

EAST AFRICA

The Horn, Great Lakes, and Indian Ocean Islands

CHF 3,295,000

Programme No. 01.09/2000

Regional Context

The Regional Delegation in Nairobi covers 15 countries in East Africa, the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes region and the Indian Ocean Islands, a region with a total population of more than 235 million people. The sociocultural diversities and collapsing economies in the region have exacerbated tension and conflict between different ethnic groups and tribes. Seven out of Africa's current twelve armed conflicts are occurring in the region, creating a refugee and internally displaced population of over 8 million people.

In terms of health, many of the world's worst diseases are prevalent in the region, such as HIV, Ebola, Marburg, Lassa, and Rift Valley Fever but also diseases such as cholera, tuberculosis, malaria, measles and meningitis. The HIV figures alone are dramatic, with 70% of all new infections annually occurring in Africa, and in Kenya alone some 500,000 children are expected to be orphaned over the next few years.

Food security is a second area of serious concern, with cyclical droughts and floods, crop failures and demographic pressure on agricultural land exacerbating an already critical situation. The growth in urbanisation is also generating new challenges for the region, with the displaced and poor flocking into already overcrowded cities, placing an even greater strain on over stretched facilities.

Few Governments have the means to cope with these challenges. Political insecurity and weak economies have led to high unemployment and deteriorating or non-existent health and social services.

Regional Assistance Strategy

On a regional level the respective National Societies and the Federation aim to improve the lives of people who are at risk from the effects of conflict, urbanisation, environmental degradation, disease, and natural disasters which threaten their ability to live with the minimum of socio-economic security and human dignity.

While taking into account the various strengths and weaknesses of the National Societies within the region, the Regional Delegation will prioritise the following assistance:

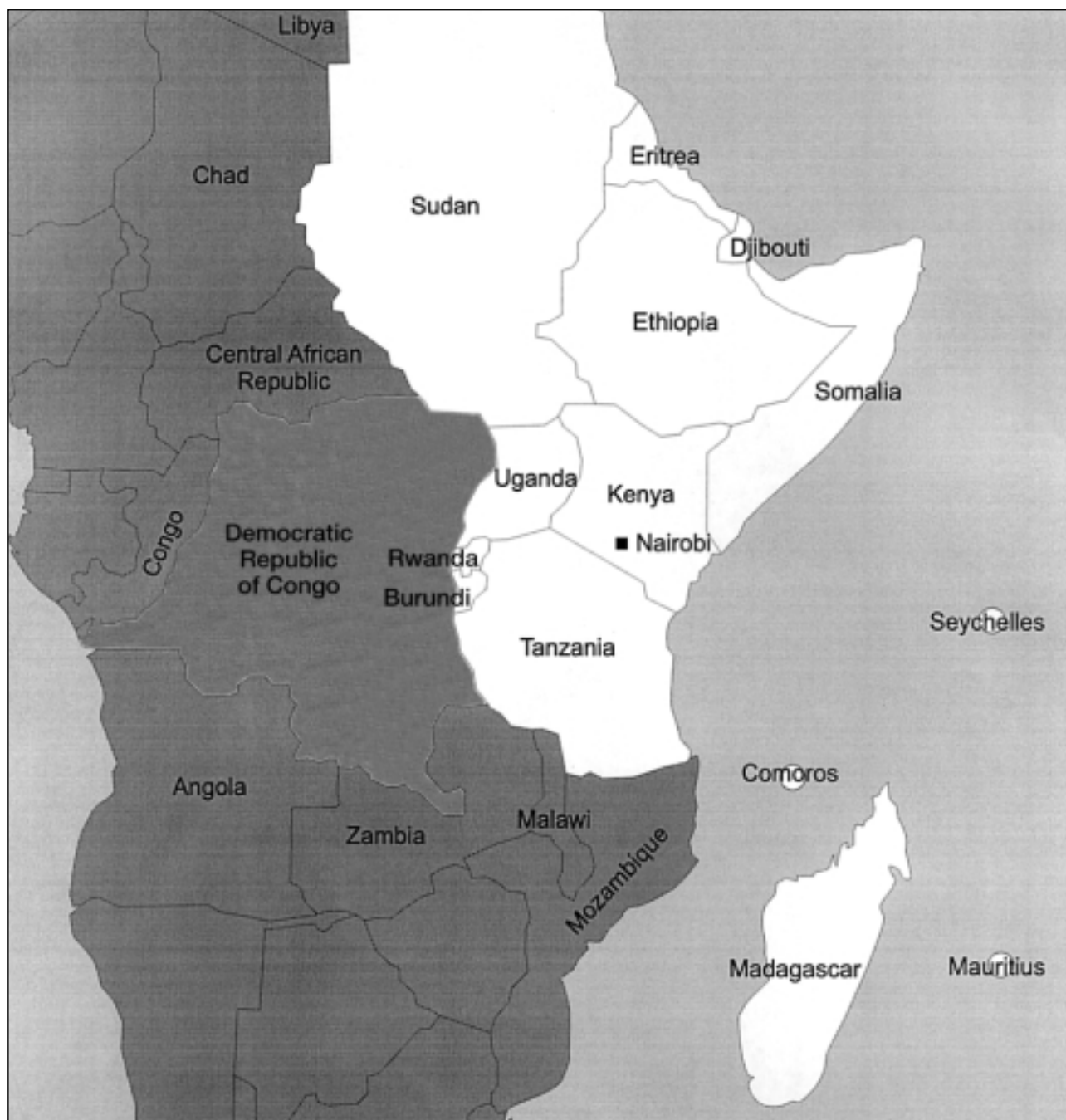
- To provide an efficient and comprehensive response service to emergency situations in the region and integrate the skill areas of its delegates into the Disaster Preparedness programme whilst maintaining a technical support service on a daytoday basis.
- To support National Societies to develop the organisational and technical capacity to identify and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable.
- To evaluate its own ability to provide the effective delivery of service and assistance to the region.
- To reawaken the interest of all potential donors and governments and media in the huge and pressing needs of the region and to advocate the advantages of channelling assistance through the Federation/NS within the region.

Specifically, activities fall under the four broad categories of disaster response for both natural and manmade disasters: disaster preparedness, health education and services (especially the African Red Cross Red Crescent Health Initiative or ARCHI 2010 identified regional priorities), institutional and resource development (particularly the reorganisation of governance/management and building branch capacity).

Regional Programme Objectives

Disaster Response

The Regional Delegation will ensure that it is capable of providing an emergency response where required. By having the necessary resources available in the region, the Regional Delegation will provide technical support to emergency relief operations in the form of initial assessments, logistics, procurement, team management, training of National Society staff, programme evaluations, heightened awareness through media releases and



timely reporting, and impact assessments during programme implementation. This will also allow a quicker lead time and an improved quality of service. In further developing the integration of the Regional Logistics Centre delegates into the Disaster Response programme, increased capacity building and skills transfer will be generated within National Societies, giving them greater responsibilities for the implementation of the operation.

Disaster Preparedness

The Disaster Preparedness objectives are directed at the National Society and community level. The Federation will provide assistance in facilitating a series of workshops covering the Training of Trainers courses in Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA), disaster management and disaster preparedness as well as developing national disaster preparedness plans. The Disaster Preparedness delegate will integrate the existing programme areas of the Regional delegation more fully into an expanded programme for National Societies. This will help create, or improve, levels of Disaster Preparedness especially at the branch level, thereby enhancing the ability of National Societies to take greater responsibility for the implementation of relief operations and mitigation programmes. Further workshops will be organised at a Regional and national level in Disaster Preparedness and disaster management. Also, the continued development of the Regional Task Force, Strategic Branch and Networking initiatives will be used to strengthen the capacity of National Societies to improve inter-regional co-operation and diversify the network of collaborating organisations and donors.

Health

The key objective of the health programme is to assist National Societies in implementing the ARCHI 2010 process, intended to help National Societies focus on well identified health priorities and key interventions to build capacities at all levels in the field of health. It will involve a comprehensive and integrated approach to community based health, including limited curative care, first aid interventions and targeted rehabilitation throughout the region. A further objective is to integrate the ongoing programmes into the ARCHI process. A number of the National Societies are already implementing parts of the ARCHI health priorities; health promotion, prevention and education on Sexually Transmitted Diseases, HIV/AIDS, hygiene, communicable diseases, water and sanitation projects, first aid training and social welfare services to vulnerable groups, but there is a need to place these elements into one clearly defined approach.

Humanitarian Values

From the Regional perspective each of the programme areas will incorporate elements in workshops, seminars and projects to promote Humanitarian Values and the Principles of the Movement. This will be applied to all National Societies. More specifically the Regional Information Department will raise the profile of the National Societies, and improve information support and dissemination through visits and assistance. The information department will continue and expand its activities to promote increased awareness of humanitarian values, with an emphasis placed on assisting National Societies in developing their own information and communication systems while supporting them at a Regional level for access to wider media outlets. Further dissemination of the Movement's principles will continue through the production of the Focus newsletter and the design of regionally influenced posters, leaflets and training materials with a regional context.

Capacity Building

Substantial work has been done on the setting up of a regional Task Force to look at promoting regional and subregional partnerships, and development papers on Strategic Branch Development, a Networking system and a Consultants and Researchers (CORE) programme which will be implemented in the next funding cycle.

The objective of the Strategic Branch Initiative is to fund the development of branches in high risk areas to monitor, detect and react at an earlier stage to potential crises. This will require support to National Societies to decentralise and shift the focus of development, but without undermining the role of the headquarters in terms of co-ordination, standardisation and regulation. The programme will bring together aspects of all four core areas, especially through a disaster preparedness component, and an integrated support approach will be required

from the Regional Delegation. The establishment of a National Society networking system will help the 15 National Societies develop effective partnerships based on a sustainable and efficient exchange of experiences drawn from their own operations and organisational/institutional development. The key areas that will be focused on are policy process mapping, dialogue, adaptation, knowledge networking, domestic resource mobilisation, and advocacy.

It has long been recognised that the region possesses a wealth of skilled individuals and organisations that the Movement could utilise through the outsourcing of components of programmes. The objective is, therefore, to set up a regional CORE (COnsultants and REsearchers) database containing the profiles of well qualified operatives in each of the 15 countries. The database is for National Societies and the Regional Delegation to access local expertise to undertake assessments, reviews, evaluations and other related activities as a matter of strategic preference.

The core areas of Institutional and Resource Development (ID/RD) will continue: the promotion and facilitation of organisational change will ensure a clearer understanding of National Society governance in theory and practice and technical assistance mobilised through the Federation will reinforce capabilities in managing services and operations. Also, work will continue in the area of Enhanced Resource Development Support and the promotion of National Society income generation activities through specific skills development in the training of trainers of fund raisers.