

MOZAMBIQUE: REHABILITATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND CAPACITY BUILDING

29 July, 1999

appeal no. 01.20/99

situation report no. 2

period covered: April - June, 1999

The primary objective of the Federation's involvement in Mozambique is to support the Mozambique Red Cross Society (MRCS) in retooling itself 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. With roughly half of the programme budget covered, initial funding has been adequate, thereby providing the means to deliver assistance to vulnerable groups. However, additional resources are needed to complete the remainder of the programme.

The context

Following sixteen years of war, peace was restored in Mozambique in 1992. The country has been struggling with reconstruction and development since, and while the political situation is stable, inflation under control, and the annual GNP growth around 14%, Mozambique remains one of the 10 poorest 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. In this context the government has taken significant steps to build a sustainable economic base and lower dependency on external aid, while promoting social equity in an effort to reduce poverty. The Government has placed a major emphasis on increasing access to basic health services, and focusing on developing health coverage from the current 40% of the population to 60% by the year 2000.

Latest events

In early March 1999, torrential rains caused severe flooding in the Inhambane province. The main South-North highway was cut off, seriously hampering communications. The flood victims were in need of immediate support involving cover, food, clean water and medical supplies to avoid the spread of malaria and diarrhoea.

The cholera epidemic continued, and spread to the entire country. Some 57,884 cholera cases and 2,059 deaths were recorded between October 1998 and May 1999. Contributory causes were a lack of clean drinking water, high water tables in many urban areas on the coast, and the failure to use latrines.

Malaria was also responsible for 29% of hospital deaths in Mozambique during the January-October 1998 period, with 44% of all consultations in rural hospitals and 57 percent of all admissions to paediatric wards due to malaria.

So far Mozambique has been less seriously affected by HIV than the neighbouring countries, but the infection rate is rising rapidly and it is estimated that 14.7% of the population are carriers (1.2 million adults and 140,000 children).

During this period two international conferences were held in Mozambique: the African Conference on the Use of Children as Soldiers, 19-22 April; and the First Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Treaty, 3-7 May.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

The MRCS continues to suffer from a lack of capacity, and the development plan, based on the society's strategy for 1999-2001, specifies the following priorities:

- { Reinforcing a strong member-based National Society which is able to cover at least the society's basic costs from its own resources.
- { Consolidating MRCS' structures at all levels enabling the National Society to respond more promptly with support to victims of any type of disaster.
- { Supporting the development of communities to reduce their vulnerability, and to improve disaster response capacity through an integrated policy of disaster prevention and preparedness.
- { Consolidating 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.
- { Consolidating 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.
- { Continuing 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.
- { Improving 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; and
- { Improving the management of MRCS volunteers.

During the second quarter of 1999 all programme areas have completed progress reports for the first quarter and initiated the process of planning for year 2000 activities.

After the General Assembly 9-10 April, a 10-day seminar was held for provincial technicians with inputs from all departments.

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; and
- { Revise existing vulnerability and capacity assessments and introduce effective norms and management systems for disaster preparedness.

While annual floods are common in several provinces, the flooding in Inhambane was highly unusual. The provincial delegation and the Headquarters-based Disaster Preparedness (DP) officer organised a relief operation in collaboration with the Areoclube. Once again the MRCS volunteer network enabled the National Society to make a special contribution. Assistance was provided to 7,000 people.

Subsequently the DP officer was involved in planning rehabilitation in the most affected provinces. Draft guidelines on emergency response are being elaborated.

Health w

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

In addition, specific objectives will be on:

{ Raising community knowledge and awareness about basic health care and community development; and

{ Building institutional capacity to implement integrated programmes and response to disaster mitigation.

Standard activities, such as first aid, health education, and door-to-door visits continued. Headquarters staff were tied up more than anticipated in planning and monitoring of the CBHP project in Inhambane. The water and sanitation officer assisted a survey of potential areas for the future CBHP project in Maputo Province (to be supported by Icelandic Red Cross and IceIda).

AIDS sessions were held in 5 provinces. The AIDS officer participated in elaborating the governments strategic plan, followed by a workshop at the MRCS during the visit in early July of an SAPRCS AIDS consultant whose support was arranged by the Regional Health delegate.

During the Chimoio seminar in April the provincial health technicians voiced complaints regarding salary delays and the lack of programme funds for activities. Having experienced these problems for a long period of time, many are disillusioned. It is important to attract longer-term funding for the programme, and to ensure the importance of reporting and on-the-job training in financial management and reporting.

Social welfare w

The general objective is 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 their problems and complementing efforts by the government and other NGOs.

The specific objective of the street children programme is to promote the integration of children in difficult circumstances in the family and community by means of activities at Street Children centres in Maputo and Beira. Normal activities continued at the two centres. The Social Welfare Programme Coordinator represented the Federation in the Conference on Child Soldiers in Maputo and made a presentation.

Youth w

The MRCS Youth programme is integrated into the social welfare programme. The main activity, 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; and

{ Promote assistance to the victims of land mines.

Activities commenced in April. A national seminar for provincial officers was held, as well as 7 local ones for 84 mine awareness agents. About 220 mine awareness sessions were held in 5 provinces. 3 supervisory visits were made by HQ staff and 14 by provincial technicians. 71 amputees were identified in 4 provinces. Meetings were held with Handicap International who wish to transfer the responsibility

for mine awareness activities to the MRCS. The Jaipur Limb Campaign supports an orthopaedic workshop in Gaza Province. 4 technicians returned from 4 months' training in India. The MRCS participated in the Ottawa Conference. An exhibition and theatrical performances on mine awareness were arranged.

Institutional/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; and

- { Disseminate the fundamentals and principles of the Red Cross, and the humanitarian ideals of peace, reconciliation and mutual assistance.

Specific objectives supported by the Federation are to:

- { Consolidate the legal basis of the institution;

- { Develop the operational and management capacity of the MRCS;

- { Improve planning and budgeting procedures; and

- { Develop human resource management and administration systems.

Drafting of legislation and negotiations on the status of MRCS, the emblem and international humanitarian law are ongoing. The MRCS has pledged to finalise this process during the current year. The government is interested in substantial MRCS involvement in the health field (nutritional rehabilitation centres in drought afflicted areas) and ambulance services. Assistance is needed to assess the feasibility of these proposals, and potential involvement in the provision of essential drugs.

The General Assembly which was planned for 1998, but postponed for financial reasons, was held in Chimoio in April, 1999. In addition to the new strategy and revised statutes, a national volunteer and youth policy was approved, as well as a code of conduct for volunteers. There is a still need for a code of conduct for elected bodies as well, to provide guidelines on the management of assets, the need to abide by approved budgets, and the rights and duties of members.

A new Central Commission and Executive Committee were elected. The new Executive Commission has held its first meeting during which the Secretary-General gave a survey of its tasks. The formation of a Resource Development Committee was proposed and approved. In June a visit was made to Swazi Red Cross to learn from the ongoing resource development programme.

On the final evening of the international conference on mines held in Maputo, the MRCS held its annual promotion gala. On 8 May, 2000 primary school children made Red Cross drawings in Maputo's Independence Square.

Other important activities in the ID department were a training course held in Sofala province for 37 participants from the priority districts and Beira on MRCS principles and volunteer management. The information officer was primarily involved in radio programmes and the training of police in IHL. The ID/RD programme continued to suffer from the Director position vacancy.

Outstanding needs

With the programme only near 50% of funding, further support is required if assistance to vulnerable groups is to continue.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The MRCS has established effective relations with the government and key departments, and participates in strategic planning in relevant sectors. Strengthening ties with relevant partners at the

provincial level remains a key objective. The MRCS is a member of LINK, the national NGO network. MRCS activities are the subject of frequent favourable reports in the Mozambican media.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

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MOZAMBIQUE

APPEAL No. 01.20/99

**PLEDGES
RECEIVED**

07/29/99

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	
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CASH

REQUESTED IN				1,488,595	01/01/99	48.1%
APPEAL----- ----->						
BRITISH - RC		80,000	GBP	185,256	03/01/99	WAT/S
CANADIAN - RC/GOVT		120,000	CAD	106,000	02/03/99	HEAL/
DANISH -RC		131,090	DKK	28,197	03/08/99	SCHO/
FINNISH - RC/GOVT		30,274	EUR	48,387	07/07/99	COMM
ICELANDIC - RC		2,000,000	ISK	40,664	04/01/99	ID PR
SWEDISH - RC		315,255	SEK	56,777	02/23/99	SOCIA CHILL
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
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				717,421 CHF		48.19%

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

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	

SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES	0.00 CHF	0.00%
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