

Programme Update



Southern Africa Zone

Appeal No.
MAA63001

31 August 2008

This report covers the period 01/01/2008 to 31/07/2008



Collaborative efforts on the Red Cross Movement components during an emergency operation to assist people displaced due to urban disturbance in South Africa:
Photo: IFRC Zone Office

In brief

The appeal MAA63001 covers the regional programmes and capacity building for seven Southern Africa Red Cross Societies namely; Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. The HIV and AIDS programme is separately covered under the five year regional HIV and AIDS programme (2006-2010) (MAA63003).

[Click here to go directly to the country programme updates](#)
[Botswana](#) [Lesotho](#) [Malawi](#) [Mozambique](#) [Namibia](#) [South Africa](#) [Swaziland](#)

Programme purpose: The International IFRC of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Southern Africa Zone office aims to provide effective coordination of zone programmes and consistent quality technical support to the ten National Societies¹ (NS) on governance and management, performance tracking and accountability, finance development, disaster management, communication, advocacy, resource mobilisation and capacity development.

Programme(s) summary: The IFRC Zone office is now fully functional after relocating from Harare to Johannesburg, although some minor adjustments are still underway. For the first six months of 2008, the IFRC Zone office has been going through a transition and/or restructuring process, as a result of the IFRC Secretariat decentralisation process. The focus now is on

¹ Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe

scaling-up technical support to the NS who themselves have been going through some challenges due to disasters such as localised flooding, storms, food insecurity, health emergencies, political violence and population movement. Overall, the IFRC Zone programming remains vibrant and active in supporting the ten NS. For the next three months, attention is on the preparation for the 7th Pan African Conference, to be hosted in Johannesburg in October 2008. Through its membership service, the IFRC is coordinating the logistics, protocol, information, communication and publications for the PAC.

Highlights in disaster management include a regional response operation to the devastating floods in seven Southern African countries². At the same time, contingency plans were jointly developed in preparation for elections related violence and population movement. In-country support went to South African Red Cross in response to urban disturbances, which resulted from xenophobic attacks in many townships throughout the country. Recently, the IFRC Zone coordinated the development of the Zambezi River Basin Initiative. The new initiative is an integrated approach to assisting communities living along the Zambezi River, which is prone to natural disasters such as flooding, drought, severe food shortages and recurrent outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and malaria. Already, some donors have shown interest as evidenced by an injection of funding for the pre-positioning of relief stock at the Zone warehouse, and strategically in disaster prone regions.

In the health and care programme, a first aid operational alliance has been created to support and review community-based first aid (CBFA) activities in the zone. The main objective is to revitalise and further strengthen the first aid activities at country level. With the appointment of a zone health and care coordinator, preventive and curative health has been revamped to meet the current sector developments such as preparedness for avian influenza, tuberculosis, polio and measles vaccination, anti-malaria campaigns, as well as response to health emergencies.

Southern Africa Zone is in the third year of implementing the five year integrated HIV and AIDS programme (2006-2010), which is a component of the IFRC Global Alliance on HIV. The IFRC is scaling-up its response to HIV and is committed to reducing vulnerability and increasing its impact by preventing further infections, expanding care, treatment and support and reducing stigma and discrimination. In order to achieve these outcomes, the capacities of the NS have been further strengthened to enable expansion of effective service delivery to the most affected communities.

Several Southern Africa NS have undergone leadership changes, thus have received technical support on governance and management training, through the Southern Africa Partnership of Red Cross Societies (SAPRCS). The SAPRCS group is now more active and engaged through the technical working groups established to lead thematic issues in the region. These are; Southern Africa Regional AIDS Working Group (SARAWO), the OVC working group, Southern Africa Communication Forum (SARCOF), human resources, voluntarism and youth development, disaster management, Southern Africa Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (SAPMER). The new working groups to be established are on health and resource mobilisation. The IFRC Zone office is the secretariat of these working groups.

The IFRC Zone PMER unit has put more effort in strengthening NS internal and external, programme performance measurement and tracking through zonal meeting and in-country support visits. Eight NS have recruited national PMER officers who have already attended an orientation workshop, facilitated by the Zone PMER unit. In finance development, the Navision accounting software has been rolled out to all the NS and has improved on financial reporting.

² Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe

³ Angola (IFRC rep), Botswana (OVC delegate), Lesotho (OD delegate), Mozambique (IFRC rep), Namibia (IFRC rep), Swaziland (part-time OD delegate), South Africa (country office), Zambia (country office) and Zimbabwe (County office)

⁴ Cruz Vermelha de Moçambique

Malawi and Namibia have succeeded in the first round of the IFRC intensified capacity building (ICBF) fund, and the Zone office is facilitating proposal for other NS in need of capacity development.

A number of Partner National Societies (PNS) representatives visited the zone during the reporting period, some on fact finding missions, project review and technical support to their counterparts. As result, a considerable number of partners have indicated strong commitment to supporting long-term programming in southern Africa. New operational alliances and co-operation mechanisms are in place, and relationships are further strengthened through regular partnership meetings, and the presence of IFRC representatives in eight countries³. The working relationship with ICRC has been very dynamic and focused on information sharing and joint planning.

Financial situation: The total 2008 budget is CHF 13,809,188 of which 24 per cent is covered.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

The related emergency appeals launched during the reporting period;

- **MDR63001:** Floods preliminary emergency appeal launched on 16 January 2008 and revised on 13 February 2008. CHF 1,191,647 was allocated from the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation.
- **MDRZA001:** Population Movement (contingency plan) DREF operation (CHF 150,000) was allocated from the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 9 March 2008 to support the NS in delivering assistance to affected communities and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.
- **MDRZA002:** Urban Disturbance DREF Operation (The IFRC Secretariat provided additional funding support to South African Red Cross Society to support the operation initiated to assist people displaced during the urban violence in South Africa. As of 27 May, 2008, approximately 50,000 people had been displaced and SARCS was targeting 30,000 people.
- **MDRMW003:** Malawi Returnees: DREF Operation: CHF 86,007 was allocated to support Malawi Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,000 returnees following urban disturbances in South Africa. The Malawian government mandated Malawi Red Cross to look after the welfare of the returnees at a transitional shelter, which has been established in the southern part of the country.
- **MDRMZ004:** Mozambique Population Movement: DREF Operation: CHF 109,699 was released to support Mozambique Red Cross Society (CVM)⁴ to respond to the needs of Mozambique nationals returning to the country from South Africa following urban disturbances.

No. of people we help: The IFRC Southern Africa Zone office is serving the ten NS in Southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe) through various programmes and interventions as outlined in this update.

Our partners: Some of our main strategic partners are the UN agencies (OCHA, UNICEF, FAO, WFP, WHO, ISDR, etc.), Oxfam, DFID, PNS, ECHO and the World Bank. Through our NS structural arrangement, civil communities have become long-term partners in the planning, implementation and management of community-based programmes. Under the health and care programme, our partners are the Austrian, Irish, British, Swedish, Finnish, Norwegian, Belgian Red Cross Societies, Nestle, Shell, local governments and ministries. So far, the regional appeal (MAA63001) has received support through multilateral funds from British, Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Irish, Japanese, Netherlands, Norwegian, and Swedish Red Cross Societies.

Context

The first part of this year, which is the end of the rainy season, has been busy for the IFRC Zone office. In the first quarter the IFRC Zone office supported the NS through regional and country-based disaster response operations to various natural and man-made disasters. Notable among these were the floods and the urban disturbances operation in South Africa, which in turn led to considerable population migration to several countries in the region. Since December 2007, heavy rains, which led to localized flooding and destructive hailstorms, affected approximately 80,330 families (401,650 people) in southern Africa. A total of 66,830 families (334,150 people) are estimated to have been affected in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition, torrential rains experienced at the end of February and the beginning of March in Angola, affected a further 13,500 families (68,000 people) causing 20 deaths in four provinces in the western and southern parts of the country. The heavy downpours in Angola also caused additional flooding affecting another six provinces in neighbouring Namibia, further worsening the situation.

Considerable damage to infrastructure (roads, bridges, office buildings and homes), environment, crops and livestock was reported in all the affected countries. An estimated total of 60 people died, hundreds injured and thousands displaced. The floods and hailstorms also affected farmlands, and assessments in most of the countries have revealed an average crop losses of 44 percent in the farmlands. Consequently, governments in affected countries requested for assistance in food aid until June 2008.

A significant proportion of the populations of countries in the region have migrated to South Africa to find work. Others seek refuge from conflict and instability in their home countries. In May 2008, xenophobic violence broke out in townships, seen by many to have been caused by a perception that foreigners were taking scarce housing and jobs from the poor South Africans. These attacks spread throughout the country and claimed the lives of people, leaving tens of thousands homeless.

Dimensions of the HIV and AIDS pandemic remain staggering. In 2007 alone, 33 million people were living with HIV, 2.7 million people became infected with the virus, and two million people died of HIV-related causes. Southern Africa also remains the epicentre of the HIV and AIDS pandemic, and harbours the highest burden in Sub-Saharan Africa and the world. Almost one third of the world's people living with HIV live in this sub region. In seven countries, HIV prevalence exceeds 15 per cent (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe); about 43 per cent of all children under 15 living with HIV are in Southern Africa, as are approximately 52 per cent of all women above the age of 15 living with HIV.

Following the IFRC Zone office launch of a new, innovative and dynamic five-year regional HIV and AIDS programme (2006-2010) in November 2006, the ten NS have been focussing on consolidating programming and building capacities in preparation for scaling-up. The regional HIV and AIDS programme aims to quadruple target beneficiaries by 2010. A total of 50 million people will be reached with prevention messages and peer education activities, 250,000 people will benefit from an expanded prevention, care, treatment and support programme and 460,000 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) will be provided with a holistic package of educational, nutritional and psycho-social support.

While aiming to provide quick response to humanitarian challenges, Red Cross activities were seriously affected by shortage of construction and rehabilitation materials, due to a high demand compared to the low production capacity of service providers. In addition, rising prices of materials such as cement, fuel and water hand pumps surpassed the budget lines set by several humanitarian organisations, consequently scaling-down on activities or deferring to the next operating period. Hyperinflation, shortage of items and an unstable political environment affected activities mainly in Zimbabwe, which had elections in March 2008.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management (DM)

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s)

- *Disaster Response (emergency operations)* - Support the disaster response operation managed by NS through national, regional and international resource mobilisation.
- *Disaster response (recovery)* - NS supported in implementing effective and sustainable livelihood recovery programmes for population affected by disaster.
- *Disaster preparedness (institutional level)* - Support and advise ten NS in developing DM plans based on likely hazards/risks and in accordance to vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA), hazard and risk analyses, in cooperation with governments, United Nations agencies and other partners.
- *Disaster risk reduction (DRR)* - Support NS in improving capacity on DRR programming and its integration with health, water and sanitation and organisational development programmes, through joint planning, training and sharing of resource.

Achievements

Disaster Response (emergency operations)

The DM department responded to the needs of the region by focusing on the improvement of response to food insecurity, health emergencies, flooding, climate change adaptation and strengthening of risk reduction interventions, and livelihood recovery initiatives.

Southern Africa Floods Operation: At the onset of the localised flooding in Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe five countries, and heavy rainfall with storms in Lesotho and Swaziland, the NS requested for seed funding from the IFRC DREF, and a total of CHF 1,191,647 was released to initiate relief operations and conduct field assessments. Angola later experienced floods, which led to the revision of the regional floods emergency appeal, thus increasing the scale of the operation.

In January 2008, the IFRC deployed the Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) to complement the DM staff at the Zone office, coordinated field assessments and drafting a plan of action for the regional operation. At the beginning of February 2008, the IFRC zone office established a floods relief operations team based in Johannesburg to coordinate activities in the field and provide technical support to the affected NS. Technical support was needed on procurement and distribution of relief items, finance management, logistics and communication. The team was also involved in field visits to support assessments and reviewing operation plans in the flood affected countries.

Zimbabwe General Elections: In preparation for possible politically related violence prior, during and after the March 2008 general elections, a taskforce comprising of ZRCS, ICRC and IFRC was established to formulate a contingency plan and mechanisms to strengthen the capacity of Zimbabwe Red Cross. Through support from Swedish Red Cross, volunteers were trained, equipment procured and delivered to strategic areas in the country. As a result, Zimbabwe Red Cross with support of the IFRC Country Representation office assisted 342 people displaced by politically related violence and initially camped at the South African Embassy in Harare. They were later moved to Ruwa Rehabilitation Centre, a peri-urban suburb in Harare. Zimbabwe Red Cross was requested by the government and other stakeholders to complement the Department of Social Services in coordinating efforts of other stakeholders providing humanitarian services at the centre. The IFRC Country office was among the organisations, which provided relief assistance at the Embassy.

Urban Violence/Population Movement: In June 2008, DREF amounting to CHF 370,000 was released for the urban violence response operation in South Africa targeting approximately 30,000 people initially for three months; which was extended for one more month based on the needs on the ground. South African Red Cross was actively involved in the provision of relief assistance to the displaced and affected population, mobilizing hundreds of volunteers and staff from 35 local branches throughout the country. According to the UN-OCHA Situation Report of 21 July 2008, there were approximately 12,297 displaced people in 72 sites nationwide.

Mozambique and Malawi each received CHF100,000 and CHF 87,000 respectively, to support the two NS in providing humanitarian services to returnees had been forced to return home due to violence in South Africa.

Disaster response (recovery)

In April 2008, the end of the rain season and the movement of people back to their home villages prompted the declaration of the end of the emergency phase by most governments. Based on that, a major part of the relief interventions carried out by state institutions, non-governmental organisation (NGOs) and other humanitarian organizations was gradually scaled-down. The NS in the affected countries also started down-sizing the relief phases of the emergency operation towards an exit strategy focusing on rehabilitation and recovery activities.

Disaster preparedness (institutional)

The zone DM department supported the NS in enhancing disaster response skills, through training and establishment of regional disaster response teams (RDRT), drawing participants from all countries. In addition, DM department has effectively co-ordinated a functional task force that was instrumental in developing contingency plans for recurrent disasters, such as cholera outbreaks and floods in addition to humanitarian incidents.

However, the movement of relief items within and into the region presented a big challenge to logistics efforts. Strengthening of logistics support was therefore one of the major priority needs, which is being addressed by the appointment of a zone logistics coordinator. Specifically, greater emphasis should be on improving stock movements and tracking from supplier to the beneficiaries. Training on warehousing, fleet management and procurement has been started in NS prone to recurrent disasters.

Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Malawi are in the third phase of developing their DM master plan, whereas Angola, Mozambique and Zambia are in the first phase. The process ensures that preparedness is a continuous and integrated process resulting from a wide range of risk reduction activities and resources. It requires contributions in many different areas; ranging from training and logistics, to health care, recovery, livelihood to institutional development.

A regional planning and review meeting took place in Johannesburg from 2-6 June 2008. The objective of the meeting was to review activities carried out in the first half of 2008, and to develop plans and budget for 2009-2010. The meeting resolved that each NS will redefine its objectives and repackage its activities through the Disaster Management Master Plan (DMMP) to ensure services offered are of good quality.

The NS also resolved to establish an integrated project to mitigate the effects of the annual floods on the communities along the Zambezi River basin. The initiative takes an integrated approach which encompasses enhancing community capacities in disaster preparedness, response, risk reduction and improving access to clean water, sanitation facilities and food.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The final review of the disaster risk reduction programme was conducted, and facilitated by the IFRC Zone office. Findings revealed that the DRR interventions were designed to reduce the vulnerability of individuals to drought, floods, cyclones, HIV and AIDS. Specific project activities carried-out included strengthening and supporting community disaster management committees by designing community-based early warning systems, livestock restocking, training on animal

husbandry and agronomy including conservation farming and livestock disease management, provision and distribution of drought tolerant cereals varieties such as sorghum, introduction of nutritious vegetable variety which is an immune booster, and distribution of drip irrigation equipment. Through the project implementation and identification of good practice, lessons learnt and knowledge sharing, the project made contributions towards the promotion of the risk reduction agenda at national, regional and global levels.

As southern Africa moves from disaster response and recovery to risk reduction, the IFRC Zone office has enhanced its technical support on the existing DRR and climate change initiatives. These activities will not only enable communities to rebuild their livelihoods, but will also enhance the quality of life through various recovery interventions.

Food Security

The food security interventions supported by the IFRC Zone office include supplementary feeding, distribution of maize seeds and fertilizers, communal and backyard gardening. These activities aim to improve food provision and nutrition status of the most vulnerable people such as the HBC clients, OVC, terminally ill, elderly, child-head and single-parent headed families. As a result the food security interventions are integrated mainly with HIV and AIDS programme components. In addition, the IFRC Zone coordinated the development of the five-year food security programme for five countries in southern Africa.

Logistics

Guidelines for procurement and fleet management within the zone office have been set up and streamlined. The zone tender committee has been established and has started being operational during all major procurement transactions of the zone. IFRC zone logistics office has also started building the capacity of NS particularly on warehousing and procurement. At the same time, the logistics department had been preoccupied with the procurement of relief stock for preposition at the Zone and NS warehouses, in preparation for the next rainy season.

Health and Care

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s)

- *Community-based first aid* - Community-based First Aid (CBFA) reactivated in all the ten NS in Southern Africa.
- *Health emergencies* - The health needs of people affected by natural and man-made disasters are catered for by all NS.
- *Community-based health and care* - Capacity of the NS to provide effective community-based health care based on ARCHI⁵ toolkits is strengthened.

Achievements

Community-based health and care

The health and care department conducted a capacity assessment of the NS, as well as mapping the existing primary health and first aid activities in the zone. All ten NS have indicated their activity areas of focus for the next two years (2009-2010) as community-based health and care community-based and commercial first aid, prevention and control of malaria and tuberculosis (TB), measles and polio, water and sanitation, health in emergencies and the need for capacity building. A corresponding secretariat (zone) support plan and budget has since been developed based on the indications.

⁵ **ARCHI** – African Red Cross/Red Crescent Society Health Initiatives 2010 builds on its strength: a Red Cross and Red Crescent presence in each of 53 countries in Africa and, in all, more than two million volunteers. The overall goal of ARCHI 2010 is to make a major difference in the health of vulnerable people in Africa. Refer <http://www.ifrc.org/what/health/archi/>

South Africa ranks fourth in the world in the prevalence of multi drug resistant tuberculosis. South African Red Cross has therefore engaged on playing a vital role in prevention, treatment, care and support activities. The prospects of a partnership with USAID and the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical company to scale-up interventions are good and the IFRC Zone office is providing technical support in the development of a project proposal to this effect. Angola, Lesotho and Mozambique also have high prevalence rates and the NS also have plans to submit funding proposals. Likewise, the IFRC Zone office provided technical support in revamping the health and care programmes at each NS level.

In Malawi, preparations for participation in the anti-measles and anti-malaria campaigns by the NS in October are at an advanced stage. The campaigns will involve some 2,000 volunteers in 15 districts. Similarly, Mozambique is gearing itself for community social mobilization activities in anti-measles and anti-malaria campaigns also scheduled for October 2008. The target in Mozambique is the vaccination of 3.5 million children against measles and the distribution of long-life insecticide treated nets to approximately 2.2 million children under-five years. A total of 4,070 volunteers will be mobilised to carry out house-to-house visits in 98 districts in 11 provinces with nine of the 21 districts in Nampula province.

While polio has been eliminated from most parts of the world, it remains a serious issue in Angola and Namibia, which are classified as "importation countries". Against this background, Angolan Red Cross provided training to 200 volunteers throughout nine of the 18 provinces in August, in order to support social mobilization activities for a national polio campaign

Community-based first aid

Following strongly expressed sentiments by all ten NS to revitalise community-based health and first aid, as well as scaling-up activities in these low cost but highly effective interventions, the IFRC Zone office has plans to seriously engage the membership in these activities. The first step is revitalisation of the SAPRCS health working group to ensure that each NS has a focal person in charge of first aid programme at NS level, being accountable to the working group. This will be followed by the distribution of the revised CBFA toolkit currently under development by the health and care department in Geneva.

Work towards the establishment of a zone operation alliance on first aid is at an advanced stage. Belgian Red Cross-Flanders is the principal partner and dialogue is under way to get other PNS on board. The initiative will start with those NS that are ready for participation, with others coming on board at a later stage. The idea is that in the long-term, NS will use the experience to roll-out the activities into commercial first aid (CFA) for local resource mobilisation purpose.

Belgian Red Cross-Flanders is currently supporting two NS in the region through an integrated national approach. The ground work for the establishment of the operational alliance on first aid began in 2007 with several meetings and assessments already conducted.

Water and Sanitation (WatSan)

The African, Caribbean and Pacific European Union (ACP-EU) Water Facility supported water and sanitation activities are being implemented in Namibia, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe with a focus on community mobilization and PHAST activities. Engineering (hardware) activities have also begun, which will enable approximately 360,000 people with improved access to safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and hygiene education by 2010.

Through other bilateral and multilateral funding support, two NS are implementing WatSan with technical support of the IFRC zone WatSan department. In Malawi, assistance is provided to the Irish Red Cross bilateral projects and in Lesotho bilaterally by the Norwegian Red Cross. The number of beneficiaries of the IFRC supported long-term development project is estimated to be 17,000 people with the aim of reaching 100,000 people by end of 2008, by sinking more boreholes and rehabilitating water points.

The IFRC zone office has replaced the WatSan equipment that has been dispatched to Mozambique (2007) and Namibia (2008 - water supply pipes, tanks, pumps and chemicals) with support of the Belgian, Japanese and Swedish Red Cross. The current emergency equipment stored in Harare, Zimbabwe (IFRC Zone warehouse) has capacity to serve 10,000 people.

Constraints or challenges

- The health and care co-ordinator is currently negotiating with a number of potential donors, principally the Swedish Red Cross, in order to ensure adequate financial support for the scaling-up of the zone health and care programme.
- Staff turnover is still contributing to loss of institutional memory and skills especially in Zambia.
- Increasing prices of WatSan materials in the region, local currency depreciation and hyper-inflation (in Zimbabwe) are the main challenges in planning and implementation of the planned activities.

Organisational Development

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s)

- *Organisational development* - NS have up-to-date and implemented Statutes, policies, strategic plans and operational guidelines in areas of programming and human resources development, according to the characteristics of well functioning national society (WFNS).
- *Government and management development* - Increased in NS capacity in terms of knowledge and skills base of the leadership and management.
- *Branch development, volunteer management and youth development* - NS impact in capacity building is reflected in the number of well-established and improved sustainable branches, youth and volunteer structures ensuring viable, vibrant and effective delivery services to the vulnerable.
- *Finance development* - NS financial management is improved to enable cost effective, controlled and accountable practices ensuring sustainability of resources; IFRC financial and reporting standards are met at all times and well accepted.
- *Intensified capacity building* - A model for effective capacity building is developed in the region to enable NS to address the most urgent situation of vulnerability in the communities it serves.
- *Resource mobilisation/grant management* - Resources mobilisation strategy and policy for the zone and NS developed and implemented aiming at fully meeting core costs and programmes activities.

Achievements

Organisational Development (OD)

The OD department remained without an incumbent coordinator although the recruitment process was finalised. The new OD coordinator is expected in office in September 2008. Meanwhile, the deputy head of Zone was primarily coordinating OD activities, and supporting the technical OD delegates at country level. OD technical support has been maintained in Lesotho and Swaziland, and started in Zambia and Zimbabwe with the placement of resident delegates.

Government and management development

The IFRC zone senior management have been pro-active in training and coaching new NS leadership. Governance training workshops were held in Botswana (February/March), Lesotho (February) and Namibia (March). In April, an extra-ordinary general assembly was held in Swaziland, and led to the change of leadership, thus the NS has a new governing board president and secretary general. Other new leaders are in South Africa and Lesotho Red Cross, who have already conducted orientation visits to the IFRC Zone office, and met with all programme managers.

Branch Development and Volunteer management

Botswana Red Cross hosted the first human resources and volunteerism workshop attended by all NS representatives and youth from some of the NS. It was noted at the meeting that; Mozambique has a Code of Conduct for volunteers, board members and staff, Zimbabwe has a Volunteer Code of Conduct; Malawi has a Volunteer Policy; South Africa has a Volunteer Policy, database and has started the process on insurance for volunteers. The main outcome of the meeting was the establishment of the human resource/volunteering working group, which was adopted at the SAPRCS meeting held in May.

At the same meeting, South Africa Red Cross was elected as the chair of the Southern Africa Youth Committee. The proposed and approved name for the committee is SAYNET (Southern Africa Youth Network).

Finance Development

The purpose of this finance development programme is to support the NS establish, improve and optimally utilise accounting systems and financial resources in a cost effective, transparent and accountable manner. In the first half of this year, NS finance staff have been equipped with knowledge and skills to enable them effectively use the Navision accounting software, as well as coaching the programme budget holders. Two NS have been moved from the working advance to the cash transfer system and have been trained accordingly.

Sound financial management systems have become an important tool for increased donor funding. Accountability and transparency have become an integral issue and a pre-requisite for funding within humanitarian organizations. It is within this context that the IFRC zone office has identified strategic financial planning and effective budgeting systems focusing on core costs, acceptable financial reporting and effective utilization of the Navision accounting software. With that in mind, all ten NS are operational on Navision accounting software, and seven have received post implementation training on Navision, budgeting methodology and core costs budgeting. Three NS have successfully completed the 2007/2008 audits using the accounting system.

Financial manual education and interpretation to non-finance staff has been conducted in seven NS. The IFRC Zone office with technical support Strategix has also completed the customisation of the system in order to meet both auditors and donor reporting requirements.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)

Eight NS have recruited national PMER officers, which is a critical step towards strengthening performance measurement, tracking and accountability at country level. Following the initial training that was held in December 2007, the Zone PMER units expanded its technical assistance and coaching to the NS PMER officers and their counterparts. During the reporting period, the PMER officers also gathered in Johannesburg for a one week workshop (June 30 – 4 July), to provide an induction platform and orientation to new PMER officers on their roles and responsibilities, to share other NS challenges in implementation of the PMER system, to endorse and adopt the PMER tools including the revised reporting tools/formats, and to develop a plan of action for 2008-2010.

Constraints or challenges

- The capacity to utilise the Navision accounting software is still limited at NS level and technical support in terms of training and in-country coaching is still needed. The NS staff members however are required to have the basic accounting fundamentals in order to cope with the new system.
- More needs be done in strengthening the reporting system in the Zone. There have been some noticeable gaps in donor reporting, which has created tension among the programme staff and the donors, in very few cases leading to return of unspent funds.
- The absence of the OD coordinator has jeopardised capacity development plans for both the Zone office and the NS.

- A few NS have their capacity building proposals turned down due to poor presentation and lack of focus. The IFRC zone will in the next call for proposal give technical support to the NS in proposal development.

Principles and Values

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s)

- *Promotion of Humanitarian Values and Fundamental Principles* - The awareness of Movement Principles and Humanitarian Values amongst key external stakeholders and ensure high media coverage at times of disaster or major events.
- *Information and communication* - NS have stronger communication capacity and good linkage with media houses.
- *Prevention of sexual and gender-based violence* - NS positively influence behaviour in terms of respect for human dignity, diversity, non-discrimination and social inclusion.
- *Promotion of respect for diversity and non-discrimination* - Appropriate campaigns to promote reduction of stigma and discrimination, and advocate on behalf of PLHIV in the ten countries, using key community leaders for sustained community involvement are carried out.

Achievements

Promotion of Humanitarian Values and Fundamental Principles

There has been limited progress in activities around the promotion of Humanitarian Values and Fundamental Principles partly because the communication delegate was only recruited in July 2008. However, these activities are integrated within the implementation of other programme component.

Information and communication

The IFRC Zone office participated in the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day in Pretoria on 8 May, hosted by the South African Red Cross and supported by the ICRC and IFRC. An emblem campaign on the correct use of the RCRC emblem was launched during the celebrations based on the new Red Cross law that was passed by parliament in August 2007.

Many NS in the region held various events both at the national, provincial and branch levels to mark the day. The World Disasters Report 2008 was also launched jointly with the South African Red Cross on 26 June in Pretoria, following the media briefing held the previous day. Both events were successful and well attended by diplomatic missions and other partners, including good media coverage.

As a result of the urban violence operations in parts of Gauteng, Western Cape and KwaZulu Natal provinces, South African Red Cross received wide media coverage. Supported by the IFRC and ICRC, the NS achieved high coverage through international and local media, according to the NGO Media Watch. As a result, Red Cross visibility and profile has further been strengthened in Southern Africa.

Constraints or challenges

- Programme activities of the promotion of principles and values are not clearly defined, as a result are difficult to adopt at country level. Traditionally, this is an areas supported by the ICRC, hence the IFRC Zone is struggling in fundraising for the activities.

Implementation and Co-ordination

Outcome(s)/Expected Result(s):

- *Co-ordination* - IFRC Zone office's coordination and facilitation of strategic planning processes has increased the impact of the Movement's support to all NS in the region.

- *Advocacy* - Zone Advocacy Strategy reviewed and adopted by NS and used to influence regional policies and maintaining donor confidence.
- *Cooperation* – IFRC Zone office cooperation, priorities and concept of “regionality” are set through the SAPRCS forum, based on needs expressed in NS’ strategic plans
- *Harmonisation* - Harmonization of activities with the ICRC and the PNS working in the region is improved.
- *IFRC Zone office management* - Operational Zone for Southern African’s management is strengthened through effective and efficient human resources, financial, administrative, logistical, monitoring, evaluation, programme coordination and support to the region.
- *Governance support* - Zone’ management support to NS governance in the region (IFRC Governing Board, PACT and SAPRCS) is effective and timely to enhance Southern Africa’s contribution in IFRC policy making bodies; IFRC technical and resource mobilization support is provided for the practical organization of the PAC to be held in October 2008 in Johannesburg.

Achievements

Co-ordination

In cooperation with IFRC representatives, the Zone office has strengthened coordination of programmes and provision of technical support to the NS. The planning for the Secretariat support for the next two years was jointly done with partners, and informed by the NS strategic plans. Part of the process included consultative meeting with the NS senior and programme meeting. Geneva based colleagues were supporting the overall review of the programmes included in the appeal 2009 -2010 by participating in the Zone planning meeting in June.

For the first time ever, at the Zone level, a special planning meeting was also held with the ICRC resulting in exchange of information about planning processes within these two organisations and brainstorming as how to best support the NS.

The South Africa IFRC country representative undertook an additional, part-time role as the relationship management coordinator since August 2007 and contributed to the formal process of establishing the Zone office in South Africa. The unit’s capacity was strengthened through the appointment of a locally recruited stakeholder management and protocol officer and the communication delegate for the position of a communication manager. Recruitment for a full time delegate for the relations management and resource mobilization sector is on-going.

Advocacy

In the absence of the communication delegate, the relation manager represented the zone at the global communication forum hosted by the American Red Cross. Over 60 NS participated at the forum to discuss the global communication strategy, its implementation and a global plan of action on communication. The outcome of the meeting was a ‘call to action’ to the leadership: *“Unleashing the power of communications within the Red Cross Red Crescent”*. The newly appointed communication manager will take forward the advocacy initiatives and is preparing to host the SARCOF forum in August 2008.

Harmonisation

The IFRC Zone invites partners to the quarterly coordination meetings to jointly review modalities on support the NS in southern Africa. The attendance is always very good and meetings are found to be useful and informative. A special day for PNS representatives was organised during the coordination week as needed. The ICRC head of regional delegation and co-operation delegates are key participants at these meetings, as they provide vital information on ICRC priorities and programming in the zone. The meeting is also a premise for joint planning and consultation among Movement partners. In addition to the zone coordination meeting, country level meetings are facilitated either by the host national society of the IFRC country representatives, and attended by the resident partners, and by the ICRC in the case of South Africa and Zimbabwe, who are host to ICRC delegations.

The IFRC Zone office is hosting two PNS regional offices namely American and Swedish Red Cross. Collaboration has been strengthened and the partners have increased understanding of the IFRC programmes, through regular face-to-face discussions with the programme coordinators.

Preparations for the 7th Pan African Conference (PAC) to be held at the Sandton Convention Centre (SCC) in Johannesburg on 19 – 22 October 2008 have been priority during the reporting period. The IFRC Zone office has been hosting the coordination team since June 2008. Progress has been made on registration, hotel bookings and payments and logistics. The IFRC Zone office has also assisted some NS in the drafting of technical papers to be presented at the 7th PAC. The Zone communication department is also bracing to professionally lead information and communication systems during the continental forum

IFRC Zone office management

The first half of the year has seen a lot of recruitment taking place to fill vacant positions created by the office relocation. The transition has had considerable impact on the operations of the department, as more time was spent on recruitment issues and inducting all new staff. At the same, some human resources management functions have been decentralised to the zone office. In addition, there was a lot to be learnt from the South African human resource regulations and policies at regards to hiring, laying-off, compensation, pension scheme and medical aid policy. All newly recruited staff members have been trained on the Code of Conduct, performance appraisal system, fire fighting, security, procurement and plans is underway for a team building exercise. Immediate supervisors are consistently monitoring performance of their subordinates to identify capacity gaps that needs skills development.

Constraints or challenges

- The running costs for the Zone office have considerably increased due to high cost of living and of services in South Africa.
- The administration department has gone through some challenges due to poor coordination and weak line manager leadership to the junior staff. This left a lot of gaps in travel and accommodation services, billing for personal expenses, management of delegates housing, and general office administration. As a result, a new administration manager has been appointed and some functions such as transportation and procurement fully moved to the logistics department.
- The recruitment of local staff has been very challenging in terms of getting the right candidates with the required skills profile and work attitude. As a result, senior management engaged the recruitment of some junior support staff through recruitment agencies on short-term basis, in order to avoid implications in case of unconfirmed probation period.

Working in partnership

A close co-operation has been maintained with the ICRC, resident PNS, UN agencies (OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP in particular), the National Disaster Management Departments, other international organisations such as IOM, MSF, OXFAM and faith-based organisations. The Zone office conducted numerous consultative and coordination meetings with local authorities in South Africa as regards to the Zone status and staff accreditation.

Collaborative work was also evident during disaster response operations particularly; regional floods operations, and the urban disturbance operation in South Africa. The Movement components were kept informed of progress on existing programmes, new initiatives and more importantly the funding needs. The IFRC Zone office, through the PMER and communication department took the lead in piloting the Zone level newsletters, shared with all stakeholders on monthly basis. Other zones have replicated the initiative and the Secretariat communication department has standardised/branded the Zone newsletter template.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The IFRC Zone programme design and outcome areas are aligned to the Global Agenda goals at the same time serving the interest and priorities of the NS. The main goal is to achieve full coverage of the NS funding and technical support needs in order to achieve greater impact. Continuous efforts will be put on resource mobilisation, generic training programmes and in-country support visits, development of tools used for performance measurement, tracking and improving accountability. The ultimate goal of the IFRC zone office is to have well functioning NS⁶, who are credible and accountable to both bilateral and multilateral donors.

Looking ahead

While the IFRC Zone office finalise its office set-up, focus is on strengthening communications and resource mobilisation, coordination of programmes as well as enhancing technical support to the NS. Advocacy is also another area for improvement, especially on selling new initiatives such as the Zambezi River Basin project.

In organisational development, IFRC Zone would like to see an increase in the quality of financial reporting with timely and reliable reports. At the same time, it is important that NS programmes operate within the approved budgets. There is also an urgent need to look into the issue of unqualified audit reports, which have negatively affected the integrity and credibility of the NS in handling donor funds.

It is hoped that the later part of the year will see more general support to staff in terms of psychological support on stress issues, team building exercise for all staff, support to NS, review of local staff salaries and delegate MSA in the light of high cost of living in South Africa. There are plans also to finalise staff regulations for local staff and to conduct a team building exercise for all staff.

From the relations management and resource mobilization perspective, priority for the coming months is to contribute to the success of the 7th PAC through utilising networking opportunities, strengthening partnership with the government, diplomatic corps, UN and other international organisations. Expansion and diversity is needed in order to widen the current partner and donor base for the IFRC Zone office. Additional funds are urgently needed to fill the funding gaps that still exist for 2008. A donor management system has to be put in place as a high priority.

⁶ **Well Functioning National Society** - Accountable leadership and management, quality programming and effective service delivery to vulnerable people

How we work

The International IFRC's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the IFRC's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA63001 - Southern Africa Zone

Mid-year report 2008

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2008/6
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Appeal	MAA63001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health and Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organizational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	2,827,155	6,176,876	122,018	3,371,490	1,311,648	13,809,188
B. Opening Balance	279,514	612,850	325	161,536	41,123	1,095,347
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>	7,433	0				7,433
<i>British Red Cross (from British Government)</i>		659,347				659,347
<i>Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government)</i>				78,455		78,455
<i>DFID Partnership grant</i>		164,598		-148,422	2,132	18,308
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		34,798		54,698		89,496
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>		39,267		80,620		119,887
<i>Icelandic Red Cross</i>					10,265	10,265
<i>Irish Red Cross</i>	1,156					1,156
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	50,000					50,000
<i>Netherlands Red Cross</i>				25,600		25,600
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>		3,211		24,609		27,820
<i>Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)</i>		28,896		3,515		32,411
<i>On Line donations</i>					15	15
<i>Other</i>				1,674	-212	1,462
<i>Other (from Finnish Government)</i>				56		56
<i>Other (from Finnish Red Cross)</i>				11		11
<i>Other (from Irish Red Cross)</i>	-1,156					-1,156
<i>Other (from Norwegian Government)</i>				-3,509		-3,509
<i>Other (from Norwegian Red Cross)</i>				-446		-446
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>	-2,556	11				-2,545
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>	2,556			43,600		46,156
C1. Cash contributions	57,433	930,128		160,460	12,200	1,160,221
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>British Red Cross (from British Government)</i>		-349,933				-349,933
<i>DFID Partnership grant</i>		179,790		242,817	52,804	475,410
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		3,538		-24,609		-21,071
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>		20,049		96,142		116,190
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>				41,267		41,267
<i>Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)</i>				153,995		153,995
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>				42,675		42,675
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		-146,557		552,286	52,804	458,533
<u>Inkind Goods & Transport</u>						
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		433,574				433,574
C3. Inkind Goods & Transport		433,574				433,574
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
<i>Icelandic Red Cross</i>				28,933	25,500	54,433
<i>Other</i>				51,000		51,000
C4. Inkind Personnel				79,933	25,500	105,433
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Services</i>					20,256	20,256
C5. Other Income					20,256	20,256
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	57,433	1,217,145	0	792,679	110,760	2,178,017
D. Total Funding = B + C	336,947	1,829,995	325	954,215	151,882	3,273,364

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Appeal Coverage	12%	30%	0%	28%	12%	24%
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II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organizational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	279,514	612,850	325	161,536	41,123	1,095,347
C. Income	57,433	1,217,145	0	792,679	110,760	2,178,017
E. Expenditure	-144,181	-1,562,945		-432,931	-169,503	-2,309,560
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	192,766	267,050	325	521,283	-17,620	963,804

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance A - B
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organizational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		2,827,155	6,176,876	122,018	3,371,490	1,311,648	13,809,188	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	595,000		7,032				7,032	587,968
Construction - Facilities/Infrastruc			842				842	-842
Construction Materials	5,495		84,757				84,757	-79,262
Clothing & textiles	1,074,453		173,057				173,057	901,396
Food	98,225	991	45,363				46,354	51,871
Seeds,Plants	573,875		409,471				409,471	164,404
Water & Sanitation	244,905	37,812	186,999				224,811	20,094
Medical & First Aid	286,411	-13	25,959				25,930	260,481
Teaching Materials							-443	443
Utensils & Tools	301,500		18,357		1,343		19,700	281,800
Other Supplies & Services			76,435				76,435	-76,435
Total Supplies	3,179,864	38,790	1,028,272		1,343	-459	1,067,946	2,111,918
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	246,666				4,100		4,100	242,566
Computers & Telecom	36,567	5,968	1,139		13,370		20,476	16,091
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	26,900		308		1,755		2,063	24,837
Others Machinery & Equipment			1,348				1,348	-1,348
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	310,133	5,968	2,794		19,225		27,986	282,147
Transport & Storage								
Storage	114,646		5,007		606	114	5,727	108,918
Distribution & Monitoring	190,550	304	5,507		434		6,246	184,304
Transport & Vehicle Costs	659,352	8,978	102,468		25,692	406	137,544	521,808
Total Transport & Storage	964,548	9,282	112,982		26,733	520	149,518	815,031
Personnel								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	1,135,815	79,164	55,055		261,935	103,416	499,570	636,244
Regionally Deployed Staff	543,595				539		539	543,056
National Staff	340,563	10,113	143,098		714	6,356	160,281	180,282
National Society Staff	870,458	38,512	151,985		108,895		299,391	571,067
Consultants	264,732		26,727		22,259	1,100	50,086	214,646
Total Personnel	3,155,163	127,789	376,865		394,342	110,873	1,009,868	2,145,295
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	3,045,659	247	90,394		39,228	24,095	153,963	2,891,696
Total Workshops & Training	3,045,659	247	90,394		39,228	24,095	153,963	2,891,696
General Expenditure								
Travel	709,335	6,356	55,568		35,867	1,939	99,729	609,606
Information & Public Relation	537,424	149	21,246		10,299	31	31,725	505,699
Office Costs	303,888	1,588	45,518		6,441	1,036	54,583	249,305
Communications	106,326	2,895	27,141		17,389	14,050	61,474	44,852
Professional Fees	16,338		102			794	896	15,443
Financial Charges	26,385	3,122	-79,609		23,503	-7,335	-60,320	86,705
Other General Expenses	556,529	6,821	45,741		7,210	64	59,836	496,693
Total General Expenditure	2,256,224	20,930	115,707		100,707	10,578	247,923	2,008,302
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies			126,547				126,547	-126,547
Total Contributions & Transfers			126,547				126,547	-126,547
Programme Support								
Program Support	897,597	9,445	99,466		24,053	9,360	142,324	755,273
Total Programme Support	897,597	9,445	99,466		24,053	9,360	142,324	755,273
Services								
Shared Services		30,627	53,598				84,225	-84,225

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organizational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		2,827,155	6,176,876	122,018	3,371,490	1,311,648	13,809,188	
Total Services		30,627	53,598				84,225	-84,225
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		-98,898	-443,680		-172,699	14,537	-700,739	700,739
Total Operational Provisions		-98,898	-443,680		-172,699	14,537	-700,739	700,739
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	13,809,188	144,181	1,562,945		432,931	169,503	2,309,560	11,499,628
VARIANCE (C - D)		2,682,975	4,613,931	122,018	2,938,559	1,142,145	11,499,628	