

MOZAMBIQUE

REHABILITATION, DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

CHF 1,489,000
700,000 beneficiaries

Programme no 01.20/99

The Context

After sixteen years of war, peace was restored in Mozambique in 1992. Since then, the country has been struggling with reconstruction and development. The political situation is stable, the inflation rate brought well under control and annual GNP growth has climbed to around 14%. However, Mozambique is still one of the poorest 10 countries in the world facing daunting development challenges including a USD 100 per capita income, an average 46-year life expectancy, and insufficient access to education and health services.

The government is working hard to build a sustainable economic base and lower dependency on external aid, while promoting social equity in an effort to reduce poverty. The health strategy has a goal to increase health service coverage from the current 40% of the population to 60% by the year 2000.

The Operation

The main thrust of the Federation's programmes in Mozambique is to support the Mozambique Red Cross (MRCS) in retooling itself from a large, relief-oriented organisation dependent on outside resources into a self-sustainable one able to address long-term development and service delivery to the community. This involves improvements in financial management, training of staff and volunteers, as well as developing disaster preparedness and response programmes. Meanwhile, the National Society is implementing, with Federation support, community-based health and social programmes reaching deep into Mozambican society.

Objectives of the Operation

- To create conditions for a sustainable National Society through strengthening its operational capacity, especially in the fields of financial management, follow-up on the restructuring process, and implementation of the branch development strategy and plan.

- To develop an integrated disaster response capacity which defines standard needs and units, and includes purchasing and storage of basic disaster items, as well as integrating disaster preparedness training in all programmes.
- To promote the Mozambique Red Cross image and to ensure the dissemination of the Movement's fundamental principles and of International Humanitarian Law.
- To improve the health conditions of the most vulnerable populations through primary health care and education, including HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, and access to safe drinking water through an integrated community-based programme.
- To provide social services, especially support to children, the disabled and the elderly, to facilitate their social integration.
- To prevent land mine accidents and deaths through mine awareness and environmental education.

Plan of Action

- Health Programme

The target group is a population of 500,000 people in the most vulnerable rural and peri-urban areas, with focus on women of child-bearing age and pregnant women, children under five, AIDS/STD risk groups, HIV-positive people and AIDS patients. The target groups are in 34 priority districts.

Community-based health activities will include the rehabilitation and staffing of five health posts in as many provinces. Besides direct curative activities, the health posts will conduct health care courses in the communities they serve.

25 water points will be provided in 11 priority provinces to ensure safe drinking water for 22,000 people. To complement the water programme, 25 semi-permanent protected latrines will be built in the same communities. Also, community health education in proper sanitation techniques will be given to the same communities.

- Social Welfare Programme

MRCS will provide food, clothing, medical aid, schooling and/or vocational training and family reintegration services to 250 street children through two centres in Maputo and Beira.

- Youth Programme

MRCS will train 216 mine awareness officers who will in turn train 4,000 beneficiaries in 106 youth groups about the dangers of anti-personnel mines, how to mark mines and report their location to the authorities.

- Institutional Development

MRCS will continue to reinforce its capacity, with the focus on the governing bodies, 150 staff, and the 4,000 volunteers at HQ and the 11 provincial branches. MRCS will hire an internal auditor, three administrators and a gender assistant as part of the capacity building process. Courses on the Movement's principles, International Humanitarian Law, good governance and revenue generation will be given to newly-elected governing volunteers. Support for the statutory meetings of these governing bodies is also to be provided.

As a first step towards the implementation of a revenue generation programme in 1999, MRCS will provide financial management training in financial systems, procedures and reporting.

MRCS will conduct 12 disaster training courses for its volunteers. It will also formulate and implement a national disaster policy and plan during 1999.

Capacity

- The National Society

The National Society has 150 staff and 4,000 volunteers working in the 11 provincial branches. As noted above, MRCS will hire additional staff as part of the capacity building process.

- The Federation

The Federation plans to extend its support in 1999 by adding a finance delegate to the delegation in Maputo, which in 1998 consisted of a single development delegate. Support and technical advice is also available through the Regional Delegation in Harare.

- Other Red Cross/Red Crescent Resources

MRCS receives substantial bilateral support for institutional development and volunteer programmes from the Norwegian Red Cross. A Norwegian representative is based in Maputo, working closely with the Federation. Danish Red Cross will support a bilateral community based health programme in Inhambane Province.

Co-operation

MRCS has good ties with the major NGOs and UN agencies active in the country. Reinforcing co-operation with the ICRC in the spirit of the 1997 Seville Agreement is one of the priorities for 1999.