

# **SOMALIA**

**CHF 2,357,000**

**Programme No. 01.11/2000**

## ***National Context***

Somalia still suffers from a devastating civil war that started in 1991 and continues in many regions throughout the country, resulting in geographical fragmentation and no central government. Almost the entire infrastructure of the country has been destroyed during the conflict, and the frequent outbursts of fighting continue to provoke population displacements.

While some areas of the country enjoy a relative peace and stability, enabling humanitarian organisations to implement development programmes, most of the southern regions still suffer from interclan and faction fighting as well as banditry.

Nationwide peace initiatives have failed so far, and even though efforts at reconciliation continue, no tangible political reconciliation is foreseen in the near future. The recent war between Ethiopia and Eritrea has added a new element of concern to the situation.

## ***Country Assistance Strategy***

With the support of the Federation, the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) has managed to survive during the civil war and maintain operations in favour of vulnerable groups where all other formal structures and services have collapsed. Given the situation, the Federation will continue to support the SRCS efforts by focusing programme activities primarily on the health sector, and more specifically: providing essential health services through the SRCS Integrated Health Care programme; supporting the Garoe Community Hospital; improving the institutional development of the National Society; introducing a community based first aid programme in some regions of the country; and improving the emergency response capacity at branch level. Federation activities will be co-ordinated with the ICRC which is the lead agency in Somalia, as well as with the United Nations agencies.

## ***Programme Objectives***

### ***Disaster Response***

Programmes in this area are limited, but with the periodic occurrence of floods, droughts or food shortages the support of the Federation will be requested to provide assistance to victims or to affected areas.

### ***Disaster Preparedness***

The SRCS will strengthen its disaster preparedness and emergency response capacity, focusing in particular on the flood prone areas along the Shabelle and Jubba rivers. At this stage the programme is still in a conceptual

phase and support will be required from the regional delegation Nairobi in further elaborating the programme and plan of action. Limited stocks of emergency supplies will be created, and training opportunities reinforced.

### ***Health***

The programme will focus on operating health clinics under the Integrated Health Care programme and on the Community Hospital in Garoe. The Integrated Health Care Programme (IHC) of the SRCS was started in 1993 and consists of clinics giving promotive, preventive and curative primary health care to the most vulnerable groups of the community, with particular attention to mothers and children. Local community partnership has been gradually developed to encourage more community participation. The SRCS has been providing assistance to the Community Hospital in Garoe since 1994, providing a regular supply of drugs and medical equipment, payment of incentives to the hospital staff, training and technical advice.

### ***Humanitarian Values***

The conflict between the Somali clans has had a devastating effect on the well being of the most vulnerable groups in the country. The SRCS has a well defined image within the communities and will enhance its advocacy role on behalf of the most vulnerable groups. With the support of the Federation, the SRCS will develop a programme aimed at the promotion of peace and resolution of conflicts, consisting of an assessment of traditional and cultural methods of conflict resolution in order to identify traditional mechanisms to meet the current needs; and a campaign to raise public awareness on the importance of peace through workshops, debates, conferences, publications, dramas and rallies at local community levels. The SRCS health programmes will be studied with a view to learning lessons which could be applied in similar post-conflict situations.

### ***Capacity Building***

The SRCS has suffered tremendously as an organisation from the political turbulence and insecurity in the country. As a result, most of its volunteer basis has disappeared and the leadership is consumed with managing day to day affairs at the cost of developing an overall direction and strategy. Support from the Federation will be needed for leadership development, organisational development (both human and financial), programme development, and resource development.