

SOUTHERN AFRICA: BUILDING CAPACITIES

26 July, 2000

***appeal no. 01.43/2000; budget revision
situation report no. 1
period covered: 1 January - 1 July, 2000***

The initial six months of the year have been a testing period for the Regional Delegation's capacity to meet the enormously increased needs of vulnerable people and the National Societies' ability to serve as a vehicle for channelling the Movement's resources. In the process, important lessons have been learned and the Regional Delegation is well-positioned to apply the strategies in the next six months. To this extent, Harare is among three of the Federation's Regional Delegation's selected to pilot a more decentralised approach, and this will provide opportunities to test working methods and structures that will provide greater responsiveness and better targeting in the future, particularly related to the HIV/AIDS pandemic for which a new appeal is being launched.

This situation report includes a revised budget related to the Zambia refugee operation, as well as the HIV/AIDS component now covered under the separate appeal.

The context

The ten countries which form the Southern Africa region (South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Angola, Swaziland and Malawi) are diverse in wealth and standards of living. The region was formerly seen as reasonably peaceful and stable, but this perception has changed primarily as a result of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo which has spilled over into neighbouring countries and created a refugee influx into Zambia, in addition to political differences that have created considerable divisions. Internal unrest in several countries has increased, with serious economic pressures pushing more people below the poverty line.

HIV and AIDS is widespread, with over 20% of the population of some countries affected. South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe have been cited as the worst affected countries in the world. While care for HIV/AIDS victims is overwhelming health institutions, the full impact on the economy of the loss of so many from the most productive age group is yet to be felt.

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