

## **Disaster Preparedness**

**CHF 698,000**

**Programme No. 01.72/2000**

### ***Programme Context***

Disaster preparedness initiatives have contributed, over the past six years, to raising the standard of National Societies to limit the worst effects of natural and man made disasters through planning effective disaster response. Natural and man made disasters, particularly in this last decade of the millennium, have become more complex and often do not permit vulnerable people or nations the opportunity to recover before the next dramatic event occurs. Thus, a new strategy has been initiated to remain a step ahead of the next disaster episode in disaster-prone countries around the world. The Federation, through the *Strategic Plan 2010* and a reinforced disaster preparedness policy, will take a step forward by encouraging National Societies to adopt a pro-active approach to disaster preparedness in addition to a strong reactive capacity for disaster response. Lessons learned from past and present initiatives in disaster preparedness will be used to develop improved strategies for communities to reduce their exposure to risks - thus supporting the objective of creating a global culture of prevention.

This Global Programme enables the Federation to develop, with the active participation of National Societies, effective tools, strategic planning and activities to demonstrate proactive preparedness. It will thus be able to take an important step forward in advocating and supporting a pro-active capacity in National Societies in disaster prone countries.

### ***Programme Strategy***

The purpose of this global initiative is to strategically contribute to the development of a sustainable capacity within National Societies to plan, fund and initiate effective preparedness and response programmes that address the critical needs of the most vulnerable people affected by natural and manmade disasters. Strengthening of local capacities, raising community and public awareness of hazards, vulnerabilities and coping and mitigation strategies, and the development of stronger networks for building preparedness mechanisms and mitigation programmes will contribute to achieving this purpose.

### ***Programme Objectives***

In order to assist National Societies to implement the new Disaster Preparedness Policy, the Federation will carry out the following:

- Build sustainable disaster preparedness competencies by developing new tools and strategic planning skills, thereby raising the capacity of National Societies to plan, implement and monitor proactive disaster preparedness initiatives.

- Raise awareness of risk and vulnerability by disseminating best practices, thereby increasing community and public awareness of life threatening hazards, the vulnerability and capacities of populations affected by these hazards, and current and improved coping and mitigation strategies.
- Promote proactive disaster preparedness by developing a wider network of informed National Societies on effective disaster mitigation strategies in response to regional and national hazards.
- Advocate increased preparedness by strengthening disaster preparedness planning and effective response mechanisms at local, national and regional levels.

The Federation will build sustainable disaster preparedness competencies by further defining core characteristics of well functioning and effectively managed DP programmes, by developing processes and tools to be used in assessments, and by evaluating DP programmes and identifying key lessons learned. This continuous learning and improving process will be complemented by reviews of National Society response operations to seasonal disasters.

The Federation will raise awareness of risk and vulnerability by identifying the most effective strategies used by National Societies and other civil society institutions to raise community and public awareness, while sharing these best practices with National Societies.

The Federation will promote proactive disaster preparedness by documenting and disseminating information on key disaster mitigation activities in ongoing community based disaster preparedness programmes, and by identifying the developmental capacities National Societies must have to undertake mitigation and disaster reduction activities.

The Federation will advocate for increased preparedness by providing technical support to National Societies to define critical core elements and steps for successful disaster preparedness planning. Specific attention will be given to the promotion of disaster planning at the local level. Technical support will also be offered to National Societies in advocating the need for a co-ordinated and strategic approach to disaster planning and preparedness with their government and other key players. Guidelines on contingency planning for violence related to elections will be further tested and refined.