Investing in Africa: Addis Ababa Plan of Action

We, the leaders of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Africa, gathered in Addis Ababa for the 8th Pan African Conference,

Guided by our belief in Africa, its people and its future, and by the International Federation’s vision and values and Strategy 2020,


Recognising that the growing economies in Africa provide new opportunities to raise new resources to support our humanitarian and development work

Determined therefore to grow and sustain Red Cross Red Crescent work and community action across Africa with a renewed emphasis on local, national and regional partnerships.

Advocating to Movement partners to continue to engage with African National Societies on achieving sustainable structures and services.

Acknowledging that it is the capacity and integrity of our leadership that will determine our ability to attract investment and that our reputations are mutually dependent.

We commit collectively and individually to Investing in Africa and to taking forward the Action Plan established at this 8th Pan-African Conference.

Rationale for Investing in Africa

The theme Investing in Africa is chosen because we recognise that Africa is one of the fastest growing regions of the world, and this changing environment provides new opportunities for domestic and regional partnerships that will shape the future role and relevance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Africa.

The changing domestic contexts and global focus on Africa provide opportunities for partnerships with our governments, the African Union, regional bodies, development banks, the private sector, academic institutions, UN and multinational donors, entrepreneurs and concerned citizens that are contributing to policies, strategies and programmes to reduce poverty, build resilience and encourage peace.
In line with our fundamental principles, we, the African National Societies, offer something unique and valuable to these endeavours, with our partnerships with local communities and our distinct advantage in humanitarian access and community reach.

We emphasise the theme *Investing in Africa* in recognition of the recurring and growing risks and opportunities facing Africa – particularly in the areas of food security, climate change, health, migration, violence and growing unemployment among youth, and highlight how investing into the capacities and actions of volunteer networks can positively contribute to addressing these development and humanitarian challenges.

To this end, we propose and commit to the *Investing in Africa: Addis Ababa Plan of Action*, with the objective: **To open up African National Societies to more domestic, regional and international investment that will enable a scale up of sustainable volunteer action across Africa.**

The Addis Ababa Plan of Action represents a shift in emphasis in how African National Societies are resourced and aims to root our work in local, national and regional partnerships.

To achieve the strategic objective of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action we have identified 10 key actions to make African National Societies more attractive to investment, more active in our auxiliary role, more engaged in local and regional partnerships and more qualified to address the evolving humanitarian and development challenges across the continent.

**10 Key Actions:**

1) To invest continuously and rigorously into increasing the capacities and professionalism of our governance and management so as to ensure well functioning National Societies.

2) To assist each other in achieving the status of well functioning National Societies through peer support, regional networks and peer review.

3) To invest constantly in upgrading the capacities and skills of a diverse and representative volunteer base, currently standing at 1.4 million, to address humanitarian and development challenges in Africa, with particular focus on hunger, food security, climate adaptation, migration and violence.

4) To realise a culture of inclusion at all levels of decision making for youth representatives, as agents of change, operationalised in national youth policies and statutes in every African National Society.

5) To mainstream gender empowerment, violence prevention and promotion of a culture of peace in all areas of our work and activities.

6) To invest in building relations and maintaining constant communication with our governments in order to operationalise our auxiliary role to the public authorities at all levels.

7) To position African National Societies as active participants in government strategies, planning and national and regional platforms.
8) To invest in strategic partnerships with the private sector, media and academic institutions in order to strengthen advocacy and promote non-violence and peace.

9) To invest in regional partnerships among African National Societies in order to facilitate cross border collaboration in support of migrants, early warning and shared risk reduction.

10) To identify and operationalise creative strategies to address food insecurity, chronic under nourishment and hunger, and set realistic targets to reduce the number of people going hungry each day in Africa.

**Measuring Implementation:**

The 10 actions will raise investment for African National Societies and result in a scale up of volunteer led action addressing humanitarian and development challenges across the continent.

**Seven key indicators** have been identified to measure progress against the Plan of Action for the next four years against a 2012 baseline.

- **Indicator 1**: Number of African National Societies receiving government financial or in kind support.
- **Indicator 2**: Number of African National Societies with more than 50% of their income generated domestically.
- **Indicator 3**: Number of African National Societies that are audited annually and produce annual finance statements.
- **Indicator 4**: Number of African National Societies who have undergone a Movement recognised self assessment process or Peer review process.
- **Indicator 5**: Number of African National Societies that report annually using the Federation Wide Reporting System.
- **Indicator 6**: Number of African National Societies that have youth policies and programmes and are implementing YABC
- **Indicator 7**: Number of African National Societies with updated Act/statutes in last 5 years

Following up on the Addis Ababa Plan of Action

- We agree to establish a peer review body with oversight responsibility on monitoring governance among African National Societies.
- We agree to produce country reports for our National Societies on progress in implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action by 2016
- We agree to report against the Addis Ababa Plan of Action indicators, coordinated by PACT
The leadership of African Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, IFRC, ICRC and Partner National Societies, wish to express heartfelt thanks to the Ethiopian Red Cross, its volunteers and the Government of Ethiopia for hosting the Eighth Pan-Africa Conference.