ALGIERS PLAN OF ACTION

Under the theme ‘Consolidating our Red Cross and Red Crescent role as a reliable and an effective civil society partner’, the 6th Pan African Conference was held in Algiers, Algeria in September 2004. Fifty Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies from Africa attended.

The African National Societies resolved to lead their Societies through processes which are transparent, credible and accountable.

The African Societies decided that they will take ownership and lead the process of managing the support for the key issues facing the most vulnerable in Africa.

The African Societies reaffirmed that much more can be achieved if they foster and enhance partnerships both in country and internationally.

The Conference reaffirmed the commitments made in the Ouagadougou Declaration and acknowledged them as still being relevant to the major challenges facing the continent.

The commitments are in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its humanitarian mission. At the Ouagadougou conference, African National Societies committed to:

1. Making a major difference to the health of vulnerable people in Africa by adopting and implementing the ARCHI 20101 strategy.
2. 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.
3. Making food security a strategic priority for this decade, recognizing that food security is directly linked to a number of root causes, including poverty, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the worsening debt crisis and armed conflict.
4. Building up National Societies capacities for improved management, coaching and support of their volunteers and branch networks.

The conference acknowledged the achievements and constraints in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Declaration and committed to the Algiers Plan of Action. This plan stays within the framework of the International Federation’s Strategy 2010, the Strategy for the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and the Agenda for Humanitarian Action of the 28th International Conference.

African National Societies and their partners also pledged to actively continue to engage with vulnerable communities and improve lives by mobilising the power of humanity. Strategy 2010

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1 ARCHI2010 – African Red Cross/Red Crescent Health Initiative until 2010
provides the framework for the basis of our work, with implementation focused though the following core areas:

- Promotion of the Movement’s Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values;
- Disaster Response;
- Disaster Preparedness;
- Health and Care in the communities.

Considering the developments since Ouagadougou, the National Societies reaffirmed their commitment to partnerships with their governments, based on their auxiliary role with regards to humanitarian services. The National Societies will further engage their governments to define the specific roles of Red Cross and Red Crescent in disaster management and the respect for their impartiality and independence. African National Societies also committed themselves to work towards supporting the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals.

The National Societies reaffirmed the following key interventions and decided to pursue them with renewed commitment, vigour and focus, to be implemented within the next four years:

- Food Security
- Health
- HIV/AIDS
- Institutional capacity building as a cross-cutting issue

National Societies commit to work in an integrated way to achieve the following objectives;

Key Intervention 1: FOOD SECURITY

**Objective**
To significantly contribute to the reduction of food insecurity of populations made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS, using and developing the knowledge available with the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies, coping mechanisms of communities and working in partnerships.

**Expected Results**
- National Society food security strategies and plans developed and implemented,
- Food security programmes that reduce vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and disasters implemented,
- National Society human, financial and technical capacity to undertake food security programmes developed,
- Relevant food security partnerships at local, regional, and international level within and external to the Movement developed.

Key Intervention 2: HIV/AIDS

**Objective 1.**
To significantly contribute to the reduction of the spread of HIV infection among the general population in the operation areas through educating the community, fighting stigma and discrimination and expanding the provision and use of protective means.

**Expected results:**
a. Communities in the project areas acquired knowledge on the basic facts of HIV/Aids.
b. Significant change in attitude and behaviour of the communities in project areas,
c. Significant reduction in the prevalence rate of new HIV infections in project areas,
d. Reduction of stigma and discrimination,
e. Greater involvement of People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA).

**Objective 2**

To increase access of antiretroviral treatment for PLWHA by supporting the efforts of governments in the roll out of Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) through mobilizing and preparing communities for treatment, promoting adherence based on home based care approach, reducing stigma and discrimination, facilitating care and treatment, providing psycho-social support, promoting of locally available nutritious food and encouraging the use of local proven traditional knowledge and medicine.

**Expected results:**

a. Increased level of community preparedness on ART treatment,
b. Significant number of PLWHA in the operation areas receiving ART,
c. Adherence to ART and Tuberculosis treatment equal or more than 90 %,
d. The quality of life of PLWHA improved,
e. Scale up home based care program.

**Objective 3:**

To provide psycho-social support to Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in the project areas

**Expected results:**

a. Registration of OVC through home based care program
b. School age OVC in the project areas attending school
   c. Communities’ traditional coping mechanism strengthened to care for orphans.

**Key Intervention 3: HEALTH**

**Objective:**

To significantly contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality in vulnerable populations and in emergency situations through implementation of prevention and care activities.

**Expected results:**

a. National Societies define health and care priorities and work with partners,
b. National Societies with the involvement of their communities and volunteers improve health outcomes for the most vulnerable,
c. National Society human, financial and technical capacity to undertake health programmes developed.

The Algiers Plan of Action will be achieved through integrated programming focusing on the following strategies:

**Resource mobilisation**
• Build capacity to engage the public and private sector
• Map current capacities of the societies and measure progress periodically
• Ensure good governance and management for better service delivery and to attract resources
• Better profile our work through communication
• Agree strategy for advocacy and policy dialogue at national, regional and global level
• Establish a mechanism for sharing best practices in resource mobilization
• Utilise capacities in National Societies and in the communities and supplement it with resources from within and outside the Movement
• Develop operational plan for resourcing the plan of action at regional and country levels.
• Exert maximum effort to access resources from national and international funding pools such as the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), the Consolidated Appeal (CAP) and the (US) President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS (PEPFAR).

Social mobilisation
• Critically look at traditional coping mechanism in food insecurity, voluntarism and sharing best practices in social mobilization
• Manage volunteers as a valuable resource
• Establish mechanism to include volunteers in decision making processes
• Review, further develop and implement volunteer management policies
• Encourage governments to include and support Red Cross Red Crescent volunteerism in the school systems
• Engage the community in all aspects of programme design and implementation
• Work with existing community structures (women associations, youth groups, religious organizations) for effective mobilization of the community
• Develop the skills of the volunteers in communicating messages to the community.

Strategic partnerships
• Assess institutional capacities and engage partners
• Make partnership building a high priority effort to fight diseases and poverty
• Use partnerships to increase capacities at all levels (national, district, community)
• Create an Africa wide Red Cross and Red Crescent partnership
• Involve volunteers and vulnerable communities as partners in the planning, implementation and evaluation of prevention, emergency and health promotion activities
• Engage and dialogue to get government to provide access to antiretroviral treatment and the development of structures to deliver them.

Implementation Roles

1. Role of National Societies
• Update National Society Strategic Plans within the next six months taking in to account the guidance and key interventions, strategies in the plan of action
• Further implement community based programs to achieve key interventions
• Strengthen existing networks and develop new networks to share successful experience and support each other
• Report annually on the progress made.

2. Role of the Federation Secretariat
• Prepare Best Practice Guidelines detailing best operational practices and procedures
• Keep National Societies informed of changes, trends, policies and other relevant information
• Highlight the plight of the vulnerable populations we serve
• Improve co-ordination, co-operation and communication between and within National Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC
• Assist African National Societies to design, implement, monitor and evaluate programmes
• Assist in Resource Mobilisation.

3. Role of the Pan African Steering Committee
• The Committee is comprised of African members of the Federation’s Governing Board, the hosts of the current and future Pan African Conference.
• The role is to provide overall guidance to the implementation and to assess the progress made in achieving the objectives of the Plan of Action.
• The Pan African Coordination Team (PACT) submits the monitoring reports to the Steering Committee.

4. Role of Pan African Coordination Team (PACT)
• The implementation plan will be supported and monitored by the 6th Pan African Coordination Team (PACT) composed of a group of experts representing:
  - African National Societies: five, one from each region (southern, western, central, eastern, northern)
  - Participating National Societies: one
  - Corporate Partner: one
  - Multilateral Partner (United Nations, etc.): one
• The PACT will provide feedback to the Pan African Steering Committee
• The PACT reports will be shared with all African National Societies.
• The PACT shall provide technical support from Federation Secretariat.

- The Algiers Plan of Action comes with a Resolution and an Annex, the Commitment to Cooperation and Coordination.