received and have been incorporated in the final plans.

Outcome 2 (FFA): Improved understanding of the key programming elements in the core Federation programmes by Federation secretariat staff

Achievements: Planning, resource mobilization and reporting guidelines/tools developed by PMER department in Geneva were disseminated by Zone PMER to the Zone programme staff, country representations and sub zone offices. Dissemination of the reporting templates and guidelines was also done.

The monitoring and evaluation schedule that was developed by the PMER department to track implementation of the 2008-2009 plans for the EA zonal plans is in use. So far, the tool has been used to monitor the first and second quarter of implementation of activities. Two programme review meetings in relation to tracking progress made on implementing the 2008 plan have been conducted and areas of improvement have been identified.

Outcome 3 (FFA): Integrated PMER systems and structures in place within NS for more effective and efficient management of programmes

Achievements: The need for more training in PMER, especially in the development of M&E plans, monitoring tools, conducting baselines and evaluations were some of the needs identified by the National Societies during the planning meetings. Implementation of the PMER action plans developed by the five National Societies in 2007 is being followed up and so far the action points in relation to PMER training has been addressed in three NS under the DFID Institutional Strategy III programme. The PMER assessments conducted in 2007 will serve as a baseline so that the National Societies can conduct a review at the end of every year to gauge their progress in terms of PMER.

The PMER department is in the process of putting together a support package for PMER that will be shared with National Societies. This package will assist the department in conducting trainings and, assist National Societies to adapt it and conduct refresher trainings at headquarters and branches. Some of the materials that will be part of the package are already being utilized in the PMER workshops so far conducted at National Society level. However, the final support package will await the PMER training package which the PMER department in Geneva is planning to develop to ensure consistency.

Outcome 3 (FFA): Increased compliance to donor reporting requirements among NS and the Federation secretariat staff

Achievements: The quality of reports from National Societies is improving as PMER continues to give tailor-made support. The number of pending reports (programmes and operations) has also drastically reduced from 27 to six for emergency reports and from 61 to 35 for pledge-based reports. This is due to intensive follow up by the PMER department and effective communication by the Head of Zone on the importance of reporting. As a result commitment was made by National Societies to send all overdue reports during the two planning meetings.

Revised reporting guidelines for emergency reports, pledge based and programmes have been shared with the National Societies through the country and sub-zone offices. The PMER department regularly responds to any clarifications from National Societies and sub-zones or country offices.

Upon request, pledge management notes (PMNs) are sent to National Societies so that they are aware of the donor reporting requirements. The major challenge the department faces is late

submission of pledge-based reports. The National Societies' feedback on this is that the same information is required by the different donors in various templates. In relation to this, a number of pledge-based reports are pending (dating from 2004).

Outcome 4 (FFA): Enhanced capacity of Federation membership and Secretariat to mobilize and manage resources

Achievements: At the moment PMER is performing some of the Resource Mobilization (RM) roles. The new planning and resource mobilization guidelines clearly indicate the integration. More work is yet to be done on this together with communications and when the RM Manager is recruited.

Outcome 5 (FFA): Increased understanding of and compliance to key donor regulations

Achievements: Donor funding conditions for ECHO were shared with the Uganda Red Cross Society to enable them draft their report on the floods operation that ECHO is supporting. The revised NORAD reporting guidelines was also shared with the Health and Care department in order for them to meet the Norwegian Red Cross reporting requirements. Continued support is given to National Societies upon request.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society was assisted in refining their proposal for PMER activities. This proposal will assist them in marketing the National Society PMER department and eventually secure funding/commitment from donors.

Principles and values

Outcome 1: Increased communications capacity of NS

Achievements: In April, five national society communication officers together with the zone manager participated in the Global Communications Forum in Washington. Participants accepted the recommendation made by the Eastern Africa team to organize next year's global gathering in Nairobi, Kenya.

Outcome 2: Improved understanding of Red Cross & Red Crescent actions

Achievements: The zone Communications unit provided support to the launch of the Food Security initiative for Africa in Addis Ababa, in March with a press conference and interviews being organized for key spokespersons. Media coverage has been ensured for a series of operations to include both the preliminary and revised appeals for the food insecurity operation in Ethiopia, Wolaiyta, DREF supported operations in Sudan (Acute Watery Diarrhoea) and Djibouti (food insecurity).

Outcome 3: Increased involvement in NS programmes by partners and community

Achievements: The Eastern Africa zone is part of the working group preparing the communications part of the Pan African Conference, Johannesburg, October 2008. The recommendation by the Eastern Africa manager to involve selected communication officers from African national societies in the works of the conference was accepted. Under his guidance the group will be in charge of communicating in "real time" (using the Federation web site as a platform) on the various developments that shall take place.

Outcome 4: Reduced stigma & discrimination in the community

Achievements:

- No update for this reporting period.

Working in partnership

The Eastern Africa Zone Office is working in partnership with most humanitarian agencies in the region such as OCHA, WFP, FAO, USAID and ECHO. Specifically, the disaster management department participated in the following events:

- Regular participation in Regional Food Security Working Group meetings, developing strategies for response to rising food prices among other initiatives
- UN OCHA Cluster Leadership workshop (disaster management coordinator co-facilitated part of the workshop)
- Inter Agency Working Group (IAWG) on Disaster Preparedness and Response – The Federation holds the vice-chair of this group.

As a process in enhancing strong networking and advocacy with PLHIV in the Living 2008 Conference in Mexico, the Global HIV programme sought participation of staff or volunteers living with HIV, who would form the base of a RC/RC PLHIV network and contribute seriously to the development of the global PLHIV advocacy agenda. The Zone HIV programme nominated a volunteer PLHIV working with Uganda Red Cross Society. He attended the preparatory meeting from 17-19 May in Geneva, and will also be supported to attend the Living 2008 as well as the Global Alliance meeting in Mexico. It is hoped that this will be yet another beginning of strong networking for PLHIV advocacy and partnership within the Federation

The organizational development department is working closely with the chair RC-Net and the chairperson of the Organizational Development working group and the steering committee members from Sudan, Seychelles, Kenya and Uganda. During the reporting period, meetings were held with the Movement cooperation department at the ICRC Regional Office in Nairobi. The Zone organizational development role is to coordinate and provide technical support to the Organizational Development working group as they hold meetings, draw up terms of reference and plans of action. The cooperation with ICRC has been around common areas of support to National Societies in Djibouti, Kenya and Tanzania.

The Department for International Development (DfID), the International Federation and the British Red Cross have committed to a partnership outlined in an Institutional Strategy (IS) covering a four-year period from January 2007 to December 2010. DFID support targets the PMER Department through an enabling strategy within the IS and will be used to further build capacity and provide key technical support in strengthening the PMER department throughout the new relationship.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Under disaster management, the initiative being done to integrate emergency response with recovery and development is a positive approach towards longer-term impact. Specifically, the longer-term food security programming that has been focusing on three NS in the zone is a good example for bringing longer-term impact through building resilience of communities.

Following the launch of the EA Zone component of the Global Alliance in Uganda, a symposium was held bringing together all nine National Societies in the EA Zone GA on HIV and PNS. This symposium reviewed the strategies proposed by National Societies for the implementation of country plan and suggested areas for Zone support – key of which was to provide guidance on monitoring and evaluation and updated HIV programming guidelines.

PMER aims to promote and support the establishment of a Federation-wide results-based system for planning, performance measurement, learning and accountability so as to be more responsive and accountable to vulnerable groups. This will also assist in scaling-up and improving the reach, quality and impact of programming against the Global Agenda goals as well as to ensure that the resources are used in a transparent and efficient manner.

Looking ahead

Based on the past six months, technical support to the 14 National Societies will continue through close collaboration with the zone technical departments. During the second half of the year, the disaster management department has scheduled a climate change sensitization workshop for five National Societies. RDRT ToT training is also scheduled, together with peer review of DREF operations by members of disaster management network. Documentation of community disaster risk reduction activities in Rwanda will also be carried out. Possibly, a workshop to share lessons learned from Kenya's post-lection violence response will be organized. The disaster management department will also finalize five longer-term food security proposals. TRCNS will be assisted to develop a disaster management policy. A Joint health/disaster management planning meeting is scheduled for October 2008.

Under health and care, the National Society needs will be supported in a tailor-made approach to meet specific needs. Working with other programme departments such as organizational development, a coherent package will be developed such as in the areas of intensified capacity building, to ensure that institutional capacities are built. Given the emerging public health emergencies particular attention will be given to building geographic and sector specific stocks to meet needs. Strategic stocks in Public Health and WatSan at zone level and national level have proved an essential tool for rapid response. The stock strength and composition will continuously undergo review at zone level, with National Societies encouraged to maintain similar capacities in health as has been the practice for relief items. Staff capacities to match material stocks will be developed, with appropriate training and simulations to maintain a state of readiness for deployment.

In organizational development, a number of activities have been re-scheduled to the remaining half of the year. These include strategic planning of Tanzania Red Cross National Society, finance development in Rwanda and Burundi Red Cross, recruitment of organizational development delegates for branch development (in Juba, Southern Sudan) and in Burundi, IT and telecommunications support to Sudanese Red Crescent as well as Rwanda and Burundi Red Cross.

By 2010, it is hoped that 14 National Societies in the Eastern Africa Zone and the zone office will have:

- Plans aligned to Global Agenda goals and a more linked-up planning in Federation;
- Baseline and indicators for the Global Agenda and Framework for Action;
- Plans that will be consistently monitored and reported on;
- Reports that include a better analysis of gender, participation and financial issues as well as increased focus on results.
- Evaluations to demonstrate impact, knowledge sharing and programme improvement
- More participatory processes in PMER functions;
- Increased quality, accountability and transparency.
- PMER network (Working group) for the Zone
- Contextualized PMER support package.

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

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