

Report 2006-2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Zambia

Appeal No. MAAZM001

20/04/2008

This report covers the period of 01/01/2007 to 31/12/2007 of a two-year planning and appeal process.



A Zambia Red Cross volunteer assisting a government health worker during the measles immunisation campaign held in July 2007. (Zambia Red Cross)

In brief

Programme Summary: The 2006-2007 programmes were developed based on the National Society (NS) Strategic Development Plan, and aligned to the country's Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP) and the International Federation Global Agenda's Goals. Zambia Red Cross Society's (ZRCS) main activities included disaster preparedness and response, community-based health and care, HIV and AIDS prevention, home-based care (HBC), the promotion of Humanitarian Values and Fundamental Principles, and capacity development in the form of resource mobilisation, volunteer management, training in finance development and project management. ZRCS continued the refugee programme for Congolese refugees in the northern parts of the country. Voluntary repatriation started in May 2007 and will end in 2009.

Goal: To build and strengthen ZRCS capacity to enable scaling-up of health and care, disaster preparedness, response and risk reduction, promotion of Humanitarian Values and capacity development activities, through efficient coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships at all levels.

Needs: Total 2006-2007 budget is CHF 8,149,163 (USD 6,211,252 or EUR 5,266,018) (out of which 99% covered).

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[report 2006/2007](#)

No. of people we help: Approximately 210,000 people benefited directly or indirectly from ZRCS long-term programmes. Through the refugee programme a total of 21, Congolese refugees and 5,500 multinational urban refugees benefited from care and maintenance services provided by ZRCS.

Our Partners: ZRCS supported by the Federation Country Representation strengthened partnerships with government departments, bilaterally and multilaterally. Amongst the partners within government were the Ministry of Health (MoH) and in particular, the National Epidemics Preparedness and the Prevention and Control Management Committee (NEPPCMC). In the Ministry of Local Government, the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) was the main partner. Within the United Nations (UN) System, worked closely with UNHCR, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, and within the broader international organisations community, with IOM and the International Youths Foundation (IYF). In addition, ZRCS worked closely with other local humanitarian actors and collaborators namely, local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community and faith-based organisations and the private sector. Throughout the reporting period, ZRCS actively participated in the National Disaster Management Consultative Forum (NDMCF) and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC).

Funding support to this appeal was received from the British and Swedish Red Cross, EU, PRM UNHCR and WFP. The American, Australian, Canadian, Japanese, Monaco, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies, Federation Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) supported emergency operations and long-term bilateral projects. Other funding donors were the Government of Zambia, DFID, USAID, ILO, PEPFAR, the Czech Republic and the Barclays Bank.

Current context

The period under review (2006 – 2007) was characterised by emergencies and in particular, floods and disease outbreaks. The floods which affected Kazungula, Solwezi and Mpulungu districts in March 2006 and in southern provinces in March 2007 had devastating effects on infrastructure, livestock and crops and displaced over 1.5 million people. Cholera broke out in the Northern and Lusaka provinces in the first quarter of 2006 and 4,000 cases and 55 deaths were recorded. Another outbreak was in November of the same year in Central province where 115 cases were reported. The government immediately launched an appeal for humanitarian assistance to respond to the needs of the displaced families; it was on the basis of this government action that the International Federation of Red Cross allocated funding support from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the NS response operations.

The resurgence of outbreaks of measles in some parts of the country prompted the government to embark on a national immunisation campaign in 2007. On its part, the ZCRS with support from the Federation Country Representation actively participated in the campaigns during which it deployed over 50 volunteers for community social mobilisation activities to complement the work of technical officers from the Ministry of Health.

The voluntary repatriation of the Congolese refugees from Mporokoso is anticipated to end by 2009 and ZRCS has started working on its exit strategy. The NS will mainstream the former activities into long-term community-based development activities. However, care, support and maintenance services may continue for the residual refugees at Kala camp in Luapula province.

Progress towards objectives

Community-Based Health

Objective: The health status of 30,000 vulnerable people in priority health areas of Southern, Eastern, Northern and Western Provinces are improved through provision of sustainable health and care services.

Achievements

During the national measles campaigns at various points in time during the course of 2007, ZRCS demonstrated its capacity to efficiently and effectively mobilise and deploy volunteers for community-based health activities. During the process, approximately two million children between the ages of nine and 59 months were immunised nationwide. In recognition of its contribution to the success of the interventions and the contribution to improvements of the health status of Zambian people in other sectors, the Ministry of Health (MoH) awarded ZRCS a Certificate of Excellence.

In collaboration with the MoH and UNICEF, a contingency plan for cholera outbreaks was developed in 2006 and has since been used in cholera response operations whenever there is an outbreak. The impact of having a plan in place is evident in the significant reduction in mortality and morbidity rates during outbreaks as compared to previous outbreaks. For example, in 2007, approximately 3,000 households (15,000) were reached through health education messages and 4,680 bottles of chlorine distributed in high risk areas prior to and during the raining season. As a result, a significant decrease in the incidence of outbreaks was reported during the 2007 – 2008 rainy season. ZRCS has a total of 100 volunteers and key staff member trained in health emergency response and are on standby roster and ready for deployment in the event of a health emergency.

Water and Sanitation (WatSan)

Objective: Sound and sustainable environmental services, comprising of safe water supply, functional latrines and sanitation and hygiene promotion developed for the vulnerable population (90,000 beneficiaries) in Sinazongwe and Choma districts.

Achievements

Activities in this sector continued with funding support from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) – EU Water and technical support from the International Federation of Red Cross through which the funds are channelled. As a point of departure, baseline surveys were conducted in the two districts in which the project is being implemented (Sinazongwe and Choma). The vulnerability indices derived from the surveys became the basis for designing the interventions. For the “software”¹ component, a total of 17 volunteers were trained on hygiene promotion using the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) methodology and as a point of departure, there are plans to increase the number of these cadres in 2008.

Through bilateral support from the Spanish Red Cross, ZRCS implemented other WatSan projects in Chipata and Petauke in the Eastern Province. The project has been integrated into ZRCS Global WatSan Programme, which is aligned to the Federation Global Water and Sanitation Initiative (GWSI).

¹ **Software** (WatSan) – refers to the planning stage of a project where needs of a community are identified, defined and capacities build in order to promote self-sustainability, ownership

Notwithstanding and for a number of reasons, delays in starting the implementation of the planned activities, considerable progress was made in Sinazongwe and Choma districts, a factor cited by the public authorities in awarding ZRCS the Certificate of Excellence.

Disaster Management

Objective: The National Society has developed mechanisms for empowering and strengthening communities in disaster management so as to reduce human suffering by 2009.

Achievements

The *Disaster Risk Reduction* (DRR) programme is supported by DFID under a three-year programme (April 2006 - April 2008). The activities involve building communities coping and defence mechanisms against the impact of disasters through imparting knowledge about the cause and effect of disasters and early warning systems, as well as increasing their resilience through socio-economic empowerment.

During the period under review, 2,800 households in target communities in the Southern Province benefited from a livestock restocking and poultry scheme in which a total of 508 goats and 1,396 chickens were distributed coupled with dissemination of information and the establishment of a mechanism to control livestock disease outbreaks. In addition, approximately 12 metric tones (MT) of drought resistant variety of sorghum and vegetable seed were distributed, and community members were trained in conservation farming. In Sesheke district (Western Province) and to harness a sense of ownership and thus, sustainability, 14 peer support groups were established amongst the farmers; they regularly met bi-weekly to share information and experiences.

Disaster Preparedness: ZRCS continued to actively participate in DMMU meetings and events and a significant contribution by the NS was a successful mapping exercise to identify knowledge, skills and coordination mechanisms gaps and training needs in the Disaster Management Committees at District level (DDMC). The mapping exercise led to continued dialogue amongst all stakeholders resulting in the development of simple rapid assessment tools used by DDMC in eight districts. In addition, ZRCS and the Federation Country Representation provided technical support to the Government and the UN agencies in developing contingency plans on floods, cholera and population movement. On its part, the subsequently established a national disaster response team (NDRT) comprising of 22 trained volunteers representing a variety of disciplines.

Disaster Response: The Federation secured an allocation for the ZRCS from the Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) to enable the NS to respond to cholera outbreaks in various 2006 and a floods emergency in 2006 and 2007. The localised floods were caused by excessive rainfall in December 2006 and January 2007, whilst cholera was due to flooded and contaminated water sources in slums in the peri-urban areas of Lusaka. In total, 10,000 households (60,000 people) directly affected by floods in five provinces benefited from ZRCS emergency operation.

ZRCS continued to provide services to refugees in the Northern Luapula and Lusaka Provinces in accordance with SPHERE minimum standards. During the reporting period, more than 21,000 Congolese refugees and 5,500 multinational urban refugees benefited from the care, support and maintenance services. In addition, ZRCS has been involved in the implementation of the voluntary repatriation of Congolese refugees, which started on 4 May 2007. So far 5,700 refugees have been repatriated.

Humanitarian Values

Objectives: ZRCS capacity to promote the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values and its image and visibility through effective advocacy and information dissemination is enhanced by 2010.

Achievements

Supported by the Federation Country Representation, ZRCS played a remarkable advocacy role in ensuring that the dignity of people affected by disaster and those displaced was observed in the delivery of humanitarian services. To this effect, volunteers ensured that services were provided equitably at the same time as consideration was given to the gender and other vulnerability indicators in identifying those with special needs. The promotion of Humanitarian Values and Fundamental Principles are mainstreamed in all the long-term programme activities, which ensures wide coverage.

The ICRC supported activities in tracing, family unification and information dissemination. This entailed educating government officials and training volunteers, particularly in areas affected by population movement.

Organizational Development

Objectives: By 2007 the NS has increased its capacity to design and implement strategic directions and is clearly heading towards becoming a well functioning institution.

Achievements

During the period under review, the ZRCS strived to work towards meeting all the characteristics of a well functioning National Society, by strengthening its absorption capacity in community-based programming, resource mobilisation and utilisation – both financial and human.

The functioning of governance and management functions was strengthened through training, exchange visits and coaching by the Federation Country Representations. The NS started a staff restructuring process to ensure adequate coverage of key positions. The NS has negotiated with the New Partnership of African Red Cross Societies (NEPARC) to conduct a second NGO benchmark under the *Société Générale de Surveillance* (SGS) audit in 2008. ZRCS was also short-listed for an allocation from the Intensified Capacity Building Fund (ICB) for which an application had been submitted for an intervention aimed at strengthening its Branches. During 2007, continued lobbying resulted in the government of Zambia seriously reviewing the possibility of resuming their support of the NS through a system of annual grants, which support was withdrawn more than ten years ago. Local donors and in particular, the private sector have been showing increasing interest in support of ZRCS' programmes.

Working in partnership

Strategic partnerships were maintained with other members of the IASC and National Disaster Management Consultative Forum (NDMCF), specifically in disaster management. With the inception of the WatSan projects in the Southern and Eastern provinces, ZRCS harnessed a partnership with the Department of Water Affairs, EU office in Lusaka, UNICEF (cluster focal point on WatSan in Zambia), OXFAM, WATERAID and DAPP. In addition, working relationships with the donor community in Zambia includes Embassies namely, the British, French and Swedish and French Embassies moved to a higher level during the period.

The period was marked by an increase in the visibility and credibility of the NS through timely and quality service delivery in disaster preparedness and response. Recognition of the role of the NS as auxiliary to the government of Zambia was evident in the award as well as the government's indications of the possibility of resuming financial support to ZRCS. The same recognition is

evident in the willingness of partners and stakeholder in making the NS take the lead role in the process leading to the development of a rapid assessment tool at the district level. ZRCS also has a responsibility in tracing and family reunification activities after a period during which the ICRC was carrying out the activity directly from the Regional Delegation in Harare. Finally, the National Society was invited by the government to play a role in the revision of the Refugee Law in Zambia.

Contributing to long-term impact

The NS continued to play a significant contribution in reducing deaths, injuries, illness and impact of disasters and diseases through amongst other things, playing a valued and active role in national forums addressing humanitarian issues. The NS makes a significant contribution towards the government's approach on the Hyogo Framework for Action.²

Through its network of trained volunteers, ZRCS made a contribution to the implementation of the Southern Africa regional five year integrated HIV and AIDS programme, which is a component of the International Federation Global Alliance on HIV. The International Federation is scaling-up its response to HIV and is committed to reducing vulnerability to HIV and its impact through preventing further infections; expanding care, treatment, and support and reducing stigma and discrimination. ZRCS' HIV and AIDS programme is targeting 5,000,000 people in HIV prevention; 22,600 PLHIV and 110,000 OVC with care, treatment and support interventions by 2010. The five year programme (MAA63003ZM) is seeking a total of CHF 51,754,058 for the implementation of the interventions.

Looking Ahead

The implementation of the 2002-2004 recovery plan and the subsequent development initiatives are expected to revamp the NS into a well-functioning institution. The planned second round of the SGS audit should identify gaps in programming, management of resources and governance, which the need improvement.

Lessons learnt from the successful disaster response operations are being documented as learning points for the future. ZRCS acknowledges and appreciates the technical support provided by the Federation Country Representation and is looking forwarding to taking more responsibilities in coordination, advocacy and representation. Following the scaling-down of the refugee operation, ZRCS is working on a smooth exit strategy, which will ensure that the host communities continue to benefit from the Red Cross community development interventions, and that partnership established during the operation will be maintained in other spheres of the National Society's work.

² **Hydro Framework for Action (HFA)** - In January 2005, 168 Governments adopted a 10-year plan to make the world safer from natural hazards at the [Word Conference on Disaster Reduction](#), held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan. The [Hyogo Framework for Action \(HFA\)](#) is a global blueprint for disaster risk reduction efforts during the next decade. Its goal is to substantially reduce disaster losses by 2015 - in lives, and in the social, economic, and environmental assets of communities and countries.

How we work	
<p>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 (Sphere) in delivering quality and accountable 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</p>	
<p>The International Federation’s activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation’s mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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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