

MOZAMBIQUE: REHABILITATION, DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

7 June 1999

appeal no.: 01.20/99

situation report no. 1

period covered: January to April 1999

A timely response to the Appeal with adequate initial funding permitted programme implementation to begin. Staffing constraints within the Delegation and the Mozambican Red Cross Society (MRCS) and severe flooding which occurred in March have, however, had a significant impact on planned activities. Despite these difficulties, assistance to vulnerable groups is being delivered and will continue provided funding is available to complete the remainder of the programme.

The Context

After sixteen years of war, peace was restored in Mozambique in 1992. Since then, the country has been struggling with reconstruction and development. The political situation is stable, inflation brought well under control, and the annual GNP growth has climbed to around 14%. However, Mozambique is still one of the poorest 10 countries in the world facing daunting development challenges including a per capita income of USD 100, a life expectancy of 46 years, and inadequate education and health services.

The government is working hard to build a sustainable economic base and lower dependency on external aid, while promoting social equity in an effort to reduce poverty. The Government health strategy is to increase health service coverage from the current 40% of the population to 60% by the year 2000.

Latest events

Severe floods which occurred in March and a recent cholera outbreak were the two most significant events faced by the Mozambique Red Cross Society (MRCS) during the first quarter of 1999. Since the beginning of 1999 the southern and central parts of Mozambique have been exposed to intense periods of rainfall resulting in flooding of the Limpopo, Incomati, Pungue, Buzi, Zambezi and Inharrime rivers, particularly affecting the provinces of Zambezia, Sofala, Gaza, Tete, Maputo and Inhambane.

More than 60% of the population live under the poverty line. It is estimated that at least 400,000 people are affected by the floods and that more than 45,000 homes have been inundated in the central and southern parts of Mozambique, with the loss of crops and personal belongings. Bridges and roads, including the main north-south highway, are cut off, and mines have been exposed or moved to new locations. The heavy rains have also created problems in the cities of Beira, Quelimane and Maputo.

The flooding completely cut off the Govuro, Inhassoro and Vilankulos Districts, with over 575 mm of rain falling in Vilankulos District alone in just one week, an amount equal to 70% of the average rainfall (normally 800 mm.). Some 55,332 people were affected, with 6,317 displaced and 36 killed. The affected people are in need of immediate support concerning shelter, food, clean water and medical supplies to avoid the spread of malaria and diarrhoea. In response, the Government of Mozambique launched an emergency Appeal to the international community for USD 12.4 million to support flood victims and rehabilitate road infrastructure, water and sanitation systems, as well as damage caused by erosion throughout the country.

The South African air force set-up an emergency operation and sent two helicopters to the area to provide initial assistance. The Government of Mozambique had planned an airlift to Maputo-Vilankulos to assist flood victims, but due to insufficient funds this could not be carried out.

The cholera epidemic also continues, with 52,298 registered cases. The average death rate is 3.7, but the figure for Cabo Delgado (6.5) is especially disturbing. The only province as yet unaffected is Inhambane.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

The MRCS is habitually least active during the first quarter of the year. The MRCS continues to suffer from capacity constraints. Recruitment of an Institutional Development/Resource Development Director is still pending, the finance department has been unable to expand its staff and the key position of Finance Delegate remains unfilled.

The MRCS development plan, based on the society's strategy for 1999-2001, specifies the following priorities:

- { To reinforce a strong member-based National Society which is able to cover at least the society's basic costs from its own resources.
- { To consolidate MRCS' structures at all levels enabling the National Society to respond more promptly with support to victims of any type of disaster.
- { To support the development of communities to reduce their vulnerability, and to improve disaster response capacity through an integrated policy of disaster prevention and preparedness.
- { To consolidate and strengthen the community-based health programme, with particular emphasis on community involvement in health education, mother and child health care, education on AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases, and provision of water and sanitation.
- { To consolidate and strengthen the Social Welfare and Youth Programme through the promotion of local initiatives and involvement of a growing number of young people in activities that improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable.
- { To continue the institutional development of the MRCS, with an emphasis on improved financial management of the National Society, a higher level of participation of the elected bodies, and better management training for the provincial branches.
- { To improve the image of the MRCS at national and international levels, and to promote awareness of the Principles of the Red Cross through an Information and Dissemination Programme adapted to the post-relief situation
- { To improve the management of MRCS volunteers.

Red Cross Programmes

Disaster Preparedness w

The main objectives of this programme are to improve the skills of staff and volunteers in the areas of disaster preparedness, management and implementation; to revise existing vulnerability and capacity assessments and introduce effective norms and management systems for disaster preparedness.

The recent flooding served to underline the need to improve the competency and motivation of headquarters staff. Several meetings were held in the MRCS HQ Emergency group (GODE). Useful recommendations were made, but not implemented. It was decided that an emergency appeal would not be necessary in Sofala and Zambezia Provinces, but instead the focus shifted to relief needs in Inhambane Province and local fund-raising efforts.

Solidarity campaigns were organised in the capital and provinces to raise cash and in-kind support. In response to the need for relief in Inhambane Province, the MRCS and the Areoclub initiated a relief operation on March 23, funded by the Danish Embassy (USD 10,000). The Director of Programmes took over as operation co-ordinator, and the Disaster Preparedness Technician and the Health Programme Co-ordinator carried out a needs assessment in Inhambane province, while the Provincial Secretary moved to Vilankulos to co-ordinate MRCS relief activities.

The Chinese Red Cross has provided USD 30,000 of bilateral assistance for flood victims via the Chinese Embassy.

Health w

The general programme objective is to improve the health conditions of the most vulnerable persons by preventing disease and promoting health in accordance with the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, complementing the government's efforts to provide primary health care in the 34 priority districts in the long term.

Specific objectives are to improve the health of the more vulnerable communities by promoting primary health care in 34 priority districts; to raise community knowledge and awareness about basic health care and community development, and to build institutional capacity to implement integrated programmes and response to disaster mitigation.

Due to capacity constraints, the MRCS decided not to initiate a specific programme to combat cholera (as was the case in 1998), but instead to integrate cholera health education into the ongoing home visit programmes. The Regional Delegation in Harare provided 4,000 ORS packages and 25 boxes of chlorine, which were distributed to 6 provinces. Concern regarding the cholera epidemic in Cabo Delgado led to the Regional Delegations funding a two week transfer of the Sofala health technician to Cabo Delgado to teach water purification techniques.

Headquarters health programme staff have made several field trips to Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Inhambane and Sofala with the participation of the Regional Water and Sanitation Technician and the Mozambique delegate. In the latter case the purpose was to learn from the MRCS Aids programme, funded by UNICEF. In late 1998 there was an evaluation of this programme, but the presentation of the findings was postponed and the document is still pending. A new AIDS strategy and programme will evolve this year.

The Community Health pilot programme funded by Danish Red Cross Society is starting up this year and the health department was involved in supporting the provincial delegation's quarterly planning. At the beginning of the year an Icelandic Red Cross and Iceida (Icelandic Development Agency) visited the MRCS to discuss a similar community health programme in Maputo province next year.

Water and Sanitation w

This programme was designed to reduce the incidence of disease related to poor water and/or sanitation facilities; to provide water and sanitation facilities effectively; to further develop further the present

capacity to implement water and sanitation projects; to provide regular field support to the branches and to improve health education.

The major contribution of the Water and Sanitation Technician during this initial quarter has been to participate in the drought relief operation in Zimbabwe. This prevented participation in the floods needs assessment, leading to a proposal to employ and train an additional water and sanitation technician. Support is being provided by the Regional Water and Sanitation delegate.

Social welfare w

This programme is intended to relieve the effects of social problems among the most vulnerable population, particularly people in resettlement areas, in areas most affected by war, destruction and/or natural disasters, and in peri-urban areas, strengthening their capacity to resolve problems, and complementing efforts by the government and other NGOs. The street children programme will specifically promote the integration of children in difficult circumstances in the family and community by means of a series of activities in Street Children centres in Maputo and Beira.

A lack of cash made it difficult to purchase food for the street children centres. As yet unconfirmed information from the MRCS indicate that the Icelandic Red Cross which have funded the centres over the past years will begin bilateral funding under a bilateral health assistance programme.

Youth w

The MRCS Youth programme is integrated into the social welfare programme. Their main programme, which is funded through the Federation, is a mine awareness programme.

The objectives are to raise awareness amongst the population on the danger of land mines; improve and maintain danger signals in mine affected areas; contribute to the creation of a data base on accidents and areas with land mines at provincial and national levels; promote assistance to the victims of land mines.

This programme, sponsored by the Swedish Government through the Swedish Red Cross, was expected to have been initiated last year, but due to delays in the signing of the MoU the programme is now starting in March.

The Canadian Red Cross has decided to support a minor programme for victims of land mines. Posters have been printed and the launching of the programme is eagerly anticipated.

The Jaipur Limb Campaign supports an orthopaedic workshop in Gaza Province, which forms the third component of the MRCS' mines programme. The MRCS does not have the capacity to expand its efforts in this field in spite of the high level of international interest and thus funding opportunities.

Institutional Development/Resource Development w

The general objectives of the programme are to consolidate the MRCS' base, and improve the quality and integration of its programmes in a sustainable way. The Federation has supported these objectives by:

- { Consolidating and providing support to the legal status of the institution to develop the operational and management capacity of the MRCS, to improve planning and budgeting procedures, and to continue development of human resource management and administration. In addition to daily administrative and managerial support, the delegation has contributed to the promotion of new Red Cross legislation by identifying core activities in the history of the MRCS (for a report to be presented by the MRCS President), and also for the translation of the standard law on the Emblem into Portuguese.
- { Drafting of legislation on the MRCS is underway, and is expected to be passed soon. The government is interested in substantial MRCS involvement in the health field, e.g. nutritional rehabilitation centres in drought afflicted areas and ambulance services.

- { A week-long seminar for provincial secretaries and administrators was held in Maputo in February, as well as preparations for the General Assembly (held in Chimoio in April).
- { For the first time the programme areas are being required to co-ordinate and submit quarterly plans, and a global plan for HQ activities in 1999 has been drafted, revealing various bottlenecks which are being discussed in order to ensure, for example, that the MRCS' planning and budgeting for 2000 will take place as anticipated.
- { In the resource development field a CAPI assessment was carried out with the MRCS Secretary General. Spanish material on communications and resource development obtained by the Bolivian Red Cross was used. A comprehensive package for the recruitment of an ID/RD Director was also produced (including a comprehensive task description, a proposal for an advert, and sample job descriptions).

The Federation's Mozambique Delegation

The Federation is represented by a Development Delegate and two local staff. The main thrust of the Federation's programmes in Mozambique is to support the MRCS in restructuring from a large relief-oriented organisation dependent on outside resources into a self-sustainable entity able to address long-term development and service-delivery to the community. While the necessity of maintaining a delegation in Mozambique is clear, it is becoming increasingly difficult to generate donor support and funding for running administrative costs of the delegation.

While the MRCS financial management has achieved significant progress over the past year, recruitment of a Finance Development Delegate is still urgently required. The country delegate has been involved in checking the monthly financial reports and forecasts and follow up. Ensuring that 1998 pledges for expenses such as salary arrears reach the MRCS has been particularly time-consuming. Collaboration between the MRCS finance department and the delegation has benefited vastly from a move to premises in the same building.

A field trip was undertaken to Sofala province to undertake an assessment of the floods and the provincial delegation's work. Since then, the Delegation has followed-up with advice as well as a checklist which was developed for emergency planning. A one-day training workshop for provincial secretaries and administrators was also given on this theme.

Outstanding needs

Resource development is still hampered by the lack of an ID/RD Director. The construction of a Norwegian Red Cross-funded building in Pemba, Cabo Delgado, is close to completion, and various candidates for the post of manager are being interviewed. Hopefully, this and the MRCS training centre in Chimoio, will contribute significantly to the MRCS' revenue generation in the future. Many other ideas and proposals have been made, and a revenue-generation strategy and plan is urgently required. On the human resource front, progress continues to be very slow, affecting both the proposals regarding a new salary scale, and updating of job descriptions and contracts.

In the Finance Department, one of the major activities this quarter has been a Price Waterhouse audit for Norwegian Red Cross. In relation to the Federation, the pending issue is the reconciliation of Federation and MRCS accounts, which constantly affect the cash flow from the Federation. A realistic solution to this problem, taking into account the capacity constraints of both the MRCS and the Federation delegations, is urgently required. A Finance Development Delegate would assist greatly in these activities.

While funding has been sufficient to initiate programmes, further pledges are urged to enable the full programme to be implemented as foreseen.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Due to delegate capacity constraints and the generally heavy workload, contacts have been on an ad hoc basis and primarily carried out in writing. Despite the fact that time and staff limitations prevent participation at every meeting, there are frequent favourable reports on the MRCS in the Mozambican media. This is to a large extent a result of the Secretary-General's active engagement and useful contacts. The delegation has contributed information to Geneva which has been published in the Weekly News. Most recently, digital photographs of the MRCS-Aeroclube operation in Inhambane have been sent and the production of a photo gallery is being considered.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

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MOZAMBIQUE

APPEAL No. 01.20/99

**PLEDGES
RECEIVED**

06/08/99

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COM
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CASH

REQUESTED IN				1,488,595	01/01/99	44.94%
APPEAL----- ----->						
BRITISH - RC		80,000	GBP	185,256	03/01/99	WAT/SAN
CANADIAN - RC/GOVT		120,000	CAD	106,000	02/03/99	HEALTH PROGR/
DANISH - RC		131,090	DKK	28,197	03/08/99	SCHOOL CONSTR
ICELANDIC - RC		2,000,000	ISK	40,664	04/01/99	ID PRG
SWEDISH - RC		315,255	SEK	56,777	02/23/99	SOCIAL WELFAR CHILDREN
SWEDISH - RC/GOVT		200,000	SEK	36,020	02/15/99	ID
SWEDISH - RC/GOVT		1,200,000	SEK	216,120	02/15/99	MINE PROJECT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				669,034 CHF		44.94%

**KIND AND
SERVICES (INCL.
PERSONNEL)**

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COM
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0.00 CHF		0.00%

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COM
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