Ouagadougou Declaration

The 5th Pan African Conference was convened in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 21 to 25 September 2000 with delegates from 52 African National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in attendance.

The Conference focused on the key themes of:
- the African Red Cross/Red Crescent Health Initiative (ARCHI 2010); and
- food security.

The Conference recognized the achievements made since the last Pan African Conference in Kampala. It furthermore noted the enormous challenges posed by the worsening health situation especially related to the dramatic HIV/AIDS pandemic and its far-reaching consequences, as well as the deteriorating food security situation in Africa.
In accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its humanitarian mission, and their dedication to working as the International Federation in Africa, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Africa commit to:

I. Making a major difference to the health of vulnerable people in Africa by adopting and implementing the ARCHI 2010 strategy.

II. Responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic as an unprecedented humanitarian and development disaster in Africa, by massively scaling up their response in terms of advocacy, prevention, care and mitigation.

III. Making food security a strategic priority for this decade, recognizing that food insecurity is directly linked to a number of root causes, including poverty, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the worsening debt crisis and armed conflict.

IV. Building up National Societies capacities for improved management, coaching and support of their volunteers and branch networks.

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<th>Cameroon Red Cross Society</th>
<th>Central African Red Cross Society</th>
<th>Comoros Red Crescent</th>
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<td>Red Cross of Cape Verde</td>
<td>Red Cross of Chad</td>
<td>Congolese Red Cross</td>
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Plan of action

Within the framework of Strategy 2010 and to the extent of their capacities, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Africa commit to the following plan of action:

**Health**

- Contributing to improved health and care in communities, including those affected by conflict and disaster.
- Implementing focused Red Cross and Red Crescent health programmes through the agreed Pan African health strategy ARCHI 2010.
- Strengthening the operational capacities and expanding the network of qualified people and branches to enable them to scale up programmes to make a major difference in the health of vulnerable people.
- Promoting healthy behaviours, advocating for appropriate government policies and increasing the international community’s awareness of Africa’s priority health problems.
- Monitoring and evaluating achievements and continuously improving performance in public health programmes.
- Developing, adapting and using tools and application materials to ensure accurate information is provided at the community level.
- Complementing services by working in partnership with communities, Ministries of Health, UN agencies, and other national and international organizations.

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Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Egyptian Red Crescent Society

Red Cross Society of Côte d’Ivoire

Red Cross Society of Eritrea

Ethiopian Red Cross Society
Plan of action

HIV/AIDS

- Advocating forcefully for an urgent and adequate international response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in terms of prevention, treatment and care.
- Calling for a comprehensive and coordinated strategy from communities, governments, national and international organizations and the private sector for continent-wide support to awareness and prevention campaigns and access to treatment and care for people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Breaking the silence by talking openly amongst themselves and to others about sexual behaviour and reproductive health.
- Lobbying and supporting governments to prioritize HIV/AIDS and to take appropriate action; preventing discrimination and avoiding stigmatisation of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).
- Actively involving PLWHA in their work.
- Advocating for increased access to affordable drugs and the basic health infrastructure required to deliver the drugs needed to improve the lives of PLWHA.
- Contributing to behavioural changes on a large scale in the communities of Africa by using all existing means to spread simple, culturally sensitive messages around abstinence, fidelity and use of condoms.
- Making the Red Cross Red Crescent a better home for PLWHA by promoting and protecting their rights and human dignity, both in the organization and outside.
- Training family members in basic care, first-aid and psychosocial support by building on existing community support systems and facilitating access to available external resources;
- Strongly advocating for increased support for orphans and providing care within existing capacities and available resources.
- Participating in the HIV/AIDS partnerships and debates at all levels, aiming to improve their advocacy and learning.
- Exploring possibilities of contributing to the prevention of mother-to-child transmission.
- Including HIV/AIDS in all their programmes.
- Continuing to develop strategic plans as well as detailed annual plans of action.
- Calling upon their International Federation to urgently launch an appeal to support their country plans and coordinate subsequent action.
**Food security**

- Using the draft position paper with amendments as a basis for a process that will define both strategic directions and action plans for this decade.
- Developing in each National Society a specific analysis and approach, and areas of focus for improving food security; working within existing government food security policies. Should these not exist, advocating to their governments to create them.
- Systematically incorporating food security planning into all Red Cross Red Crescent disaster preparedness and response programmes.
- Applying lessons learnt from the ARCHI 2010 process to food security programming.
- Using vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) tools for defining and planning to respond to food insecurity.
- With the support of the Federation, the ICRC, participating National Societies, governments, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, sharing experiences and developing strong partnerships for food security including household food security.
- When designing emergency programmes, linking relief and development through capacity building initiatives.
- Always involving beneficiaries and enhancing local coping strategies, including local food production systems and, as much as possible, use of local resources, e.g., locally adapted seeds.
- Participating in early warning systems and advocating for their establishment where they do not exist.
- Giving consideration to developing more innovative responses, including cash-based interventions.
- Taking gender issues into consideration in all food security activities and advocating for women’s rights, in particular to land access, land tenure and credit.
- Developing activities for the improvement of the environment, in particular reforestation and water conservation.
- Developing food security programming with a measurable impact through appropriate targeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Asking donors to allocate 10 per cent of their emergency relief budgets to African National Societies to meet their overhead costs.
Volunteer management

- Actively supporting the Work Plan on Volunteering developed by the Federation’s Secretariat in the follow-up to the International Conference.
- Developing clear recruitment strategies, adopting coaching systems better adapted to the needs of volunteers as well as developing appropriate pedagogic tools.
- Making use of cultural and traditional values which facilitate recruitment and management of volunteers.
- Implementing programmes that will contribute to mobilizing volunteers, promoting their personal development and, through the power of humanity, reinforcing their commitment to the Red Cross Red Crescent.
- Developing a system and finding creative solutions to motivate volunteers, in conformity with the Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Ouagadougou, 25 September 2000
5th Pan African Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

A message to all the African National Societies from sister societies attending the 5th Pan African Conference

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
21 - 25 September 2000

Dear friends,

It has been a privilege for us to attend the 5th Pan African Conference and to have witnessed first-hand the important commitments that you have all made to each other here in Ouagadougou. Your individual commitments and collective determination to make a real difference to the lives of vulnerable people throughout Africa are an inspiration and a challenge to us all and we wish to follow your example.

When we adopted Strategy 2010 last year, we all committed ourselves to ensure the relevance and integrity of our respective organizations and to work together effectively by concentrating our collective efforts on those core areas of activity where, as members of the Federation, we can have the greatest impact. The Ouagadougou Declaration, in which you confirm: your adoption of the African Red Cross Red Crescent Health Initiative (ARCHI 2010), your commitment to scale up your action against HIV/AIDS, and your determination to see every African enjoy the right to food, places that commitment firmly in its African context.

We wish to join forces with you in the fulfilment of your declaration and in the implementation of the action plans which will flow from it. By making the following commitments of our own – to you and to each other – our aim is to be reliable partners, effective advocates and close friends.

1. We will do everything we can to ensure that you can all count on us for appropriate, timely and reliable support, not just for your service activities but also to strengthen the institutional capacity necessary to sustain and develop these activities.

2. You have reminded us that all National Societies have different strengths and weaknesses, and that we call all learn from each other. We welcome the opportunity to learn from you and we will do our best, in all our collaboration with you, to ensure that we always build on each other’s respective strengths and help each other address our respective areas of weakness.

British Red Cross
The Canadian Red Cross Society
Finnish Red Cross
Icelandic Red Cross
The Netherlands Red Cross
Norwegian Red Cross
3. Once again, we have been presented with stark evidence of the magnitude of the humanitarian challenge which confronts us all in Africa. We will renew our efforts to increase the flow of resources into those areas where they can be put to best use, and we will encourage others to do likewise. In particular, we will actively seek ways to support your commitment to a massive scaling-up of the Red Cross Red Crescent response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

4. Let us all admit that much of the impact of our previous attempts at development cooperation has been diminished due to insufficient focus, inadequate coordination and a failure to follow through on our respective commitments. From now on, we undertake to coordinate, with you and with each other, all our individual and collective interventions via transparent and fully inclusive Country and Regional Assistance Strategies (CAS/RAS) and by continuously updating and sharing our overall programming priorities. This should enable us all to develop multi-year partnership programmes that are appropriate, realistic, predictable, sustainable, effective and accountable.

5. All National Societies receive occasional offers of well-intentioned but inappropriate assistance, which it is always tempting to accept. Participating National Societies are no exception, and we often pass the consequences of this on to our partner societies. In future, we will help each other to resist this kind of donor pressure and, in particular, to avoid burdening or distracting you with non-priority assistance.

We are keen to monitor our performance against these five commitments in order to improve the quality of our cooperation and to measure the impact of this on your operational effectiveness. To this end we would welcome the opportunity to have these commitments reflected in the Ouagadougou Plan of Action and monitored as part of it.

We realize that we can only live up to these commitments in an atmosphere of mutual trust and with the wholehearted support of everyone concerned. Experience warns us all not to take either of these essential preconditions for granted; we all need to work long and hard if we are to live up to our good intentions. We therefore call upon you and upon all our partners, notably the Federation Secretariat, the ICRC and other National Societies not represented here, to help us help you ensure that the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement plays its full part in building a healthy future for all the people of Africa.

Signed on behalf of the following:
- Australian Red Cross
- Canadian Red Cross
- French Red Cross
- Italian Red Cross
- Spanish Red Cross
- American Red Cross
- Belgian Red Cross
- Danish Red Cross
- German Red Cross
- Netherlands Red Cross
- Swedish Red Cross
- British Red Cross
- Finnish Red Cross
- Icelandic Red Cross
- Norwegian Red Cross
- Swiss Red Cross

Freddy Karup PEDERSEN
President, Danish Red Cross
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies promotes the humanitarian activities of National Societies among vulnerable people.

By coordinating international disaster relief and encouraging development support it seeks to prevent and alleviate human suffering.

The International Federation, the National Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross together constitute the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.