

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

EAST AFRICA SUB-REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

3 April 2006

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In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA004; Programme Update no. 3; Period covered: October 2005 to December 2005; Appeal coverage: 68.9%; Outstanding needs: 816,643 (USD 618,200 or EUR 521,816)

[Click here to go directly to the Contributions List available on the website.](#)

Programme Update no. 1 refer to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA00401.pdf>

Programme Update no. 2 refer to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA00402.pdf>

Appeal target: CHF 2,624,305 (USD 2,106,691 or EUR 1,699,679).

Programme summary: The period coincided with the run up to general elections in Tanzania. The Tanzania Red Cross Society's traditional activities suffered considerably since the upsurge in political violence as the date originally set for the general elections approached meant that routine activities had to take second place.

The Kenya Red Cross Society was heavily involved in emergency relief work as political violence escalated across the entire country during the run up to the referendum on the new constitution, whereas the Uganda Red Cross Society had just started implementing its tsunami programme activities when the country was rocked by political unrest as the opposition Front for Democratic Change took to the streets in a number of cities and towns in protest against the arrest of their leader a few days following his announcement to contest the presidential elections scheduled for early 2006.

Four national societies, namely Burundi Red Cross Society, Kenya Red Cross Society, Rwanda Red Cross Society and Uganda Red Cross Society, except for Tanzania, got onto a good start with respect to implementing tsunami programme activities as a result of the availability of tsunami funds.

There were no new emergency appeals launched during the period, though with 18 of the districts in Kenya still experiencing food insecurity the possibility of a new emergency appeal for a drought relief operation cannot be ruled out.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents).

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Burundi

Operational developments

Following the Burundi Red Cross Society's demonstrated capacity in small-scale localised interventions involving population movements as a collaborating partner with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Food Programme (WFP), there is a real possibility that the nature of this relationship will be formalised by the UN agencies in preparation for a planned and expanded intervention involving assistance to an estimated 400,000 Burundian returnees who are currently refugees in neighbouring countries, as well as in the voluntary repatriation of refugees mainly Rwandese and Congolese currently in Burundi.

The anticipated mass influx of returnees is, in part, a result of the relative peace prevailing in the country following the establishment of a democratically elected government, though one rebel group remains outside the framework of the new order.

In anticipation of such a development, the national society, with assistance from the Federation is at an advanced stage of organising an assessment mission to Burundi to establish needs and identify feasible sectors in which it could be involved. At the end of the mission, the assessment team is expected to develop a plan of action and the first draft of an emergency appeal. Initially, the sectors for possible involvement by the national society are:

- Registration, primary health screening and provision of humanitarian assistance to new arrivals and in-transit inmates;
- Tracing and transmission of Red Cross messages and escort services for the frail to their new homes;
- Provision of short-term humanitarian assistance during the settling-in period;
- Ongoing community development interventions targeting both the returnees and their host communities.

In the light of these developments, there are plans to post a programme delegate to support the national society in the development of operational plans and the actual programme implementation. A finance/administration officer, a disaster management officer and a communication officer were appointed during the period, while a health officer is expected to be in place at the end of 2006.

Pledges of reconstruction, rehabilitation and development support continue to pour from the donor community. One sector that is expected to benefit more than any other sector in the near future is education, following the adoption of a much applauded policy of free primary schooling by the new government.

Organizational development

Goal: To build the capacity of the Burundi Red Cross to enable it to meet the needs of vulnerable communities through the development and implementation of quality programmes and activities in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, Strategy 2010, ARCHI 2010 and related strategy instruments.

Objective 1: To build the capacity of the Burundi Red Cross to enable it to meet the needs of vulnerable communities through the development and implementation of quality programmes and activities in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, Strategy 2010, ARCHI 2010 and related strategy instruments.

Progress/Achievements

Senior management

- The national society appointed finance/administration, disaster management and communication programme officers to manage its core programmes. Close follow up and the provision of technical support for the newly appointed officers by their technical counterparts at the regional delegation is planned for the first quarter of 2006.
- The increase in human resources capacity will enable the Secretary General and branch development officer to devote their time and energy to managing the national society and branch development work respectively.
- During the period, the national society nominated its technical staff to attend disaster management, logistics and volunteering training workshops organised by the regional delegation's technical departments and the organisational development (OD) department (Geneva). In addition, the national society hosted the annual RC-Net Communication Forum during which it took advantage of its status as host to send as many of its officers as possible to this important peer supported capacity building event.

Objective 2 : Growth and development of the branches to a level where the presence of the Red Cross is known and felt by both public authorities, grassroots communities at large and potential partners.

Progress/Achievements

Membership and volunteer corps

- Membership and volunteer recruitment, and close monitoring and supervision of both these levels continued throughout the period.

Branch and local committee leadership

- The branch development officer is in the process of developing a comprehensive training programme for the leadership at various levels in a second level training programme planned for early 2006.

Objective 3: Increased capacity within the branches to a level where they are able to implement programmes and activities in a manner that reduces vulnerability within the communities they serve.

Progress/Achievements

Delivery of services.

- Routine activities in the core programmes continued and volunteers continued to be engaged in small-scale population movement interventions.
- Due to the lack of own office premises at the branch level, the national society has started dialogue with local provincial authorities on the possibility of being allocated offices at their headquarters. The Head of East Africa sub-regional office intends to pay a visit to the Ministry of Local Government on her next mission to Burundi to support the national society in this regard.
- The national society is exploring the market for possible suppliers of goods and services in preparation for the installation of a telecommunication and internet network linking the headquarters and the branches. This activity, which is planned for early 2006, is facilitated by the tsunami programme funds. The regional delegation's IT and telecom delegate is lined up for a technical support mission.

Objective 4: To strengthen partnerships within both the Movement and outside to facilitate goal realization.

Progress/Achievements

Cooperation relationships with Movement partners

- The national society successfully convened a technical coordination meeting which was attended by all its Movement partners. It was during this meeting that partners were sensitised to the anticipated influx of returnees.
- The Secretary General attended a leadership development workshop organised by the sub regional office which provided an opportunity for dialogue and peer support on matters affecting the national societies of the sub region, which benefited the Burundi Red Cross Society through solidarity, strengthening of sub regional cooperation and peer support.

Kenya

Operational developments

A notable political development was the referendum in which the country went to the polls to vote on a proposed constitution. The period in the run up to the referendum was characterized by political violence that claimed the lives of eight people in the lake (Victoria) city of Kisumu and the coastal city of Mombasa during the period. This meant that the Kenya Red Cross Society's was preoccupied with emergency preparedness and relief interventions as violence erupted in location after location. The polls turned out to be relatively calm but Kenya remains in a state of tension following the overwhelming defeat of the "yes" campaign backed by the President. As such, branches in the hot spots remained on high alert and the preparedness measures put in place during the run up to the referendum remain in tact, including pre-positioning emergency stocks and vehicles with Red Cross Action Team (RCAT) on stand by.

The proposal for the access to treatment component of the HIV/AIDS programme was successfully renegotiated with the Swiss Foundation in collaboration with the Swiss Red Cross resulting in the awarding of a CHF 1.5 million over a period of five years. At the time of writing the final draft of the memorandum of understanding (MoU), in which the parties will be the Swiss Red Cross, the Kenya Red Cross Society and the Federation, had been shared for comments and observations.

The drought relief programme finally ended on 31 May 2005 at the end of a three months extension period. However, with hopes for a quick recovery diminishing, the national society was in the process of reviewing reports and updates from the Relief and Rehabilitation Department in the Office of the President during the period, with a view to making a decision as to whether or not to launch a second appeal.

Health and care

Goal : To improve the general health of the population by supporting communities to assume responsibility for their own health using ARCHI 2010 as the reference point in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

Objective: To reduce the prevalence and impact of HIV/Aids in the general population through awareness-raising campaigns, behavioural change communication and community support to PLWHA.

Progress/Achievements

Implementation of Kenya Red Cross Society HIV/Aids 2003-2007 Strategy

- Public campaigns and awareness activities were extended to prisons and religious groups. World first aid day celebrations and the Nairobi Marathon were used to disseminate information and to distribute both literature and condoms.
- With the Federations support, the national society made progress with respect to establishing a partnership with the National Olympic Committee of Kenya as a follow up to the global agreement signed between the Federation and the International Olympic Committee at the Geneva level. At the time of reporting, the national society had submitted a proposal for information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities involving sporting personalities to convey HIV/AIDS messages as well as having a spot to convey messages during major sporting events.

HIV/AIDS workplace activities

- The period saw the second group of volunteers and staff undergo attitude training to strengthen anti stigma activities. HIV and AIDS awareness campaigns continued at the headquarters through the distribution of information leaflets, posting of articles bearing informative messages on the notice board and the placing of condoms in washrooms. Staff and volunteers continued to benefit from information sessions on stigma, discrimination, and the importance of knowing one's status through voluntary counseling and testing (VCT). The sessions, which have become a regular feature of the headquarters' calendar of monthly events, are witnessing an increase in attendance.

Peer education activities for in and out of school youth

- A total of 57 volunteers representing both in and out of school youths were trained as Peer Educators. Three members of staff received training in basic counseling skills between July and October, bringing the total number to 36 since the last update. In the five branches involved in HIV/AIDS activities, Peer Educators were actively running information sessions in schools, in out of school Red Cross club meetings and in public gatherings to disseminate information, promote voluntary counseling and testing. Altogether, more than 5,000 youths benefited from these Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities. Some youths signed up for membership in both school and out of school Red Cross clubs.
- School patrons were also busy promoting the concept amongst their fellow teachers and were actively involved in a nationwide art/essay competition organized for the in and out of school youths.

Family health and home based care activities

- In three branches (Kisumu, Siaya and Mombasa) 172 new clients were identified and registered on the programme while 1,724 old clients continued to receive home based care support; a total of 618 were referred to specialist service providers mainly hospitals, for the treatment of opportunistic infections.
- Two branches conducted refresher courses for home based care facilitators for the purpose of keeping them informed on the latest techniques and approaches to home based care.
- Support was availed to both existing and emerging support groups. Established support groups' small-scale income generating projects are doing reasonably well, which is attributed to the enthusiasm of the participants. At about the same time, elections were held to select new income generating activities committees to strengthen project management.
- Orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) support continued in Siaya where 30 of these children are benefiting from school fees assistance.

Improving access to treatment (ARVs)

- In Kisumu, two sensitisation workshops on anti retroviral therapy (ART) was run for 25 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), 27 community health workers and 11 trainers of trainers (TOTs) to improve their knowledge on the ART concept. Currently, the branch is facilitating access to treatment for 38 clients.
- Following renegotiations, it was agreed that the national society could go ahead with an ART programme to complement the input by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) France in Nakuru. At the time of writing, a draft MoU had been shared with both the Swiss Red Cross and the national society for their input before signatures can be appended.

Constraints

- The national society was heavily involved in emergency relief work as political violence escalated across the entire country during the run up to the referendum on the new constitution. Against this background, routine activities had to take second place.

Organizational development

Goal: The capacity of the Kenya Red Cross to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable within communities in a timely, effective, efficient, appropriate and coordinated manner and in accordance with Strategy 2010 is strengthened.

Objective: To improve the capacity of the Kenya Red Cross to provide timely and qualitative support to the most vulnerable through adequate human and financial resources both at headquarters and branch level in accordance with the fundamental principles and values of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

Progress/Achievements

Policies, strategies and guidelines.

- The consultants commissioned to assist the national society in the development of a new strategic plan for 2006 – 2010 completed the assignment, following which a consultative meeting was convened to present a draft of the document to the membership, who subsequently adopted it, as represented by the national and branch leadership. Accordingly, the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) was updated to align it to the new strategic plan.

Cooperation within the eastern Africa region

- A successful annual partnership was held in early October with partners from both within and outside the Movement.
- The recommendations made at the end of the annual self-review of branches involved in the Lake Victoria Project (LVP) are being followed up and implemented. A satellite meeting involving the three national society focal points was held in Uganda to discuss how the concept of peer supported capacity building could be further developed and exploited in preparation for an annual SIDA review meeting for partners held in Entebbe, Uganda in December.

Rwanda

Operational developments

A major constraint throughout the year has been the poor response to the appeal in respect of the disaster management programme with the only source of funding being Department for International Development (DFID), whose contribution amounted to 58% coverage of the programme.

Hundreds of genocide convicts had their sentences reduced to community work. The work involves reconstruction of properties of their victims' survivors, agricultural activities and other public works thus ensuring that they continue to serve their sentences at no cost to the government promote reconciliation and re-harness the community spirit that once characterised communities in Rwanda.

The Rwanda Red Cross Society has been advised to use the community spirit generated to interest communities in Red Cross work and thus facilitate recruitment drives and the establishment of local volunteer networks.

The Rwanda government has earned the 'Second Poverty Reduction Support Grant' from the World Bank amounting to some US\$ 55 million to assist in continuing economic reforms and improvements in social services. In addition, another grant of US\$ 20 million was availed to support the government's urban management efforts; both grants are expected to result in a marked increase in the number of children attending or completing primary school as well as a significant drop in the under-five mortality rate and the incidence of communicable diseases. The implications for the national society are that as it moves closer to expiry of its current strategic plan, a new strategic plan (2007 – 2011) must be designed to replicate interventions towards which Movement partners' governments are already contributing.

Health and care

Goal : To improve the general health of the population by supporting communities to assume responsibility for their own health using ARCHI 2010 as the reference point in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

Objective 3: The national society makes a contribution to raise awareness on HIV/Aids within communities and an improvement in the quality of life of those infected and affected.

Progress/Achievements

HIV/AIDS

- PLWHA associations benefited from continued social support through the revolving fund in which goat rearing is a popular income generating activity. In a number of selected cases, food assistance was provided in collaboration with WFP, with the UN agency availing 462.9 tonnes of food for distribution over a period of six months running from July to December 2005.
- The national society continued to be an active partner in the Non governmental organizations (NGO) Forum on HIV/AIDS at both the national and local levels.
- Home based care volunteer teams were active throughout the period and their work was enhanced by the procurement and distribution of forty home care kits in those provinces where service delivery had been hampered due to lack of equipment and tools.
- Throughout the period, IEC activities and the distribution of information and promotional materials to the general public, schools and colleges continued in the six provinces implementing HIV/AIDS activities. In four provinces (Kibungo, Kibuye, Gisenyi and Gikongoro), the "FOOT SIDA" initiative was started to strengthen IEC activities by tapping on sport and in particular football. The concept is an initiative that will facilitate the fostering of links between the national society and the Rwanda National Olympic Committee (NOC) planned for the first quarter of 2006.

Disaster management

Goal: To reduce vulnerability against rapid, slow onset and forgotten disasters within communities through effective prevention, preparedness and timely response interventions.

Objective: To strengthen the capacity of the Rwanda Red Cross to provide timely and effective response to disasters through adequate human and financial resources at both the headquarters and branch levels in accordance with the Fundamental Principles and values of the Movement and in collaboration with the government of Rwanda.

Progress/Achievements

Implementation of Rwandan Red Cross Society prevention, preparedness and risk reduction strategy

- Preparedness and community sensitisation on early warning signs and evacuation techniques with respects to volcanic eruptions continued during the period in collaboration with local authorities and the Nyiragongo Volcanic Observatory. The target was communities in Gisenyi, Kibuye and Ruhengeri provinces which are located in the shadow of the volcanic Mt. Nyiragongo.
- A total of 1,240 people have so far benefited through attendance at preparedness and sensitisation activities in respect of the threat of a volcanic eruption. In addition, 500 information leaflets were distributed.
- The national society continued to be an active participant in the Disaster Management Task Force monthly meetings which are chaired by the Government of Rwanda at both the central and provincial levels and of which UN agencies and NGOs are members. It also continued to provide first aid services at public events throughout the period.

Food security early warning system

- A needs assessment to identify new beneficiary communities for the environmental conservation component of the programme was conducted in Gikongoro, Gisenyi, Kigali and Byumba provinces. They have since been engaged in preparing the land on which to establish tree nurseries.

Capacity to respond to disasters

- Twenty more volunteers were trained in camp management in Kigali Rural province as part of the ongoing preparedness activities in response to anticipated population movements following reports that the government of Rwanda had entered into agreements with its counterparts in neighbouring countries to repatriate Rwandans in exile in these countries. The approximated figure of 20,000 returnees will be higher given that Burundi is planning for the repatriation of its nationals from neighbouring countries, of which some estimated 10,000 are in Rwanda. Altogether, the total caseload is expected to be upwards of 40,000 people since some of the refugees are not registered but instead spontaneously integrated into local communities on

flight. The national society now has a contingent of highly trained volunteers ready for deployment in the event of planned or sudden population movements.

- Following a mission by the regional delegation's IT and telecom delegate to assess the possibilities of establishing an internet network linking the branches and headquarters, substantial progress was made with respect to getting proforma invoices for both hardware and software as well as from service providers.

Organizational development

Goal: A national society characterised by good governance, and a strong and focused management and branches.

Objective 1: To strengthen the capacity of the branches to enable them to serve vulnerable communities more effectively through the implementation of a policy of decentralisation to empower the operational district and local committee levels.

Progress/Achievements

Good governance, decentralisation and management training

- In pursuit of tapping on the knowledge, expertise and skills available regionally in respect of branch development and local capacity building, the national society volunteered to host the annual Branch Development through twinning workshop which was attended by officers at the regional and branch levels, in Kigali in August.
- With respect to the ongoing restructuring of the national society, a new local committee was established in the Ngenda district of Kigali Rural province during the period. This brings the total number of local committees to 102 out of a potential 104. The newly established committee immediately started the planning of activities and technical support will be a priority during this period of infancy.
- Work on the construction of provincial offices in Gitarama and Kigali Rural as well as the warehouse at the headquarters started and progress was monitored regularly during the period.

Constraints

- The period was characterised by preparations for the annual partnership meeting. Staffs were busy at all levels making their contributions toward the successful convening of the meeting.

Tanzania

Operational developments

The Tanzania Red Cross Society's traditional activities suffered considerably since the period coincided with an upsurge in political violence as the date originally set for the general elections at the end of October approached. This meant that the national society had to divert its energies and resources towards the provision of emergency first aid services during unrests as politicians took their campaigns across the entire country.

During the active engagement period, prior to the suspension of election campaigns, the national society mobilised its volunteers in potential political hot spots, who established first aid posts and had in place logistical arrangements for ferrying the injured to health centres and hospitals in the event of unrest, to a level comparable to the general election in 2000.

The national society also strengthened its preparedness mechanisms in anticipation of the resumption of political violence in the run up to the new election date of 18 December. Amongst the activities implemented was the identification of experienced RCAT leaders, who were put through RCAT leadership refresher training workshops and assigned as peer supported technical support back up in branches.

Uganda

Operational developments

The national society had just started implementing its tsunami programme activities when the country was rocked by political unrest as the opposition Front for Democratic Change took to the streets in a number of cities and towns in protest against the arrest of their leader a few days following his announcement to contest the presidential elections scheduled for early 2006.

Meanwhile, the Lord's Resistance Army continued with its activities in northern Uganda including the killing of two humanitarian workers in a space of two weeks. This resulted in the temporary suspension of humanitarian activities by some international agencies including the United Nations. With assurances of tighter security measures, deliveries of humanitarian assistance resumed within ten days.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) announced that it was resuming grants to Uganda following assurances that the authorities were going to put into place tighter measures to ensure that there was no abuse of the funds in the future. The decision to resume the grant was applauded as the suspension was hurting not the perpetrators of the abuse but PLWHA's.

Organizational development

Goal: The capacity of the Uganda Red Cross to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable within communities in a timely, effective, efficient, appropriate and coordinated manner and in accordance with Strategy 2010 is strengthened.

Objective: To improve the capacity of the Uganda Red Cross both at headquarters and branches to provide timely and effective response during disasters through adequate human and financial resources while upholding the fundamental principles and values of the Movement.

Progress/Achievements

Organizational development capacity

- A governance seminar was run to revisit the recommendations made in the SGS report on the areas requiring improvement in the functioning of the board. The secretariat was subsequently tasked to plan and organise a training programme, expected to take place during the first quarter of 2006, to address the identified weaknesses.
- The chairman of the board and the acting Secretary General attended the sub regional leadership development workshop. Given his extensive experience, the Chairman made a substantial contribution during discussions on orientation to statutory meetings.
- The period also witnessed progress in the recruitment process for the vacant Secretary General position with a task force appointed for the purpose of working closely with a consulting firm commissioned to assist in the recruitment. Interviews were subsequently conducted at the end of November. An internal candidate, the current acting Secretary General was selected for the position, and she will be confirmed subject to a satisfactory six month probation period.
- A participatory planning meeting involving branch and headquarters was convened to develop work plans and budgets for 2006 thereby providing an opportunity for field staff to have input into priority areas of intervention based on real time experiences.
- Annual general meetings were held in 98% of the branches with some having the benefit of the presence of headquarters staff for technical support in the proceedings. A major challenge observed during the meetings is a low membership base dominated by the low-income category of members. Recommendations included orientation of new members, continuing leadership development for good governance and innovative ways of motivating volunteers.
- Construction work of Red Cross centres in Kampala West, Kampala South, Lira, Soroti and Arua was at different stages of progress during the period and preparation of payments due were work in process. The Kabale and Iganga branch offices had electricity installed, facilitating the use of modern office equipment and enhancing the security of the premises.

Cross-border cooperation within the eastern Africa region

- The national society held a successful annual partnership meeting that was well attended by a number of both Movement and non-Movement partners.
- As a follow up to the annual self review of the performance of branches involved in the Lake Victoria Project dialogue on the modalities of peer supported capacity building was ongoing during the period. Further discussions took place during a satellite meeting of representatives from all Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda in preparation for an annual SIDA review meeting for partners held in Entebbe, Uganda in December.

Constraints

- The beginning of October saw the national society busy with annual planning and preparing for the annual partnership meeting. This meant that staffs were limited in the degree to which they could follow up ongoing routine activities.

Sub-regional context

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

Goal: The sub-regional office leads and facilitates the processes through which the Federation adapts its Federation of Future (FoF) model and functions in order to effectively respond to current and long-term trends in the environment and provides sustainable, responsive and focused programming and services that meet the needs of the membership and the communities served.

Objective: National societies are supported in realising their commitment towards change and innovation leading to better support to capacity-building, effective disaster response and improved coordination and integration of Federation's initiatives into sub-regional and country-level planning and strategies in the delivery of essential services to vulnerable communities.

Progress/Achievements

Development and updating of the CAS and provision of coordination services.

- Uganda and Rwanda were supported in updating their CAS as part of the preparations for their partnership meetings.
- Kenya developed a new strategic plan for the period 2006 – 2010 with the assistance of a team of consultants, and the CAS was updated accordingly to align it with the new strategic plan.
- In the absence of a strategic plan and a CAS, on the advice of the sub regional office, the Burundi Red Cross Society convened a technical coordination meeting to share with partners its priorities for 2006, which include the development of a strategic plan and subsequently, a CAS.

Dissemination of Federation policies and strategies and knowledge sharing.

- During the leadership development workshop, national society participants benefited from a briefing on the latest developments in the Secretariat and highlights of the Federation of the Future process by the HoRD. Following the briefing, they were given time to debate the implications of these developments on the sub region and reflect on the contribution they would make to this agenda item during the General Assembly.
- In addition, the event also served as an orientation to statutory meetings for the leaders for whom it would be their first time to attend.

Effective use of sub-regional office resources and competencies.

- The sub regional office continued to play an active and advisory role to the Uganda Red Cross Society Central Board's committee in the process of recruiting a new Secretary General. On a number of occasions, advice was availed on request by Rwanda on a variety of issues including that pertaining to resolving the issue of the former Secretary General.

Constraint

- Given that the third quarter technical coordination meeting fell during a period that Tanzania was rocked by political violence, the national society's main preoccupation was emergency relief interventions.

Representation

Goal: The influence of the Federation on the humanitarian agenda and its profile in carefully targeted international organizations and fora is increased through advocacy initiatives in four core areas (disaster preparedness/risk reduction; HIV/Aids including advocacy for reducing discrimination and stigma, and promotion of Movement principles and humanitarian values).

Objective: The Federation is appreciated as a partner in both development and disaster preparedness and response.

Progress/Achievements

- Following news of the planned scaling up of the returnee programme in early 2006, the HoSO requested for a meeting with UNHCR during a mission to Burundi. The agency gave an elaborate account of what had transpired to date and its plans for scaling up and that it was looking at the Red Cross as a possible partner in the programme. It was on the basis of this meeting that discussions on how best to support the national society were initiated at the regional delegation in Nairobi.
- The HoSO attended an international conference on sports and the environment jointly organised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the United Nations Environmental Programmes (UNEP) in Nairobi whose agenda included sports and HIV/AIDS. The Kenya Red Cross Society was provided with technical support in the development of a presentation for the conference.
- It is envisaged that the other four national societies will foster links with their respective National Olympic Committees as a follow up on the global agreement signed between the IOC and the Federation.

Constraint

- There had been plans to initiate links between the Uganda Red Cross Society and the NOC (Uganda). However, the mission during which this was to take place coincided with instability in Kampala as the city was characterised by sporadic political unrest following the arrest of a prominent opposition politician.

Field management

Goal: Member national societies are adequately served with respect to support to governance, management and technical support for the operational levels to facilitate growth and development.

Objective: The sub-regional office has structures and systems in place to ensure that member national societies are provided with well coordinated, efficient and effective support and in accordance with Federation standards.

Progress/Achievements

Capacity building support

- The sub-regional office continued to play its role as the focal point for Federation technical support for ongoing programmes and emergency/disaster relief interventions. The support of the logistics department was mobilized on request by Uganda Red Cross Society in the restructuring of its logistics department including the development of the job descriptions for various new positions.
- The sub regional office also organised and run a leadership development workshop at the end of October. Included in the agenda was strengthening sub regional cooperation through dialogue as well an orientation component with respect to preparations for statutory meeting for those leaders for whom it would be their first time to attend such meetings. The leadership development and dialogue event was well received, and the national societies have requested that a similar event be organised at least twice a year by the sub regional office. Advantage will be taken of the upcoming partnership meeting in June next year to convene the first event with a second one planned for towards the end of the year.
- Plans to support the participation of the acting president of Rwanda Red Cross Society as an observer at the General Assembly of the South African Red Cross Society in February next year were at an advanced stage at the time of reporting. The participation is part of the ongoing leadership development initiative as Rwanda has a General Assembly planned for April 2006 and the acting President will be presiding over an important event for the first time.

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- Plans to recruit a programme and finance officer at the beginning of 2006 to facilitate more efficient services to the national societies were at an advanced stage and it is expected that the officers will be in place as at the beginning of the year.
- In view of the anticipated involvement of the Burundi Red Cross Society in the repatriation programme early next year, there are plans to post a programme delegate to support the national society during the intervention.

Constraint

- The need to meet deadlines for the revision of the annual appeal and tsunami plans and budgets for 2006-7 added pressure to the planned routine work throughout the period.

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