

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

East Africa Sub Zone

Appeal No MAA64003

26/08/2009

This report covers the period 01/01/2009 to 30/06/2009

In brief

Programme purpose: The Red Cross societies of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda make up the membership of the East Africa Sub Zone. The five countries share borders and are members of the East Africa Community. These National Societies are all involved in a bilateral regional programme, “The Lake Victoria Programme,” supported by the Swedish Red Cross. These countries have had similar humanitarian challenges resulting from internal conflicts, population movements, devastating droughts and floods as well as a myriad of health emergencies. Consequently, the programmes in the National Societies are designed to address the needs of the most vulnerable with the aim of alleviating suffering among all the targeted programme beneficiaries.

Through the 2009-2010 appeal, the National Societies are seeking international support to respond to humanitarian challenges faced by millions of people in East Africa. The humanitarian challenges range from natural disasters such as droughts, floods, landslides, earthquakes, food insecurity and public health emergencies. The National Societies are also seeking to strengthen their capacities to effectively and efficiently deliver quality services to the most vulnerable persons in their respective countries of operation as well as actively promote respect for diversity and human dignity, while reducing intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion in their programming

Programme summary: Funding for the National societies 2009-2010 appeal has been quite low with some of the programmes having received funding only at the beginning of the second quarter of 2009 and others having no funding. Those that have not received funding to date include the communications programmes in all 5 countries, Disaster Management programmes in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania as well as the Health and Care programmes in Rwanda and Uganda. Generally, Disaster Management programmes and response to health epidemics took prominence during this period. All the five National Societies continued to implement the bilaterally supported Lake Victoria Programme with technical support being coordinated from the East Africa sub-zone office.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget is CHF 7215109 (USD 6,800,240 or EUR 4,754,757), of which 28 per cent covered. Expenditure overall was CHF 952,224.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report](#)

See also

Burundi:

- Floods: [MDRBI003](#)
- Population Movement: Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi: [MDR64004](#)

Kenya:

- Floods: [MDRKE003](#)
- Floods: [MDRKE007](#)
- Fires: [MDRKE008](#)

Uganda:

- Food Insecurity in Karamoja: [MDRUG011](#)
- Meningitis: [MDRUG013](#)
- Epidemic -cholera: [MDRUG014](#)

Tanzania:

- Local Storm: [MDRTZ008](#)
- Tanzania Explosion: [MDRTZ009](#)

No of people we help

Table 1: Number of people targeted/reached by National Societies in the East Africa for the period January to June 2009

| Country | Programme/operation | Number of beneficiaries targeted/reached |
|---------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Burundi | Disaster Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 25 teachers trained on risk reduction in school • 30 National Disaster Response Team members facilitated for a refresher training on Community Based Health First Aid • Bujumbura Mairie, Makamba and Ruyigi branches were equipped with First Aid kits and educational materials • A total of 50 community land developers in Cankuzo trained in stocks management and harvest processing |
| | Health and care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 volunteers were trained on PHAST methodology • 420 sold in Kayanza District • A total of 30 water sources were rehabilitated in three villages and are currently being used by the intended beneficiaries • A total of 36 PLWHAs trained in establishment and management of income generating activities • PLWHAs assisted with 60 goats • A total of 66 youths trained in peer |

| | | |
|--------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | <p>education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 193 volunteers were trained in community based first aid |
| | Organizational development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance review done in 6 communes |
| | Floods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 554 vulnerable households assisted |
| Kenya | Health and care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 MOH staff trained on antiretroviral (ART) treatment, preparedness, care and support • 35 peer educators were trained in Magnet Theatre and peer mentors skills • Home visits to 250 clients conducted and 300 most vulnerable persons supported with nutritional support. About 331 Community owned resource persons (CORPS) were reached through community antiretroviral (ART) and peer education training • 947 persons facilitated to the voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) facility at the Molo District Hospital. |
| | Organizational development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of a Regional Manager, Administrative assistant and driver facilitated |
| Rwanda | Disaster Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 100 volunteers trained in camp management and safer access. • A total of 10 National Disaster Risk Team (NDRT) members trained on water rescue and equipped with swimming costumes • Total of 30 community leaders and teachers received training on PHASTER • 4 risk maps were drawn • About 65 cows were distributed to vulnerable households |
| | Health and care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 209 volunteers trained in reproductive health, Community Based First Aid (CBFA) conducting voluntary and capacity assessment (VCAs) and malaria prevention and control. • Approximately 378 persons were reached with messages on malaria prevention and control • About 2,600 nets distributed in 3 districts • 600 sanplats fabricated and distributed to households • 43 toilets dug and constructed, 48 utensils stalls built and 55 compost pits dug in 3 villages • Four water kiosks were constructed and a water committee elected in Mageragere sector |
| | Organizational development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,067 volunteers were recruited • Rwanda Red Cross (RRC) governing board and senior staff oriented on their roles and responsibilities. |

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 volunteers and Organizational Development focal persons trained in volunteer management and reporting • Regional coordinators and assistants trained in finance and logistics |
| Uganda | Food insecurity in karamoja | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5000 vulnerable households reached with food and tools. |
| Tanzania | Disaster Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 volunteers and 20 community Focal persons trained on disaster preparedness and early warning. • 4,000 Information Education and Communication materials on early warning produced and distributed to communities, 8 billboards with early warning and disaster preparedness messages were installed • About 80 First Aid Kits and 80 life jackets for use by volunteers purchased • Communities were supported with 20 megaphones, 20 bicycles and 20 cell phones and 2 Wantok community radios to be installed • 4 rehearsal and drills organized in Tanga, Unguja, Pemba and Dar es Salaam |
| | Health and care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 Community Home Based Care Providers trained in HBC • 58 community leaders sensitised on home based care (HBC) and support for PLWHAs and Orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) • About 100 OVC identified and assisted with learning materials • 20 community home based care providers oriented in screening and support for OVC |

Our Partners:

Table 2: Partners of National Societies in the East Africa Sub-Zone

| Partner | Programme/Project | Country |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| International Committee of the Red Cross | Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values, disaster preparedness and disaster response in conflict-affected communities | Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania, Uganda |
| American Red Cross | Health and capacity building | Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania |
| Finnish Red Cross | Capacity building (includes finance), disaster management and health. | Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya |
| French Red Cross | Disaster management (preparedness) and health | Burundi, Kenya and Tanzania |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| | | |
| German Red Cross | Health, capacity building, disaster management and social services | Burundi, Kenya, Uganda Tanzania and Rwanda |
| Netherlands Red Cross | Health - HIV/AIDS | Kenya, Uganda |
| Norwegian Red Cross | Health ,capacity building and Organizational development. | Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda |
| Spanish Red Cross | Health, capacity building and disaster management. | Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania |
| Swedish Red Cross | Disaster management, health, Organizational development and capacity building. | Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda |
| Swiss Red Cross | HIV/AIDS (Anti Retroviral Treatment) | Kenya |
| United Nations OCHA | Disaster early warning and preparedness | Tanzania |
| DFID | Disaster management | Burundi and Rwanda |

Context

During the first half of the year, National Societies in the sub zone have generally been occupied with response to a number of diverse humanitarian challenges. Floods in Burundi, Kenya and Tanzania, population movements in Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda, fires and ammunition explosions in Kenya and Tanzania respectively, Meningitis, Cholera and food insecurity in Uganda. These operations meant that the National societies redirected a lot of their efforts in terms of personnel and resources in responding to these crises, thus slowing down the pace and extent of normal programme implementation

The political situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) remains unstable and recent moves by joint forces of the Rwandan and DRC army and the arrest of Laurent Nkunda continue to cause instability. Humanitarian actors are concerned about protection issues arising out of the current operations and more population movement is expected, probably into Uganda and possibly into Burundi. The Burundi Red Cross (BRC) was involved in National Contingency Planning and developed a comprehensive contingency plan for varying degrees of this scenario.

In Rwanda, seismologists are closely monitoring increased activity in the two volcanoes of Nyiragongo, which if they were to erupt, could affect the densely populated area of Goma and neighbouring town of Gisenye on the Rwanda side of the border. The Rwandan Red Cross (RRC) have therefore prepared contingency plans and increased community preparedness activities in the areas within the range of the volcano.

Early into the year, the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) launched its own national fund-raising initiative worth more than USD 22.5 million in anticipation of a food crisis that would affect almost all regions in the country. This food crisis was as a result of poor rainy seasons over the past two years and was aggravated by failed short-rains. The Kenyan appeal is a joint initiative by the KRCS and the country's Media Owners' Association, which is providing print-space and airtime to the National Society to promote it. In addition, most parts of the country continue to deal with the legacy of the post-election violence.

Uganda on the other hand, like many other African nations, has taken emergency measures to try to stave off famine in an arid zone. The impoverished north-eastern Karamoja Region has suffered from food insecurity for many years as an unpredictable cycle of flood-drought-flood prevents local communities from producing enough crops. There have also been inter-communal clashes over cattle.

Progress towards outcomes

Burundi

Disaster Management

Outcomes:

- Improved ability to predict and plan for disasters to mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities, and respond to and effectively cope with their consequences.
- The local communities are aware of the risks associated with disasters and are capable to respond effectively during the period of disasters.
- The National Society has effective mechanisms of response and assistance to the needs of people affected by disasters.
- Effective assistance to restore and improve the living conditions of affected communities and reduce risks from potential future disasters.

Achievements

To increase local communities' awareness of the risks associated with disasters and ensure that they are capable of responding effectively during the period of disaster, 25 teachers drawn from Bujumbura Rural and Mairie branches were trained on risk reduction in school, in the view of improving their ability to implement risk reduction measures. As a result, the trained teachers have been organizing training sessions on risk reduction in their respective schools and are currently supporting young pupils to prepare a film on disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, 3 branches in Makamba Province have developed and disseminated disaster risk identification maps and drafted plans of action.

In Ruyigi Province, one simulation exercise on disaster risk identification maps involving 50 volunteers drawn from 3 branches was conducted. Bujumbura Mairie, Makamba and Ruyigi branches were equipped with First Aid kits and educational materials for dissemination to disaster-affected communities. A total of 30 National Disaster Response Team members from Musinga branch attended refresher training on Community Based Health First Aid (CBHFA). In addition, 50 community land developers in Cankuzo were trained in stocks management and harvest processing to ensure food security. 300 members from the village Red Cross units in Cankuzo were supported to initiate income generating activities

Health and care

Outcomes:

- Morbidity and mortality linked to existing endemic diseases and other sanitary deficiencies is reduced
- Infant mortality caused by preventable diseases through vaccination is reduced.
- Increased water transportation means and good usage of potable water, hygiene and sanitation using the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) methodology.
- Vulnerability to HIV and its impact reduced through preventing further infection, expanding care, treatment and support, and reducing stigma and discrimination

Achievements

A total of 30 volunteers were trained on Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) methodology and 30 PHAST images and brochures were disseminated. In addition, 92 community groups were formed to disseminate PHAST methodologies. A total of 1,000 sanplats have been fabricated and 420 of them sold in Kayanza. 30 water sources were rehabilitated in the target villages. An additional 500 sanplats are to be fabricated. To ensure that the water sources are well used and hygienically maintained, 14 water committees were formed.

In order to increase volunteers' knowledge and skills as well as to contribute to the reduction of vulnerability to HIV and its impact, a total of 90 ARCHI 2010 training manuals were reproduced and distributed. 36 members of the people living with HIV (PLHIV) associations from Gatara, Kayanza and Muruta villages benefited from training on establishment and management of income generating activities. In addition, 60 goats were distributed to the PLHIV associations

To promote voluntary counselling and testing in schools, 2 peer education trainings targeting 66 youths were organized and 3 peer education manuals distributed to schools. In addition, 3,000 condoms were distributed targeting five secondary schools and the population in Kayanza District. Three peer clubs made up of 25 students were established in three schools, namely; Kayanza Secondary School, Kabuye Communal Secondary School and Gatara Secondary School. A total of 83 pockets of blood were also donated at Kayanza Secondary School

A total of 193 volunteers were trained in community based first aid and 270 volunteers were organized in teams to assist in sensitizing communities on malaria control, prevention as well child vaccination. The volunteers identified children within vaccination ages and facilitated their access to vaccinations. The volunteers further participated at the mother and child health week.

Through the support of the programme funds, the National Society was able to contribute to office equipment, increase the number and skills of its trained volunteers and support its staff through a contribution to their salaries

Organizational Development

Outcomes:

- The capacities of headquarter, regions and branches are strengthened for better coordination of activities.
- The capacities of the civil societies are strengthened for better contribution to assistance of the most vulnerable people.
- The capacities of BRC youth bodies are strengthened for better provision of services to targeted communities by the youth volunteers.

Achievements

Through the support of Finnish Red Cross, the Organizational Development department embarked on a financial review of its branch capacities .A consultant was recruited and the finance review was done in six communes, with a large membership who normally organize regular services to assist the most vulnerable in the communities. Volunteer registration funds is a major challenge in most branches thus a workshop to disseminate the review findings and develop a plan of action for the branches has been planned for the third quarter. The department plans to organize trainings on accountancy and leadership for branch leadership and set up mechanisms and tools of finance internal control systems. In June, BRC successfully commissioned the Navision system and two BRC finance staff will be facilitated to travel to Uganda for an exchange learning visit with the finance counterparts to learn more on the financial system

Through the Department for International Development (DfID) support, the Burundi Red Cross Planning Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) department spearheaded the development of the National Society's 2010-2013 strategic plan. A steering committee spearheaded the development of data collection tools which were disseminated to 17 branch coordinators, 5 regional coordinators, youth representatives and staff members at headquarters level. Consultations have been held in all the 17 branches under the supervision of regional coordinators and headquarter staff members. Data analysis is currently being done.

Principles and values

Outcomes:

- Enhanced knowledge, understanding and application of the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values (including non-discrimination, non-violence, tolerance and respect for diversity) with the BRC
- Increased, sustained and appropriate response to emergencies
- The resource mobilization capacities of the Burundi Red Cross are strengthened

Challenges

There has been no response from donors in respect to the Principles and Values programme in BRC. As a result, no activity progress has been reported. However, promotion of the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values was integrated in the National Society other programmes including Disaster Management and Health and Care.

Kenya Red Cross Society

Disaster Management

Outcomes:

- Increased capacity for mitigation and response to disasters by communities living in disaster prone areas
- Reduced road accidents on the targeted highways
- Improved food security situation of 1320 target households in Madogo division of Tana River district.
- Increased capacity of KRCS and partners to undertake Disaster Management activities in partnership with communities

Achievements

No funding was received during this period. Thus, no progress on activities is available. However, with funds from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Funds, the National has been able to respond to a number of disasters that occurred during the period. These included fires outbreaks in a supermarket in the country's capital city and an oil tanker explosion along a busy highway. In addition to the fires late last year and into 2009, the Kenya Red Cross Society through the support of the Federation launched an emergency appeal to assist persons affected by flooding and landslides triggered by heavy rains in Mandera, Garissa, Wajir, Budalangi and Tana River districts. The National Society continues to provide assistance to the persons affected by the flooding.

Health and care

Outcomes:

- Increased healthy communities which are able to cope with health and disaster challenges achieved through community based integrated health and first aid activities

- Adequate safe blood for transfusion in blood bank
- Reduced HIV and AIDS prevalence and its impacts on the Kenyan community
- Strengthened social service initiatives supporting vulnerable groups
- Access to safe water and sanitation services improved in Kajiado

Achievements

To increase knowledge and skills of the community members on ART as well as to strengthen and increase ART uptake in the community, KRCS facilitated community antiretroviral (ART) training at the community level reaching 192 CORPS in four villages and a further 31 Ministry of Health (MoH) service providers covering 10 Molo divisions trained on ART treatment, preparedness, care and support. A total of 125 community members and 13 probationers were trained on behaviour change and communication skills, while 139 CORPS were sensitized on peer education and community ART using the ART community training manuals. This was done in collaboration with facilitators from MoH training of trainers (ToTs) team. In order to facilitate access to preventing mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), community health workers (CHWs) through the Village Health Committees and local leaders mobilized CORPS and identified mother in-laws for sensitization sessions during which they were empowered with knowledge and skills on infant feeding, care and support which has resulted in better feeding practices.

To contribute towards reducing HIV and AIDS prevalence and its impacts on the Kenyan community, KRCS through promotion of VCT services mobilized the community which led to an increase in Voluntary Counselling and testing (VCT) services uptake where 1,289 people were tested for HIV both at mobile VCT (278) and at Molo Hospital (1,011) respectively. Referrals to Comprehensive Care Centres for further management were also done accordingly. A total of 35 peer educators were trained in Magnet Theatre and further empowered with peer mentors skills making them instrumental in mobilizing all peers at schools and village level for HIV/AIDS education sessions

To strengthen social service initiatives supporting vulnerable groups, village support group sessions and monitoring visits were conducted, where group counselling sessions were conducted reaching 200 PLHIV in those support groups. Furthermore, 1,085 home visits to 250 clients were conducted during which 300 most vulnerable persons were identified and supported with food baskets and nutritional supplements. 104 care givers were sensitized on home-based care services to enhance drug adherence support at family level and 64 CHWS and 84 CORPS trained on tuberculosis (TB) prevention and management reaching 379 households of Casino Estate with TB information.

To improve access to safe water and sanitation services as well as to reduce morbidity resulting from the water borne and other communicable diseases, door-to-door sensitization campaigns were conducted in two villages focusing on TB, water and sanitation reaching 600 households

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

Outcomes:

- Increased capacity for programme development and management
- Strengthened capacity of regions and branches to effectively address the needs of the vulnerable in the community.
- Increased institutional capacity of NS in coordinating and responding public health emergencies
- Increased capacity of staff and volunteers to reach to vulnerable population
- National Society's volunteer network is strengthened
- Enhanced quality of volunteer management for sustainability and volunteer retention
- KRCS has a well functioning organization with sustainable systems, procedures and staff with desired level of managerial and technical competencies

Achievements

During this reporting period, KRCS through the support of the Swedish Red Cross to their Organizational Development (OD) Programme embarked on strengthening the capacity of the South Rift Region to effectively address the needs of the vulnerable in the community by facilitating the recruitment of a Regional Manager, Administrative Assistant and a Regional Driver. The recruitment process has been initiated and in progress. It is planned that once the Regional Manager is in place, KRCS will embark on installing an Interim Regional Board, comprised of representatives from the eight branches within the region. The board will provide guidance with respect to policy and governance. A governance training for the Regional and Branch committees is planned in the second half of the year.

Principles and values

Outcomes:

- Improved domestic legal policy and institutional framework in international disaster relief in place
- The Kenyan Government better prepared for common legal problems in international response operations
- Well informed government agencies committed to facilitating International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) in Kenya
- Enhanced knowledge, understanding and application of the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values (including non-discrimination, non-violence, tolerance and respect for diversity) within the RC
- Outside community or target population is sensitised to humanitarian values and changing behaviour

Achievements

Despite receiving no funding in respect to the Principles and Values programme in KRCS, promotion of respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduction of intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion has been mainstreamed in the other National Society programmes.

Rwandan Red Cross

Disaster Management

Outcomes:

- Strengthened community awareness and capacity to act effectively during disasters (floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions and droughts)
- Increased RRC capacity to organize effective and efficient disaster response.
- Strengthened resilience of communities living in disaster prone areas.
- Reunification of separated families due to conflicts and natural disasters is enhanced

Achievements

In order to increase Rwanda Red Cross capacity to organize effective and efficient disaster response, 23 Branch Disaster Response volunteers drawn from 16 districts namely; Rubavu, Karongi, Rusizi, Musanze, Gicumbi, Burera, Gisagara, Muhanga, Nyamagabe, Kamonyi, Nyarugenge, Gasabo, Kicukiro, Nyagatare, Ngoma and Bugesera were taken through a refresher training. RRC acquired and set up strategic stocks mainly at the headquarters and in disaster prone districts in order to respond quickly and effectively in different interventions.

Table 3: Relief Items stocked.

| Items | Quantity |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Plastic sheeting | 3,785 |
| Kitchen sets | 416 |
| Blankets | 1,250 |
| Sleeping mats | 1,041 |
| Iron sheet | 6,000 |
| Rain coats | 375 |
| T- shirt | 214 |

A total of 100 volunteers drawn from 5 districts namely Huye, Nyaruguru, Rutsiro, Rubavu and Burera were trained in camp management and safer access and have continually sensitized and mobilized other volunteers and members of local committees on safer access principles emphasizing on the volunteers code of conduct in conflict situations. Ten members of the National Disaster Response Team were trained on water rescue and 10 pairs of swimming costumes purchased and availed for use. 30 community leaders and teachers received training on PHAST and shared acquired skills to reduce the risk of diseases outbreak in the community level during emergencies.

To strengthen community awareness and capacity to act effectively during disasters, the North-Kivu section of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo in collaboration with Rwanda Red Cross set up an emergency team to monitor the Nyiragongo volcano, by updating the contingency plan with regards to volcano eruptions, organized mass sensitization sessions targeting the local communities through public meetings and on the Rubavu Community Radio, identified sites for hosting displaced persons in case of volcanic eruption as well as updated the warning system and elaborated a plan of population evacuation. Coordination meetings between the Goma and Gisenyi branches have been organized and held regularly to prepare for coordinated operations. If need be risk maps are available in the 4 branches namely; Kayonza, Gatsibo, Kirehe and Nyagatare.

Tree planting as a means to environmental conservation has also been pursued. Trees have been distributed and planted in various provinces as shown below;

Table 4: Trees distributed in various provinces

| Province | Trees planted/ distributed |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Southern | 37002 |
| Kigali City | 33340 |
| Eastern | 25000 |
| Northern | 50 |

Regular follow up on trees planted last year in different sites was carried out as well as regular sensitization of the community on the importance of trees. In order to reduce the effects of food insecurity in drought prone Nyamagabe District, RRC supported 25 vulnerable households with 25 cows for milk production and manure making for agricultural practices. In addition, 40 cows were distributed to vulnerable families in of Huye District. RRCS facilitated a learning exchange visit between Rwamagana branch Committee and Rubavu District Committee members involving 17 volunteers from Rwamagana.

Challenges

RRCS does not have trained disaster response teams in all its districts thus limiting the effectiveness of their response in times of disasters. Even where trained team are in place, they

lack sufficient basic materials/equipments to be used in emergency situations including first aid kits, tents, rain coats and boots. Communication hurdles between the headquarters and the districts due to lack of modern communication tools such as radios, internet connection are present. With sufficient funding, RRC will prioritize training and equipping of disaster response teams as well as improving its communication network.

Health and care

Outcomes:

- Strengthened RRC capacities to scale up HIV and AIDS and reproductive health programmes.
- Vulnerability to HIV and its impact is reduced through preventing further infection, expanding care and support, reducing stigma and discrimination and encouraging voluntary counselling and testing.
- Health conditions of people living with HIV and AIDS improved through home-based care and support provided by RRC trained volunteers.
- Women, men and children are protected from malaria through community mobilization, sensitization and surveillance
- Increased access to safe water and sanitation facilities.
- Access to immunization services improved through routine campaigns for children less than five years and pregnant women.
- Rwanda's supplies of safe blood increased through mobilization of volunteer blood donors.
- Increased capacity of communities and volunteers to meet major health problems and health emergencies of Rwanda

Achievements

The RRC health programme did not receive any funding during the first half of the year. However, with bilateral support from partners and through the National Society own resources, the health programme has made several achievements.

To strengthen RRC capacities to scale up health programmes, trainings in reproductive health, Community Based First Aid (CBFA), Voluntary and Capacity Assessment (VCAs) and malaria prevention and control were conducted thus increasing the skills of its 209 volunteers. The volunteers were further facilitated with the provision of 85 first aid kits, 304 T-shirts, 200 caps and 150 bicycles to ease their mobility. Four health education sessions were conducted in Gatsibo District, reaching 168 persons. A total of 19 RRC staff members and 300 volunteers participated in the mother and child health week activities organized by the Ministry of Health.

In order to contribute to control of malaria through community mobilization, sensitization and surveillance, six educational sessions on prevention and fight against malaria were conducted in five cells namely; Rweru, Mayange, Rwintare, Karangazi and Bugaragara reaching 378 persons. 100 Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) were sold in Nyamagabe Sector and 2,500 ITNs distributed in Musanze, Gicumbi and Burera districts. Furthermore, RRC volunteers participated in six half-days of community work to destroy mosquito breeding sites in the Eastern Province.

To increase the access to safe water, hygiene, sanitation and community behaviour change through hygiene education and promotion activities among the Rwanda population, water and sanitation focal persons were recruited and put in place and trained in 16 districts namely; Rubavu, Karongi, Rusizi, Musanze, Gicumbi, Burera, Gisagara, Muhanga, Nyamagabe, Kamonyi, Nyarugenge, Gasabo, Kicukiro, Nyagatare, Ngoma and Bugesera and 31 volunteers trained in PHAST approach in 15 sectors of Bugesera District thus reinforcing the districts branch capacities in water and sanitation management.

To promote hygiene and sanitation, 600 sanplats were fabricated and distributed to households in Nyagatare District, 43 toilets dug and constructed, 48 utensils stalls built and 55 compost pits dug in 3 villages namely; Rutobwe, Murama, Ruli and Shyorongi. To improve access to clean water, 4 water kiosks were constructed and a water committee elected in Mageragere sector

To increase Rwanda's supplies of safe blood through mobilization of volunteer blood donors, 10 blood donor recruitment sessions targeting the youth were conducted in Karama Rugendabali and Mutete Sectors reaching 788 youths. 36 new donors were registered in Musanze, Kisozi and Burera sectors. A further 270 blood donors were sensitized in Rutunga and Rubirizi sectors.

To contribute to reduction of vulnerability to HIV and its impact through preventing further infection, expanding care and support, reducing stigma and discrimination as well as encouraging voluntary counselling and testing, 40 volunteers from western province were trained in home based care, 10 associations of persons living with HIV and AIDS supported in their income generating activities initiatives and 181 persons from Gatsibo and Kayonza district were able to access voluntary counselling and testing, where seven of them tested positive. Condom distribution within different associations of PLHIV and Rwanda Red Cross local committees was carried out.

In order to improve the nutritional status of PLHIV, 3,600kgs of fertilizer were distributed for use in their kitchen benefiting 2,500 households. In Nyaruguru and Nyamagabe districts, 900 avocados trees were distributed to PLHIV. Health conditions of people living with HIV and AIDS have improved through home-based care and support provided by RRC trained volunteers.

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

Outcomes:

- RRC governance, management systems are strengthened at Headquarters and Branch levels
- Increased RRC capacity to deliver services to the most vulnerable populations.
- Increased RRC presence countrywide to deliver services to the most vulnerable population.

Achievements

During the reporting period, 1,067 volunteers were recruited. Field supervisory and coaching visits were conducted by the headquarters and District Committees in Kirehe, Gatsibo, Kayonza, Nyanza, Huye, Nyamagabe, Musanze and Burera districts. Trainings in volunteer management, RRC structures, the Red Cross Movement database management and reporting were conducted reaching 30 volunteers from Bugesera District and 30 OD focal persons from district committees.

To enhance the National Society finance capacity development, Navision finance software was installed and is currently operational. Rehabilitation of the server room was carried out and data entry into the new system initiated. Furthermore, financial and management tools (logistics, financial and human resource management manuals) are currently under translation into different languages for broader and easier utilization. 25 persons drawn from seven district committees together with the regional coordinator and assistants were trained in financial and logistic management in Western Region. A similar training was organized in all seven branches of Eastern Region.

Principles and Values

Outcomes:

- Enhanced knowledge, understanding and application of Fundamental Principles, Humanitarian Values and IHL in Rwanda

- Increased and sustained response to emergencies and appeals
- Enhanced capacity and ability in RRC in resource mobilization

Achievements

Despite having received no funding for the programme during the first half of the year, RRC continued to integrate promotion of understanding and application of Fundamental Principles, Humanitarian Values and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in Rwanda in its programmes.

Tanzania Red Cross National Society

Disaster Management

Outcomes:

- Improved ability to predict and plan for disaster to mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities and respond to and effectively cope with their consequences.
- Improved capacity and skilled human resources, financial and material capacity for effective disaster management.
- Improved self-reliance of individuals and communities to reduce the vulnerabilities to public health emergencies and disasters.
- Improved disaster response assistance to meet the needs of people affected by disaster.
- Improved assistance to restore or improve pre-disaster living conditions and reduce the risk of future disasters.

Achievements

During the first half of the year, Tanzania Red Cross National Society (TRCNS) was involved in offering assistance to persons affected by disasters as well as in implementing an early warning preparedness project supported by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In response to a local storm that damaged houses and other buildings affecting 229 families in Rukwa, Shinyanga and Dodoma districts, TRCNS provided relief items and roofing materials to those affected to enable them resume to normal livelihood. In addition, due to munition explosions in Dar es Salaam and surrounding communities that destroyed 396 homes, damaged 1,945 homes and displaced 1,244 children, TRCNS with the support of the Federation launched an emergency appeal to assist some 3,775 households affected.

To create awareness among the target communities on the causes, effects and people at risk of Tsunami and other flood-related disasters and possible coping mechanisms, 80 volunteers drawn from Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Pemba and Unguja were trained on disaster preparedness and early warning. A total of 4,000 information, education and communication (IEC) materials carrying early warning messages were produced and distributed to communities

In order to establish a community centred early warning system for Tsunami and floods related disasters, 20 focal persons in the target community were trained and orientated on early warning systems in collaboration with the Tanzania Metrological Agency (TMA) and Ardhi University, increasing their understanding and knowledge in disaster preparedness and early warning system hence building their response capacity. Eight billboards with early warning and disaster preparedness messages were installed in Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Pemba, Unguja, Rufiji and Bagamoyo.

To develop an effective community response plan for tsunami or flood-related disasters, eight community awareness meetings on early warning systems establishment and on disaster preparedness were conducted, four rehearsal/drills were organized in Tanga, Unguja, Pemba and Dar es Salaam to give community members an opportunity to apply the early warning knowledge acquired and test the usefulness of the early warning equipment such as the use of

phones, bicycles and megaphones. The experience from rehearsal exercises was very useful in developing the community's evacuation plans. Trained volunteers also provided first aid during the rehearsal exercises. During the reporting period, four communities produced risk and/or hazard maps which are now being used to sensitize the community members on risky and safe areas in the community. This brings the risks maps to 32 in total. To complement existing means and ways of information passage, communities were supported with 20 megaphones, 20 bicycles and 20 cell phones. Two Wantok community radios were purchased and will be installed upon allocation of transmission frequencies by Tanzania Communication Regulator Authority to remote communities for passing early warning information including meteorological information and updates.

About 80 first aid kits and 80 life jackets were purchased for use by volunteers during provision of first aid services and during response to water-related incidences. A total of 400 T-shirts with disaster preparedness messages were produced and distributed

Health and care

Outcomes:

- Vulnerability to HIV and its impact reduced through preventing further infection, expanding care, treatment, and support, and reducing stigma and discrimination in Tanzania
- Morbidity, mortality and impact from untimely and unsafe blood for transfusion is reduced through promotion and recruitment and retention of voluntary non remunerated blood donors in Tanzania
- Malaria mortality among children under five and pregnant women is reduced by 50 per cent in Tanzania through implementation of proven malaria control interventions
- Increased access to safe water supply and sanitation conditions

Achievements

TRCNS is part of the nine National Societies in the eastern Africa Zone implementing the Global Alliance on HIV/AIDS programme. To contribute towards reducing vulnerability to HIV and its impact through preventing further infection, expanding care, treatment, and support, and reducing stigma and discrimination, 25 community home based care providers (CHBCPs) were trained and equipped with necessary knowledge skills and attitudes in order to provide quality home based care (HBC) for PLHIV, including supporting for adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)/Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) at community levels including general nursing and palliative care to thus contributing towards improved quality of life for PLHIV, the family members as well as the whole community. Furthermore, 58 community leaders were sensitized on the importance of home based care and support for PLHIV and orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). A total of 100 OVC were identified and provided with two pairs of school uniforms, shoes, two pairs of socks, exercise books, ball pens and pencils. Twenty CHBCPs received orientation for screening and support for OVC increasing their knowledge on type of support needed, challenges, and follow up of OVC.

To further promote support for the programme, stakeholders networking meetings targeting organizations carrying out HIV/AIDS interventions in the communities as well as community sensitization meetings to ensure ownership, cooperation and support for the programme were held reaching 166 persons.

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

Outcomes:

- Improved National Society leadership capacities in developing and implementing strategies and ensuring good performance and accountability

- TRCNS has a well functioning organization with sustainable systems, procedures and staff with desired level of managerial and technical competencies
- Core cost of TRCNS are covered by the resource mobilization and fundraising performed at national, regional and local levels
- Developed national wide service run by volunteers organized by branches or units at grass-root levels
- Increased capacity for programme development and management

Achievements

In the last half of 2008, TRCNS through a nationwide consultative process and subsequent data collection and analysis developed its 2009-2011 strategic development plan which was approved by the National Executive Committee. The plan has since been translated from English to Kiswahili and a first draft produced. The draft has since been circulated for review before the final version can be produced. Following the adoption of the final Kiswahili version the plan will be printed in both Kiswahili and English and disseminated.

Principles and Values

Outcomes:

- Enhanced knowledge understanding and application of the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values (including non-discrimination non-violence, tolerance and respect for diversity) with Red Cross and Red Crescent
- Fundamental Principles are integrated into National Society operational programmes
- Vulnerable communities are empowered with enhanced ability to combat discrimination and intolerance

Achievements

Even with no funding secured for the programme during the first half of the year, TRCNS continued to integrate promotion of understanding and application of Fundamental Principles, Humanitarian Values and IHL in Tanzania within its programmes.

Uganda Red Cross Society

Disaster management

Outcomes:

- Improved ability to predict and plan for disasters to mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities, and respond to and effectively cope with their consequences.
- Improved disaster response assistance to meet the needs of people affected by disasters.
- Improved assistance to restore or improve pre-disaster living conditions and reduce the risk of future disasters.
- Increased food production, availability and utilisation at household level in two districts in Karamoja Region

Achievements

Towards the end of 2008, conflict erupted in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the three National Societies of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi scaled up their operations in border areas with DRC in response to predicted and actual movement of refugees. Uganda received the highest number of refugees in December 2008 and January 2009 and played a lead role in receiving, registering and distributing relief items to those in need. In collaboration with United Nations High Commissioner for refugees (UNHCR) and others, Uganda Red Cross Society provided services in transit and permanent refugee camps in Kanungu and Mbarara districts.

Health and care

Outcomes:

- Increased healthy communities which are able to cope with health and disaster challenges achieved through community-based integrated health and first aid activities
- Adequate and safe blood donated through community mobilization
- Vulnerability to HIV and its impacts reduced through preventing further infection, expanding care, treatment, and support and reducing stigma and discrimination
- Increased access to health services to reduce mortality and morbidity from immunizable diseases and malaria
- Increased access to safe and adequate water and improved sanitation at household and community level in targeted areas
- Increased awareness and improved access to reproductive health services in targeted communities

Achievements

The National Society during the first half of the year has been actively involved in response activities during public health emergencies. The Uganda Red Cross Society through the support of the Federations Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) effectively assisted some 2.3 million beneficiaries as a result of an outbreak of Meningitis in Uganda's six districts. In addition, due to an outbreak of cholera in Kasese District – south Western Uganda, URCS was involved in door-to-door sensitization, health and hygiene promotion and active case identification at household level and referral targeting 18,412 households.

Organizational development/Capacity Development

Outcomes:

- Strengthened capacity of branches for effective and efficient service delivery to address the needs of the vulnerable people.
- Increased involvement of youth in URCS core programmes and decision making
- Enhanced capacity of community groups, youth and adult volunteers to address their own needs and the needs of the vulnerable people in their communities

Achievements

Activities under this outcome were not implemented during this reporting period due to inadequate funds.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Outcomes:

- Strengthened organizational capacity in planning, monitoring evaluation and reporting for effective service delivery and accountability
- Increased utilization of URCS's information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure for effective and efficient service delivery
- Robust and user friendly management information system (MIS) in place to facilitate programming at all levels
- Increased use of monitoring and evaluation findings for all programmes at the headquarters and branches

Achievements

Through the support of the Swedish Red Cross, URCS was supported to carry out a mid term review of its strategic plan. The Regional Officer conducted orientation for three branch focal persons of Kibaale, Ntungamo and Nakasongola on the URCS strategic plan, branch policy and volunteer guidelines. This was useful to enable them work within the frame work of URCS. A total of 84 dissemination sessions were held in the region, and 5,858 people of different categories reached.

Humanitarian Values

Outcomes:

- Enhanced knowledge, understanding and application of the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values (including non-discrimination, non-violence, tolerance and respect for diversity) with the RC/RC
- Improved corporate partnership management

Achievements

Despite securing no funding for the programme during the first half of the year, URCS continued to integrate promotion of understanding and application of Fundamental Principles, Humanitarian Values and International Humanitarian Law in Uganda in its programmes.

Overall challenges for all National Societies

The 2009 appeal has received a slow response with some of the programmes receiving no funding to date. This has meant that that the NS have had to postpone or revise most of their planned activities for the first half of the year. To counter this, National Societies are continuously being encouraged to fundraise in country and to also profile themselves by being more accountable to their partners within and outside the Movement through timely and quality reporting and proper financial management as well as ensuring that they have proper governance and management structures in place.

In addition, due to occurrence of diverse and numerous disasters in the countries, National Societies have had to divert their human and finance resources to respond to such disasters which certainly slow down normal programming.

Working in partnership

During the first half of the year, the five National Societies received support for their programmes and collaborated with various Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement partners in programme implementation, through the Federation as well as bilateral arrangements. Notably, the National Societies have partnerships with their respective governments, United National agencies such as OCHA, UNHCR and international non-governmental organizations such as DfID and a number of local non-governmental organizations in their respective countries. Movement partners have also continued to partner with the National Societies during this period.

The East Africa sub-zonal office has played a lead role in coordinating these working relationships such as assisting in convening the annual Lake Victoria Programme meeting in April 2009 and offering technical support in the consolidation of the regional programme report, while supporting the five National Societies in monitoring progress in their programmes in collaboration with the various Zone technical departments.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The disaster management programmes in Burundi and Rwanda, and the health and care programmes have made positive contributions towards building and strengthening the capacities of local communities to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. Through the National Societies' health and care programmes community-based volunteers, home-based care givers

and community health workers have been exposed to relevant trainings in Anti retroviral therapy uptake, first aid, home-based care and malaria control, polio campaigns among others acquiring useful knowledge in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support as well as preventable diseases control and treatment

In similar regard, the disaster management programmes have contributed to strengthening the capacity of the National Societies as well as that of the target communities in disaster preparedness, response and management through development of disaster mapping tools, early warning systems, disaster risk reduction as well as integrating long term food security interventions in their programming.

Looking ahead

Technical support to the five National Societies will continue to be availed through close collaboration with the Zone technical departments namely Disaster Management, Health and Care, Organizational Development, Planning Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), Finance as well as Communications.

During the second half of the year, support will be availed to the Tanzania Red Cross National Society to ensure that the NS completes translation of the newly developed strategic plan into Swahili, organize its partnership meeting and hold an Annual General Meeting and subsequently be supported to orient its new leadership. Burundi Red Cross will continue to receive mentorship and coaching for the successful implementation of the pilot project on mobilizing local capacity and receive technical support in evaluation of the programme. The Uganda Red Cross Society will receive technical support through the Organizational Development office during the mid term review of the National Society strategic plan. Kenya and Rwanda Red Cross societies will also receive technical support in terms of monitoring and evaluation of their programmes on a needs basis. All five National Societies will be provided with technical support in the implementation of the Lake Victoria Programme.

How we work

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.

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