

KENYA

CHF 1,431,000

Programme No. 01.46/2000

National Context

With a steadily deteriorating economy during most of the 1990s, a series of both natural and manmade disasters, security problems which have impacted the tourism trade, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic hitting productive sectors of the workforce, the number of vulnerable persons has increased dramatically in Kenya. Social consequences of transitional economies and general insecurity in the region has also provoked population movements, with increased numbers of refugees or internally displaced persons placing an increasingly insupportable burden on states ill equipped to provide the needed resources.

Country Assistance Strategy

Due to the government's limited capacity to respond to the increased needs of the vulnerable groups, the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) is preparing to respond to increased demands in disaster response, disaster preparedness, and health interventions in its auxiliary role to government. The wide KRCS volunteer base in the community presents an effective platform from which to implement and manage disaster response activities, in particular for population movements. The disaster preparedness programme of the KRCS aims at mitigating the impact of natural or manmade disasters on the affected population. The KRCS community volunteers base will be used for public health interventions in dealing with the impact of HIV/AIDS and other endemic diseases.

The Federation will continue to support the KRCS in its disaster response, preparedness, and health intervention roles through training and capacity building in partnership with donor Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. Particular attention will be given to the development of financial systems and capacities in the KRCS. The Federation will also facilitate the establishment and/or consolidation of development co-operation partnerships on either a bilateral or multilateral basis.

Programme Objectives

Disaster Response

While the Federation does not plan to support specific programmes in this area, efforts will be made to increase the effectiveness of services and assistance delivered to the most vulnerable.

Disaster Preparedness

With the increasing susceptibility of Kenya to both manmade and natural disasters, the National Society will continue to strengthen its Disaster Preparedness capacity through the Disaster Management Training Programme at the District level.

Health

HIV/AIDS is particularly serious in the north west of the country, and with the limited facilities for institutionalised care the National Society will expand its Home Based Care and Counselling activities in the most affected regions. Information, education and communication activities will continue to be an integral part of the programme.

With the general decline in the socio-economic situation of the majority of Kenyans and an increase in poverty, communities are increasingly becoming susceptible to disease. For this reason the National Society plans to intensify its health education activities through increasing the number of trained Red Cross Community Health Workers. Another dimension of this programme will be the provision of water and sanitation facilities for targeted communities.

Humanitarian Values

With financial and material support from the ICRC and a facilitating role played by the Federation involving assistance for capacity building and human resources, the Red Cross / Red Crescent principles and humanitarian law will continue to be disseminated.

Capacity Building

The focus of both the KRCS and the Federation will be on leadership, organisation, programme and resource development. The KRCS's overall goal in the leadership area is to transform itself into a wellfunctioning and streamlined entity with a broadbased foundation and increased opportunities for new vision and strategic thinking. To this effect the National Society has embarked on a Constitutional Review process to promote regular and periodic change in the leadership at both the National and Branch levels.

In terms of organisational development, the National Society will continue to focus on enhancing professionalism within the Society through the efficient and effective development of administrative systems, increasing the level of competence within the Society as a whole, improving supervision and monitoring of activities through decentralisation of some of the functions of Headquarters to the Regional Offices. The programme development focus will promote an integrated approach to programme design. Lastly, the resource development activities will focus on strengthening the Society's resource base through the diversification of sources of self generated income.