

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SOUTH AFRICA

28 June 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.17/2004; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January to June 2004;
Appeal coverage: 18.1%; Outstanding needs: CHF 2,725,668 (USD 2,155,530 or EUR 1,782,647).
[\(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\).](#)

Appeal target: CHF 3,326,436 (USD 2, 498, 262 or EUR 2, 141, 253)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: n.a.

Programme summary: The [South African Red Cross Society](#) has made progress to becoming a well-functioning national society. The organizational development (OD) programme has six clearly defined projects which were developed last year based on an intensive assessment process undertaken by the national society. The projects address the key priority areas namely governance, management, human resource development, administration and financial management, marketing and resource mobilization, volunteer management and empowerment of youth.

HIV/AIDS interventions are being gradually expanded and local funding is being mobilized from the department of health to support the activities. South African Red Cross has been contributing to the development of the orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) initiatives in the region. The disaster management (DM) programme has not attracted funding through this Appeal and is currently supported only by ICRC and focus has been put on DM training at the provincial and branch level.

South African Red Cross partners in 2004 are the Federation, British Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross, the ICRC, the Belgian government through their Pretoria based Embassy, the National Lotto, the government of the Republic of South Africa and the general corporate public. Although the Federation Appeal is not yet fully funded, the funding received thus far has enabled the national society to implement a number of planned activities within their current capacity as reported below.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents).

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](#) in delivering 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>

Operational developments

The South African elections dominated events for this reporting period (January – May 2004). Ten years after installing a democratic government, South Africa has made remarkable progress. The judicial, educational, health and housing sectors have been transformed, and the country is governed by a democratic constitution. Sound macro-economic principles and prudent monetary and fiscal policies have facilitated slow but steady economic growth and continually improving business confidence. Furthermore, some progress has been made towards more widespread provision of potable water and electrification, home ownership, education and better living standards.

Yet much work remains, South Africa still has enormous development challenges, unacceptable high crime levels persist, and HIV/AIDS threaten to undo much of the good work that has been achieved. Income inequality is still among the highest in the world: nearly 60% of black South Africans live in poverty compared to 3% of whites; unemployment (30% overall) is severely skewed – 36% are blacks and 6% are whites. Similarly, large disparities in job skills, education, housing and healthcare remain. South Africa's health system, ranked by WHO at a dismal 175 out of 191, struggles under the weight of HIV/AIDS and related diseases. Significantly, the country's people continue to prove their tenacity, pride and originality in responding to these enormous development challenges.

Health and care

Goal: There is a reduction in the transmission of HIV and incidence of disease, and the quality of life of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and disease is improved.

Objective: The capacity of the national society to provide health and HIV/AIDS education and care and support to the most vulnerable communities, particularly those affected by HIV/AIDS, is increased during the period 2004-2007.

Progress/Achievements

The knowledge of the most vulnerable communities, particularly the youth, is improved on HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STI) and tuberculosis (TB) and method of prevention.

The HIV/AIDS youth peer education project is currently not being funded at national level, as the project is no longer receiving funding at that level. This has led to a decline in activities in provinces that do not receive funding at provincial level. Peer education is currently mostly taking place in the Western Cape Province and 400 youth receive the *‘Together We Can’* peer education training monthly through collaboration with schools. The national society continues to seek funding for peer education activities from locally and internationally. South African Red Cross has local partnerships with both ‘Love Life’ and ‘Soul City’ to conduct additional peer education activities in some provinces. These two organizations essentially focus on mass media interventions and integrate printed information in the form of booklets into peer education at community level.

Health education, with focus on HIV/AIDS, reaches over 11,000 community members each month. Health education activities are conducted at various venues within the community, including clinics, schools and churches on topics such as HIV/AIDS, STI¹, hygiene, and nutrition amongst others depending on the needs identified in the community. Health education literature is distributed at health education sessions. The literature currently distributed is mostly supplied by the Ministry of Health (MoH). South African Red Cross intends to apply the [ARCHI](#) volunteer toolkits in the second half of the year.

¹ STI - Sexually Transmitted Infections

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Peer and health education sessions also include awareness campaigns on condom. The condoms are provided by the MoH and are made available at South African Red Cross premises and community condom depots. However, only limited supplies of female condoms are available. About 45,000 male and 1,250 female condoms are distributed monthly.

Voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) and the prevention of mother –to child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV infection are promoted

The promotion of PMTCT of HIV forms part of the health education and targets young mothers and expectant mothers. A total of 310 clients were counselled on PMTCT during the reporting period and 126 clients are currently enrolled on a PMTCT programme. VCT is also promoted through the health and peer education activities as well as to clients receiving care and support. A total of 2,275 people were counselled and referred for VCT; 373 reported having gone for VCT.

The VCT project in Limpopo province is also in progress and the 60 lay counsellors are currently receiving training and will soon be providing pre-and post HIV testing counselling at VCT sites in two districts of the province. VCT sites are relatively accessible in the urban centres but are difficult to access in the rural areas, particularly where poverty restricts expenditure on transport.

Care and support to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and other diseases is improved.

The four new community home-based care (CHBC) HIV/AIDS projects started in Gauteng province in late 2003 have become operational and have started to build up a client base. The number of CHBC facilitators has increased from 136 at the end of last year to 161 with the introduction of the new projects. The number of volunteer caregivers active during this period was 616. Retention of volunteers remains a problem as the government pays community members to do similar work. South African Red Cross is looking at ways of increasing non-monetary incentives to volunteers and improving its volunteer management.

A total of 155 volunteer caregivers received training in home-based care (HBC) and first aid during the reporting period. The 25 new facilitators in Gauteng continued with their training in HBC and counselling. Over 13,000 home visits are recorded on average per month and many more are not recorded indicating a relatively high level contact between the project and the clients. Over 1,200 new clients were registered during the period. The majority of these clients were referred through the community and the project itself but there are a growing number of referrals from the health facility indicating that the referral network is good. The number of clients (and their families) currently receiving care and support is 5,878 (after discharges and deaths have been taken into account). Referrals to the department of social development and assistance to clients in obtaining social grants continues to improve and almost 25% of clients receive some form of social grant. There are approximately 450 clients involved in self-help projects including dressmaking, beadwork, catering and shoemaking.

Approximately 1,100 food parcels are being distributed monthly and there are 834 food gardens currently established by clients to supplement the food to clients. Gardens are mostly small “door step” gardens with a few larger communal gardens. The need for food is much greater than current supplies which are limited by budgetary constraints. South Africa was not included in the emergency plan and relies on the HIV/AIDS funds to purchase food. South African Red Cross is in the process of applying to the department of social development for funds for food parcels for clients in the CHBC project. In addition to food parcels non-food relief such as blankets was distributed to about 1,100 clients each month.

Currently, there are only about 140 South African Red Cross clients on anti-retroviral treatment (ARV); there are 3,500 people on the government’s ARV programme throughout the country. However, South African Red Cross does need to gear itself up for the role out of the government’s ARV programme. This will entail facilitators receiving training on ARV, educating communities and providing adherence support to people on ARV. There are about 40 support groups established; an average of 85 support group meetings take place each month, with attendance ranging from 3 to 35 participants.

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The CHBC HIV/AIDS capacity building of community-based organizations (CBO) project in Gauteng has progressed and currently assessments are being conducted on 40 CBO in the project areas. Care for the volunteer caregivers is being addressed through various initiatives including the provision of group and individual psychological debriefing sessions provided by trained psychologists and counsellors. The volunteers had retreats and the annual choir festival that recently took place where 350 volunteers travelled from all projects to Johannesburg.

The psycho socio-economic conditions of orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) are improved.

The number of OVC registered on the project is currently 2,188. The support given to OVC is through the CHBC activities and OVC receive the same services as clients on the project. During the reporting period, 410 OVC received food each month and 590 OVC received non-food relief such as clothing and blankets. There are 13 support groups for OVC.

South African Red Cross has established day crèches (nurseries) for OVC in Zululand and one in Nyanga, Cape Town. About 145 children attend these crèches which are run almost entirely by the community. School fees are being paid for some OVC however direct interventions with schools to accept children who were previously rejected continue to be successful. A training workshop on memory work (including the memory box) was held in Cape Town and attended by representatives from each project. An assessment was conducted on OVC by the Federation Regional Delegation's OVC coordinator in KwaZulu Natal and proposed strategy for the way forward drafted.

Stigmatization of HIV/AIDS and discrimination against PLWHA is reduced.

Stigma and rights issues were addressed during the peer education and some of the health education sessions as well as with HIV positive clients and the support group. From the beginning of the year, 58 sessions were conducted on the rights of children during the period with 1,070 attending the training and 65 sessions on the rights PLWHA with 1,528 people attending. Most clients have disclosed their status to family and friends and the project supports those who wish to disclose their status as well as clients who are victims of stigma and discrimination.

Impact

South African Red Cross has over the past year focussed on improving the quality of services provided to beneficiaries, rather than the number of beneficiaries reached, through improving reporting and monitoring, training and dissemination of project objectives and information. At the same time the project has been implemented in new areas allowing for scaling up.

All projects are well accepted by the target communities and local, provincial and national government recognize that South African Red Cross is playing an important role, particularly within the continuum of care through the provision of HBC. This recognition from government has resulted in it accepting to fund the project at national level in the future. Furthermore, the government contracted a consultancy to assess the impact of HBC service providers and the South African Red Cross project was accepted as being a best practice, increasing visibility of the national society.

The project addresses the health needs of clients through the provision of basic nursing services in the home and through the referral system and this resulted in an improvement of the health status of clients. Food parcels and other nutritional interventions further help support the health of clients and play an important role in the event that the client receives medication for opportunistic infections (especially tuberculosis) and ARV. Psycho-social support benefits both the client and families in dealing with HIV/AIDS and support to families continues after the death of clients. Support groups for PLWHA provide additional psycho-social support and economic support through the establishment of self-help projects. Clients and families are also supported in gaining access to government grants and thus receiving some form of financial support.

OVC that receive care and support benefit much in the same way as the adult clients through HBC activities but additional interventions have been put in place to support OVC and these including a growing number of day crèches (for children under six), school fees and other direct interventions with schools to ensure continued schooling, support groups for OVC and memory box work with children.

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The advocacy role played by South African Red Cross at community level cannot be underestimated and the success in reducing stigma, particularly within the home, has been of a high level.

Whilst it cannot be shown that the prevention activities, including peer education, health education and condom distribution have resulted in behaviour change, the services continue to be in demand from the communities and schools. The pre-and post-peer education questionnaires indicate that the level of knowledge on HIV/AIDS has improved. The promotion of VCT and PMTCT has resulted in community members going for VCT to establish their status and a number of clients have been included in PMTCT programmes.

Constraints

Poverty within the targeted communities continues to play a major role on the overall impact of the project. Food insecurity, access to clean water, access to health facilities in the rural areas and lack of proper housing often detract from the benefits of the project. This has also impacted on volunteerism within the project as the volunteers themselves come from the same communities affected by poverty.

Stigma remains a serious barrier to the success of certain interventions. The situation is however improving but seems to be more evident in urban areas where the sense of community is not present. Financial support for the peer education project is needed to ensure the survival of the project at national level.

There is a lack of structures and capacity at national level to support timely implementation given the size of the project.

Disaster management

Goal: The vulnerability of communities at risk to disasters is reduced.

Objective: The capacity of the South African Red Cross to be prepared for and to respond effectively to disasters is increased.

Progress/Achievements

The DM programme has not attracted any funding through the Appeal and therefore planned activities have not been implemented. The planned expected results include;

- The vulnerability of communities is reduced and their capacity to deal with disaster improved
- South African Red Cross staff and volunteers are trained in disaster management
- The capacity of South African Red Cross to respond to disasters is strengthened
- South African Red Cross is able to respond to disaster in minimum time.

ICRC is currently funding training in disaster management and one of the internationally trained South African Red Cross staff members has been nominated to facilitate training in various provinces. Cooperation with the ICRC focuses on conflict preparedness training (linked to disaster preparedness) in three provinces: Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal and the Western Cape. Training includes conflict preparedness and response, dissemination and tracing of 52 staff and volunteers from the three targeted provinces, 145 volunteers in first aid from 15 branches in the targeted provinces and community disaster preparedness and response training of 1,250 community members in the three provinces. Cooperation also includes support for 15 branches in vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) and the formation of disaster response teams in these 15 branches.

South African Red Cross monitored the situation during the run up to the elections and during elections in collaboration with police and Independent Electoral Committee. The ICRC in collaboration with the national society facilitated training in KwaZulu Natal in preparation for the elections as there was the potential for political conflict in the province between opposition parties' supporters. 28 staff and volunteers from the branches and provincial office received training on basic DM prior to the elections. South African Red Cross provided first aid services during some of the political rallies (all political parties who requested services) in the run up to the elections and was on standby if needed.

Constraints

Lack of funding for disaster management programmes has prevented the national society from building capacity significantly in this core area. Insufficient funding to support the national DM Coordinator and the plan of action for 2004 has meant that only limited disaster preparedness activities have taken place. Training of staff and volunteers, the formation of disaster response teams at all levels, VCA, the development of disaster response plans (in cooperation with local, provincial and national government), training and education of community members have not taken place according to the plan of action for 2004 and this has naturally impacted on the capacity of the national society and the vulnerable communities.

Organizational development

Goal: The lives of vulnerable people in South Africa are improved.

Objective: The South African Red Cross meets the basic requirements of the characteristics of the well-functioning national society and is a recognized player in the humanitarian sector in South Africa.

Progress/Achievements

The capacity of South African Red Cross governance and management is developed for better practice of their role and responsibilities.

Governing Board meetings: The governing board, elected in October 2003, held a meeting in Blomfontein (February 2004) and another in Cape Town (June 2004). These meetings addressed the most important issues of the national society.

- At the February meeting, there were discussions on the sustainability of the national society and capacity of resource mobilization. The improved publicity, visibility and image building process which started last year in November prior to the statutory meetings in Geneva, has continued steadily during the reporting period.
- The June meeting concentrated on reviewing the status of the statutes review process and the mandate of the governing board versus management. Key performance objectives (KPO) for the governing board and the secretary general were reviewed and agreed upon. The third major issue was reporting on the progress made on the development to a well-functioning national society; it was recommended to hold a workshop later in the year in this regard.

The two new members increase the diversity of the governing board. In addition a special representative of the Youth and the Voluntary Aid Corps (VAC) participate in the governing board meetings the new members are still familiarising themselves with the overall strategies and policies of the Movement² and learning to apply them to their work as members of the Board.

Role and mandate - Key Performance Objectives: The board's aim to develop a work plan has not materialized due to time constraints since all members are full time employees of various companies and institutions. The other fact is that board members are based in various locations in country hence difficult to meet consistently. The board has identified the key performance objectives based on the governing board mandate articulated in the Federation guidelines for the national society. Five main areas were identified as focus areas as follows: governance and management, financial management and accountability, advocacy, communications and external relations, board resource development, management development and performance improvement. The KPO were thoroughly discussed during the meeting and the next step is to identify indicators to measure the performance and finalize the table as a guiding tool for the board. The Federation representative and a local human resource consultant will further assist the board to finalize the objectives and the monitoring tool. This process will further clarify the difference between the roles and mandate of the board and the management.

² 'Movement' refers to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

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Statutes review process: Statutes revision process moved significantly during the reporting period. The board instructed the Constitution Advisory Committee (CAC) to be reactivated in February under a new chairperson. All recommendations issued by the Federation legal advisor during a mission to South African Red Cross in October 2003 were addressed. The CAC has now presented the revised draft to the governing board in the June meeting and there are only minor issues to be changed before the draft is sent to the joint Federation/ICRC commission for national society statutes for review and approval. The revised statutes will be adopted after a four year process at next general assembly planned for September 2004.

Implementation of Movement Strategy: The President of the South African Red Cross was invited by the Standing Commission at the beginning of the year to participate as a member of the ad hoc working group (WG) on Movement strategy. The WG agreed to meet twice a year; the first meeting took place in Geneva in April. The mandate of the WG is to draft the terms of reference for the WG, monitoring, evaluation and analysis on progress made by all components of the Movement as well as making necessary recommendations for updating the Strategy (next Council of Delegates meeting 2005).

Prior to the first WG meeting in Geneva the President of the South African Red Cross conducted a preparatory meeting with all Movement components in South Africa. The mandate of the WG as well as the progress made in implementation of the strategy in South Africa was discussed. With the assistance of the Federation Representative, the national society has developed a table as a monitoring tool for implementation of the strategy and it has now been filled in by all Movement components and will be used as a regular tool for monitoring of the implementation. The Chairperson of the WG has shared the same table with all member national societies. It was also decided that regular quarterly meetings would be held between all Movement components to discuss the implementation of the strategy and the harmonization of work in general in South Africa. There is an excellent working relationship currently between all Movement partners, namely the South Africa Red Cross, the Federation and ICRC.

Financial management: The board is closely following up the development of the financial situation of the national society and the decrease of debt. The debt has been gradually reduced and the finance commission continues to work actively with the national society management to address issues related to all financial management issues. During the reporting period the national society sought clarification from the Federation on the repayment of the loan to the Federation (ZAR 3.7 million or approximately CHF 740,000).

Self-assessment process 2003: The national society conducted a national level assessment and is now comparing the findings with the 2002 self-assessment results. The recommendations will be taken into consideration when revising the Appeal for 2005 for the organizational development programme. South African Red Cross has submitted all self-assessment formats to the Federation evaluation department also from the provincial, branch and local committee levels.

The President of the national society requested the Federation representative to analyse – based on the observations made while working with South African Red Cross for the past one and half years, the progress made by South African Red Cross towards the development to a well-functioning national society. There is a need to have a workshop around the self-assessment process 2003 to report back the findings to the board, management, staff and volunteers. The self-assessment process becomes a regular practice at all levels and that South African Red Cross organizational, branch and local committee development processes are based on and revised in accordance with the assessment findings.

Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) process: The Federation and the ICRC are the only external Movement components present in the country and participating national society (PNS) support is provided mainly on bilateral basis. The partnership coordination is relatively well managed by the national society themselves and there are no major challenges from the coordination perspective. Presentations on the CAS process have been made at various forums within the national society since 2002 and the process was again discussed at governing board meeting in June but no decision was taken to process it yet.

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The ability of South African Red Cross to manage their administration and finances is developed

A new Finance and Administration Manager was appointed beginning of April through a local recruitment agent. This was an achievement which will stop the Secretary General from managing the finances. The new manager is reviewing the existing financial management systems, structures and procedures, the capacity of the existing staff and will address these issues as a priority. External consolidated audit for the fiscal year 2003 has also commenced and the Finance Manager will spend time overseeing the process during the second quarter.

The Federation representative will work with the national society to get the procurement procedures systems to meet international standards, as discussed with the Secretary General.

The ability of South African Red Cross to manage, develop and retain their human resources is improved

One of the priority areas for development since the appointment of the new Secretary General at the beginning of last year has been the human resources development. The national society managed to secure funding from a new bilateral partner last year for the human resource project and is implementing the project accordingly.

South African Red Cross has developed the performance management systems in 2003 and this include updating the human resources manual, defining new organogram and key positions, development of job-descriptions and key performance objectives for all positions. This process is ongoing supported by a local human resource consultant who has been working with the national society for a long time, including other national societies in the region. Employment contracts have also been revised and workshops are currently being held in all regions to discuss the human resource development.

Towards the end of last year, new provincial managers were appointed for KwaZulu Natal and Eastern Cape regions. They have now familiarized themselves with South African Red Cross operations and are working tirelessly to address the needs of those provinces. South African Red Cross plans to systematically establish a provincial office in all nine provinces in order to be able to better respond to the needs of communities in each province, and to facilitate the partnership development for sustainable support with the local government in each area. South African Red Cross currently has only five provincial managers covering all provinces. However, establishing new offices, equipping and maintaining them is costly and the national society is mobilizing resources towards the initiative.

The Secretary General promotes skills development throughout the structures and tries to identify equal opportunities for national and international training for staff at all levels. In this regard the Programme Coordinator participated in the project planning process (PPP) training which will be cascaded to all provinces. South African Red Cross is now familiar with the Federation Appeal process and Programme Update and Annual Report requirements and is contributing to the Federation Appeals and reports produced by the Federation representative.

The ability of South African Red Cross to advocate and market their programming and to mobilize their own resources is developed.

The governing board and management of the South African Red Cross have been actively involved in partnership development, publicity, image and confidence building. Mass media coverage of the work of the Red Cross through newspapers and television has significantly improved. The tracing service has attracted media attention due to the successful family reunion cases and other related matters. The high profile visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid, President of the Belgian Red Cross also increased visibility of the Red Cross. The Belgian government, through its Embassy in Pretoria, is supporting two HIV/AIDS related projects implemented by South African Red Cross in region one. A news story was issued on the visit also through the Federation web site.

The President of the South African Red Cross addressed the diplomatic corps, international organizations and government representatives at a lunch hosted by the ICRC in Pretoria to mark the World Red Cross Day. On the same evening, the Rotary Club hosted a dinner to the business community where the national society leadership was able to address the business community encouraging partnership development. A popular African musician Yvonne Chaka-Chaka was the patron for South African Red Cross during the Red Cross Day celebrations "Walk for Humanity" and performed during the evening. The net income was handed over to South African Red Cross for programme support. South African Red Cross main event for 8 May was the start of the "Walk for Humanity"

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by four dedicated Red Cross supporters from Johannesburg to Stellenbosch raising awareness, publicity, and some funds for the national society. The walkers arrived in Stellenbosch on 12 June. These activities gave Red Cross a lot of publicity: the President and the Secretary General appeared on television.

Two-year funding was secured and allocated from the Capacity Building Fund (CBF) to develop South African Red Cross capacity in advocacy, marketing, external relations and resource mobilization. Charisma CC professionals in marketing and resource mobilization based in Johannesburg will assist South African Red Cross build the foundation for the project. This initiative has slowly progressed due to financial constraints and change of the management at the regional level. The plan is to pilot the initiative in South Africa with the support of the Federation representative and then expand it to other national societies in the region.

South African Red Cross branch structure and its management capacity is developed ensuring improved service delivery, and the ability of South African Red Cross to recruit, develop, manage and retain volunteers is improved

Funding has been secured through the Federation for volunteer management initiatives, ICRC has expressed their interest to support the capacity building of Soweto Branch in region one, and the Icelandic Red Cross the Kimberly branch in Free State. All provinces, branches and local committees have finished the self-assessment questionnaires in 2003 but the information provided in those forms is not yet enough to draw up a project proposal for branch development. Negotiations have taken place between the national society, ICRC and the Federation to conduct a branch development assessment in Soweto in the second quarter so that a detailed project proposal can be produced based on the assessment findings and recommendations.

In addition to the project related community-based volunteers, the national society has a special structure of uniformed volunteers named Volunteer Aid Corps (VAC) active throughout the country. The VAC have a national commissioner supported by five regional commissioners and South African Red Cross is currently negotiating the official status of the VAC with the South African government. VAC are in the process to prepare a VAC national workshop with 30 participants and it will be held at the national office from 25 to 27 June. This workshop will be the first national VAC workshop after years.

South African Red Cross youth programming is developed; focus on leadership, life skills, self-development and gender issues.

The national youth coordinating committee is a volunteer body which tries to coordinate youth activities throughout the country in all nine provinces. The youth representative attends governing board meetings at national level as an invited guest based on the decision taken by the general assembly last year. The youth have a structure in each of the five regions but their current challenge is that there is no appointed national youth administrator in place at the national office. The youth normally meet once a year through a national youth camp and conduct teleconferences in between to discuss issues at hand and this year it will be held in June in Kimberly.

The Young Women in Development initiative has not been able to establish very strong structures throughout the country yet. Presently Gauteng, Limpopo and Western Cape provinces are working towards well-functioning Young Women in Development structures but other provinces still need a lot of support and capacity build up for this initiative.

Junior youth development initiative has taken off well in Gauteng and Western Cape provinces and they have formed a task force to find ways to make the initiative more attractive. Red Cross youth internationally are part of United Nations' "Big 7" initiative. The youth intends to visit the "Big 7" partners in South Africa for networking, knowledge and information sharing and to get connected more widely.

South African Red Cross submitted an application at the end of last year to the Empress Shoken Fund to support the youth development; however, the application was unfortunately not successful. So far, funding has not been secured for the youth project introduced through the Federation Appeal 2004. It is recommended that South African Red Cross seeks funding from government structures for their youth development and empowerment through various programme initiatives. Youth are an energetic asset for HIV/AIDS, health and disaster management education throughout the country.

Impact

South African Red Cross is steadily progressing towards the characteristics of a well-functioning national society and national society is keen to analyse itself as it progresses. As a result of this systematic approach, all programmes are being revisited and already there is evidence of positive development. The process is naturally slow since the challenge at hand is huge and so many areas should be addressed at the same time in order to make progress in terms of foundation, capacity and performance.

Due to full time management in place at the national level, the national level now sets a direction for the national society throughout the country and is better able to facilitate the implementation of core area programmes at grassroots level through provincial and branch structures. The responsibility for implementation of programmes and projects has been gradually delegated to provinces and branches. The facilitation through coordination of all core programmes remain at national level so that all achievements are adequately compiled and reported back to all stakeholders.

Through the improved managerial capacity in the administration and finance unit, the national society has a more effective financial management systems and controls in place. This improved the national society accountability and transparency and other stakeholders will receive adequate feedback timely through reports and statements. The work at the lower levels will become more effective when the financial management system becomes more structured and follow-up of procedures are monitored and controlled adequately. All these will strengthen the trust on the national society by all stakeholders.

Implementation of the performance management system throughout the structures will assist the national society to become more focused and task oriented. This will improve their service delivery capacity which is the emphasis of the work of the national society according to the management.

Through improved image and publicity, the national society has been able to raise their profile and is becoming a more prominent partner of the government, NGO, international organizations and the private sector. Through harmonization and active implementation of the Movement strategy in South Africa, the national society has a stronger voice for the Movement, especially in terms of advocacy for anti-stigma and discrimination. Both the governance and management keep the sustainability of the national society high on agenda and therefore the resource mobilization capacity has got so much attention among the leadership. The national society has demonstrated its ability to develop substantial local partnerships with the National Lotto and government. This development needs to be further encouraged and strengthened so that the sustainability in long run is secured.

The strength the South African Red Cross lies on strong volunteer structures at grassroots level. Even during the time when the national society was struggling, volunteers at the grassroots level continued their services to the vulnerable communities. Now that the national society is developing as a united organization, further capacity building of volunteers and branches will ensure the sustainability of the national society in future, make it a well-functioning organization.

Youth have the energy and enthusiasm, which is mobilized and utilized in many branches but not yet optimised from the national perspective. By inviting them to participate in the governing board meetings, the national society is encouraging the build up of future leaders. This forum offers the youth a channel to address the issues important to them at the highest level of the organization and their voice is better heard. Through this opportunity they may also influence decisions taken by offering their viewpoint during discussion on various issues.

Constraints

The general concern during the discussion with the national society leadership has been the human resources capacity of the provinces and branches to cope up with the new way of working at South African Red Cross. This concerns especially the management, planning and implementation capacity of provinces, branches and local committees now that the national structures are generally better functioning and improved performance is expected at every level by the top management. The national society focus for this year is to improve the service delivery at the grassroots level and this requires effective and efficient capacity building amongst those staff members and volunteers who are responsible for implementation and project cycle management in general. This would mean skills and other relevant training among staff and volunteers throughout structures starting from the provincial

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level up to the communities. Precondition to effective management service delivery at the grassroots level is that adequate skills, capacities and resources exist among those responsible for execution. This fact requires continuous attention by the top leadership to ensure that unrealistic expectations are not put on lower levels.

Related to this, systematic follow-up, monitoring and evaluation – seeing things through – still remains a challenge at all levels. Due to lack on funding to support the youth development adequately, their potential is currently not optimized.

Coordination and Strategic Partnership Development

The Federation representative supported the coordination within the country, regionally and internationally as follows:

Government: The Federation representative visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the beginning of the year to discuss the status agreement between the government of South Africa and the Federation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in the process of revising the agreements with the international organizations based on the new legislation. Possible support from the government to identify a suitable office for the planned Federation/South African Red Cross external was also discussed.

Active communication took place during the first quarter in relation to food insecurity and drought in South Africa when the President of the country declared six out of nine provinces as disaster areas due to drought. The national society and the Federation met with the representatives of the provincial and local government in this regard and the national society followed up the issue with the social welfare department. The Regional Food Security Operation Coordinator from Harare also visited South Africa for drought assessment at the invitation of South African Red Cross and met various government officers. These negotiations however did not result in any special partnership for assisting the disaster victims but these meetings will help negotiations on similar matters in future.

Negotiations with the health department have also been done in an effort to get funding from the government for HIV/AIDS programme. The negotiation process is at the final stage and it is hoped that a ZAR 6 million contract will be signed in the second quarter between the national society and the health department.

The President also met the with the First Secretary of the Embassy of South Africa while in Geneva in April and discussed various matters related to the national level agreement with the government, coordination meetings and disaster management. This was to follow up the coordination meeting held between the Movement components and various government departments in Pretoria prior to the 28th International Conference in November 2003.

Partner national societies (PNS): Informal information exchange takes place mainly through emails as needed with the PNS supporting or interested in South African Red Cross development. These national societies include British Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, and Swiss Red Cross. There are no PNS currently present in South Africa.

South African Red Cross Air Mercy Service (AMS) and the War Memorial Red Cross Children's Hospital (WMRCCH): South African Red Cross Secretary General and the Federation Representative visited the Air Mercy Service and Red Cross Children's Hospital in March for information sharing purposes and discussed possible closer cooperation in future, especially in relation to community work at grassroots level. Both meetings took place in a pleasant atmosphere and the decision was to continue to seek opportunities for further discussions and working closer together.

Regional and global coordination and networking: During the reporting period African Heads of Delegation meeting, two Southern Africa Management Team (SAMT) meetings and one Southern Africa Participating Red Cross Societies (SAPRCS) meeting were held in Johannesburg as a central location for logistical purposes. The President of the South African Red Cross gave an encouraging welcome speech as a host country in the opening of all these meetings.

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The Secretary General of the Kenyan Red Cross facilitated an exchange visit for five Kenyan government officers to South Africa to study the national DM sector, including South African Red Cross involvement in disaster management. The delegation was led by the Senior Deputy Secretary General from the Office of the President in Kenya and other members were Provincial Commissioners from four Kenyan provinces.

The visit lasted one week and the delegation visited the South African Red Cross national office, Western Cape regional office, the Federation country office as well as various government structures in Cape Town. Field visits took place to townships where the national society works in relation to disaster management and related issues. Our discussion touched the DM law in both countries, Red Cross role in preventing and responding in disasters in both countries and many other issues. The visiting delegation was given information packages from South African Red Cross and Federation (DM coordination globally, World Disasters Report, Annual Appeal 2004 file and relevant info related to the Federation country office).

The Regional Information Delegate from Harare made a short two-day advisory visit to South African Red Cross in March to prepare the Royal visit of the Princess Astrid, The President of the Belgian Red Cross.

Dissemination workshop focusing on International Humanitarian Law, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Fundamental Principles and the use and protection of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Emblem was organized by South African Red Cross from 19 to 23 April, with the support of the ICRC. Representatives from Lesotho Red Cross, Swaziland Red Cross and Mauritius Red Cross participated to exchange knowledge and information sharing purposes. Federation representative presented the Federation mandate, Movement strategy observations on South African Red Cross progress made towards the criteria of a well-functioning national society.

International Representation

The Federation representative continued to participate in the International Masters for Practicing Management (IMPM) programme and participated in two modules during the reporting period. The forum continues to offer an excellent opportunity for partnership development and Red Cross Red Crescent information dissemination. As a follow-up on some initiatives during previous modules, the partnership development in relation to Cooperate Social Responsibility (CSR) between the Federation and Coca-Cola has improved. In relation to CSR, the Alcan Sierra had an exchange visit to the Federation country office and South African Red Cross in Cape Town in March. In addition, meetings were held at the Secretariat in Geneva. As a result of these contacts, Alcan invited the Federation Secretariat CSR Officer to join in their workshop on CSR initiative together with TATA Group from India on 8 June. The TATA Group has been further invited to the Secretariat for an introductory visit. TATA Steel was one of the companies the IMPM Cycle 8 visited during the Indian module and initial contact for possible exchange was made during the company visit.

Country Office Management

The Federation country office remains small with only two local part time assistants to complement the efforts of the Federation representative to support the South African Red Cross through the change process. The former Personal Assistant resigned from her post due to family reasons and arrangements were made to utilize her administration and financial management skills part time in the Federation country office. As a result, she now works with flexible working hours on consultancy basis, mainly three mornings per week. Federation driver/office assistant continues under the contract of the national society and is seconded to the Federation on a part time basis. The Federation representative does not have a Personal Assistant at the moment and the situation will be reviewed in the third quarter.

The Federation renovated an unused storeroom at the South African Red Cross premises at the beginning of the year and moved to this new office on the other side of the office wing in early February. This arrangement was agreed with the national society management late last year in order to allow more space for both parties now that the national society management has been strengthened. In the past the office of the Federation Representative and that of the Secretary General were next to each other in the same wing. This arrangement has proven to be very practical and allows the required independence for both organizations working from the same premises.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3,326,436		18.1%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				237,669		
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				100,000	03.03.04	
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		98,000	EUR	154,399	18.03.04	SARC OD PROGRAMME
NORWEGIAN - RC		200,000	NOK	35,500	10.02.04	FEDERTION REPRESENTATIVE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				527,568	CHF	15.9%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
FINLAND	DELEGATES			73,200		
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				73,200	CHF	2.2%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	