

Appeal 2008-2009



East Africa Sub-Zone Programmes

Appeal MAA64003

21 December 2007

This appeal seeks CHF 11,108,000 (USD 9,936,000 or EUR 6,732,000) to fund programmes to be implemented in 2008 and 2009.

In a world of global challenges, continued poverty, inequity, and increasing vulnerability to disasters and disease, the International Federation with its global network, works to accomplish its Global Agenda, partnering with local community and civil society to prevent and alleviate human suffering from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies.



Residents of a drought-hit area in Burundi return from a Red Cross-organized food distribution. International Federation/Omar Valdimarsson.

Current context

The Federation's East Africa sub-zone office works with the Red Cross Societies of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Despite seeming disparities, these countries feature a number of commonalities. They share borders, a turbulent past, great humanitarian challenges as well as opportunities for the future. The region has been the scene of one of the world's most intractable conflicts. Tens of thousands people, most of them civilians, perished and millions were internally displaced or became refugees.¹ However, after decades of violence and bloodshed, stability appears to be within reach. The year 2006 saw internationally-brokered peace deals signed between belligerents in Burundi and Uganda. The ensuing ceasefire has stopped mass killings and there is relative peace now in the region, but it is a relative peace that has to be translated into jobs, incomes, education and good health to make war history.

All five countries in east Africa face formidable humanitarian challenges compounded by rapid population growth and recurring climatic shocks. Over 50 per cent of the region's population live below the World Bank poverty line. Many do not have access to safe water, food and basic health care. Infant and maternal mortality rates are staggeringly high across the region. Preventable diseases such as Malaria and HIV and AIDS are a major concern. In Kenya only, probably the most industrialized country in east Africa, more than 1.5 million deaths have occurred since 1984 due to HIV and AIDS. Arguably the epidemic's cruellest legacy is the orphans it leaves behind.

¹ Tanzania hosts more than a half-million refugees, more than any other African country, mainly from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In Burundi, there are 100,000 IDPs (from armed conflict between government and rebels). Uganda hosts 209,860 Sudanese, 27,560 Congolese, and 19,710 Rwandan refugees.

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The prevalence of malaria has been escalating at an alarming rate causing an unacceptably high number of deaths, many in areas previously free of the disease. Children are now dying of severe forms of the disease. Factors favouring the spread include: resistance of parasites to drugs, conflicts forcing mass migration of people to or from infected areas, adverse socio-economic conditions leading to inadequate health budget to fight malaria, and changing rainfall patterns causing severe flooding across the African continent.

No one can say that the floods of the recent years are directly related to climate change. However, Red Cross Red Crescent disasters statistics show a worrying rise in the number of flood emergencies dealt with by volunteers.² Experts at the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre in The Hague believe that there is also an increased risk of drought in some areas, while others may experience both floods and droughts, as was recently the case in Kenya. It is feared, people's abilities to grow and harvest their own food will be dramatically undermined.

East Africa region at a glance (Source: UN)

Country	Population	Infant mortality rate (2005)	Maternal mortality rate (1990-2005)	Life expectancy at birth	HIV adult prevalence (%)
Burundi	8 million	114	1,000	44	6
Kenya	37 million	79	410	48	16
Rwanda	8.6 million	118	1,100	44	5.1
Tanzania	39 million	76	580	46	12
Uganda	30 million	79	510	49	4.1

Programme summary

The Red Cross Societies of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda are leading indigenous humanitarian actors in their countries. They are seeking international support to respond to daunting humanitarian challenges faced by millions of people in East Africa. These are the poorest of the poor, whose coping mechanisms have been undermined by years of conflict, displacement, poverty, climatic shocks, food insecurity and health epidemics. Their programme support is in line with the Federation's Global Agenda within the following four core areas.

Disaster management

The disaster management programme strives to reduce vulnerability to political, socio-economic and climatic shocks, which are affecting millions of people across East Africa. The objective is to mitigate the impact of disasters by strengthening community coping capacities. In an effort to achieve this, disaster risk maps will be drawn and campaigns will be undertaken to raise community understanding of imminent threats. Because Red Cross volunteers live in the heart of communities, no matter how remote, they are uniquely placed to help in times of crisis. A network of community-based volunteers will be trained in early warning techniques. This will be combined with a media-supported campaign aimed at promoting safe behaviour during disasters.

Massive damage to crops and the widespread destruction of grain stores by recent floods have left many communities across East Africa facing an uncertain future. More needs to be done to help these vulnerable people recover. A part of the funding raised through the Federation appeal will be used to procure and distribute seeds, agricultural tools and other materials for those who have been worst affected.

² Between 2004 and 2006, the number of floods operations in Africa jumped from just five in 2004 to 32 in 2006 and already, by mid September 2007, stood at 42.

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The appeal also targets those affected by political developments in the region. The recent peace process has triggered increased cross-border population movements. According to available statistics, some 5,000 Burundian refugees have returned home since the signing of the peace agreement in Burundi. Back home people struggle to rebuild their homes, find jobs and live healthy lives. The Burundi Red Cross Society (BRCS) will provide the returnees with adequate shelter, water and sanitation facilities. The National Society will predominantly work with female-headed families, pregnant women and children, who are most in need of external support to reintegrate into the society.

In parallel to risk reduction, recovery and community preparedness projects, all five Red Cross Societies in East Africa will be supported to strengthen their own institutional capacities. The focus will be on decentralising the disaster management functions and resources. Local, professional disaster response teams and contingency stocks will be established closer to disaster prone areas to increase efficiency of response if such need arises.

Health and Care

Three of East Africa's National Societies seek the Federation's support for their health and care programmes. They are Burundi, Kenya and Rwanda Red Cross Societies. All three are committed to the African Red Cross & Red Crescent Health Initiative 2010 (ARCHI). Their country-wide network of volunteers will effectively be the major vehicle for addressing community health problems.

Improving maternal and child health is one priority. Red Cross trained volunteers will run educational activities stressing reproductive health, safe motherhood, child health, disease prevention and hygiene promotion. The promotion and demonstration of the correct use of condoms will be integrated into all information, education and communication activities to reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS. Sexual violence, coercive sex and psychological trauma all add to the vulnerability. Campaigns against gender-based violence are, therefore, another priority.

Behavioural change will be promoted within the National Societies as well. It is acknowledged that programme staff cannot affectively address the causes and effects of the epidemic, unless they have the knowledge and ability to address the causes and effects of the epidemic on themselves and the organisation.

Improved home based care programmes will address psychosocial, economic and educational needs of those infected and affected by the disease, including children orphaned by the pandemic.

Maintaining a safe blood supply is crucial to reducing the incidence of HIV transmission. Consistent with Strategy 2010, the National Societies of East Africa will be building on their comparative advantages to implement programmes which promote voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation.

The expansion of malaria in East Africa has by far become the major health concern. Although deaths and new infections are still quite high, interventions that promote behavioural change are proving successful. Community sensitisation will, therefore, continue in the three countries that seek Federation support. Volunteers will also verify the immunization status of infants whenever visiting households and provide appropriate vaccine messages to caretakers.

Capacity Development

Guiding and supporting the development of its member national societies is one of the Federation's fundamental tasks, and runs through this and other programmes. Institutional capacities of the Red Cross Societies in East Africa vary and the Federation via its zonal and sub-zonal offices will assist each national society to systematically address their specific internal organisational challenges.

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The Burundi Red Cross Society has a formidable task of rebuilding the organisation that was dormant during the years of war. It is seeking intensified support to continue the reforms it has started a couple of years ago in an effort to consolidate the Society's leadership, management and operational capacities.

The Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) has well established structures and enjoys national recognition and respect. Through its country-wide network of branches, the Society is implementing several programmes in various parts of the country but it wants to reach more vulnerable people with scaled-up programmes and better quality services. The new leadership of TRCS is seeking the Federation's support to help it improve the way the Society is organised and works. One priority will be to assist the TRCS in developing the new Strategic Plan that will focus the Society's work and help concentrate the limited available resources.

The core programmes of the Rwanda Red Cross Society (RRCS) are well-established as well. The National Society, however, is acknowledging that the level of investment has not been commensurate with an impact it has been making. The lack of effective coordination mechanisms is identified as one of the reasons. To this effect, the RRCS started decentralising responsibility, authority and accountability for programme implementation to operational - provincial and branch - levels. Redrawing of regional borders by the government, however, has slowed the process. The RRCS is committed to take the reforms forward. It is striving to be a relevant organisation responding efficiently to the needs of the most vulnerable, and is seeking the Federation's support in the process.

The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) is one of the leading humanitarian organizations in Uganda. The National Society has a new strategic plan and professional capacity. Institutional instability at the beginning of 2006, however, stalled ongoing programmes and the Society's new leadership is seeking the Federation's support to complete the decentralisation of its governance and management responsibilities.

Decentralisation of its governance and management is a priority for the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) as well. This National Society boasts some remarkable achievements over the last few years. The professionalism of KRCS staff and volunteers was evident in the recent emergency response operations to drought and floods which affected hundreds of thousands of people in 2005 and 2006. The KRCS is striving to achieve greater efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of its services and has embarked on the ambitious project to move its response capacities and resources closer to disaster prone areas. The decentralisation has been completed in five out of the total eight provinces. The Society is now seeking the Federation's support to implement the project in the remaining three provinces.

All five societies have good partnership relations with key humanitarian, government and non-governmental actors, but this will need to be strengthened and coordination mechanisms will need to be reinforced. As part of the global initiative, the new framework for partnerships – operational alliances - will be piloted in Tanzania and Kenya. The framework is building on the Development Cooperation policy and underlines the lead role of the National Societies in defining their own priorities.

All five National Societies will be also assisted to reinforce their planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting capacities. In a parallel process, efforts will continue to engage more young people in the Red Cross work and to attract new members and volunteers to broaden the human resource base of the Red Cross in the region. The Societies will be encouraged to make sustained efforts to promote appropriate participation of both men and women in their programmes for gender-sensitive delivery of services. The diversity of the volunteer base will be a unique asset for sustainable activities.

Principles and values

The principles and values programme has been prioritised for the Federation support by Burundi and Rwanda Red Cross Societies. The programme aims to influence the behaviour of the people the Red Cross works with to reduce any form of discrimination on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs, class or political opinions.

Needs

Programmes	2008 budget (CHF)	2009 budget (CHF)	Total budget (CHF)
Disaster Management	934,805	820,107	1,754,912
Health and Care	1,709,611	1,704,240	3,413,851
Capacity Development	1,713,315	2,121,088	3,834,403
Principles and Values	744,995	846,888	1,591,882
Coordination	251,775	261,294	513,069
Total	5,354,501	5,753,616	11,108,118

Working in partnership

The National Societies of East Africa are actively involved in all coordination fora at regional, national and branch levels and are committed to expanding partnerships with traditional (national and donor Governments, UN, media, sister National Societies, the Federation, ICRC and others) as well as non-traditional actors, such as private foundations and corporate sector representatives.

Several Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement members work in the region either bilaterally with operational National Societies or supporting Red Cross work through the Federation's international appeal. They include: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), American, Belgium, Danish, French, German, Netherlands, Norwegian, Spanish and the Swedish Red Cross Societies.

All five Red Cross Societies of East Africa take responsibility for their own development and for expanding and managing their cooperation relations, particularly with external actors. The Federation offers technical support and is committed to scaling up and improving the quality of the services to its membership.

How we work

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>

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".

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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Click here for the [Budget summary](#);

*Click here to access the detailed [2008-2009 programme support plan](#) for the Burundi Red Cross **and** here for the [planning and resource summary matrix](#)*

*Click here to access the detailed [2008-2009 programme support plan](#) for the Kenya Red Cross **and** here for the [planning and resource summary matrix](#)*

*Click here to access the detailed [2008-2009 programme support plan](#) for the Rwandan Red Cross **and** here for [the planning and resource summary matrix](#)*

*Click here to access the detailed [2008-2009 programme support plan](#) for the Tanzania Red Cross National Society **and** here for the [planning and resource summary matrix](#)*

*Click here to access the detailed [2008-2009 programme support plan](#) for the Uganda Red Cross Society **and** here for the [planning and resource summary matrix](#)*