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Southern Africa Regional Office Mid-Year Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA63001

30 September 2012

**This report covers the
period 1st January - 30th
June 2012.**

*Volunteer in Namibia capturing data at the
community level using cell phones.
January 2012/ IFRC*



Overview

During the reporting period, the Southern Africa Regional Office (SARO) provided support for disaster management, health and care and National Society development/capacity building for all the 10 southern Africa National Societies. The disaster management programme continued to support the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the regional long-term food security programmes across the region. A food security crisis in the region has escalated in the first half of the year. According to the SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and annual crop forecasting assessments, the crop harvest will be significantly reduced this season. This was confirmed by the latest June 2012 RIASCO Food Security Matrix, prepared jointly by FAO, FEWSNET, OCHA and WFP. While general food security conditions appear favourable, localised acute food insecurity is being experienced in southern Malawi, the semi arid districts of southern and central Mozambique, the southern and western provinces of Zimbabwe, most parts of Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland and some parts of Angola.

Support was also provided in disaster preparedness, disaster response and recovery, disaster risk reduction, food security within the framework of the Zambezi River Basin Initiative (ZRBI) for Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The regional team also provided support to National Societies which were responding to floods that affected a number of countries in the region. This included support within the framework of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for Mozambique (with the subsequent launch of an emergency Appeal), Malawi (floods) and Lesotho in response to the drought situation.

Under the health and care programme, SARO continued to provide support for the health activities within the framework of community based health and first aid, including TB, Malaria, emergency health, water and sanitation, as well as HIV and AIDS.

More collaborative and networking activities, leadership and management development as well as branch development to ensure more effective service delivery to the vulnerable communities was prioritized in the first half of the year. Board induction meetings were held in Botswana, Lesotho and

Malawi and directly supported by the regional office. Partnership meetings were also held in Malawi and Lesotho with Zambia calling for an Extraordinary Annual meeting.

The first half of the year also witnessed numerous challenges within the southern African National Societies. The region is seeing consecutive institutional crises occurring within a number of NS with common traits of unsustainable structures incurring liabilities that burden the NS with debt, slowing down service delivery and threatening to erode asset bases. Incidents of financial mismanagement have undermined donor confidence, partners have withdrawn or withheld funds, morale and reputation have suffered, and many services have grounded to a halt. Further uncertainty, but also opportunity, has been enhanced by sudden changes of NS leadership.

In addition to the change in NS, SARO was also faced with a change of leadership. The regional office relocated from Johannesburg, South Africa, to Gaborone, Botswana. The process of relocation started in February 2012 and was completed in May 2012 with the appointment of a new Regional Representative. Although the office is now well established in Gaborone with a small and efficient team, the Regional Representative took over when donor confidence in the regional office was at its lowest and funding to the region was very limited.

Though many achievements were made in the reporting period, others unfortunately were hampered by the many challenges faced by NS and SARO particularly related to funding.

In response to this challenging environment, all SARO efforts are now directed at turning around this unfortunate situation in the region by regaining donor confidence through strong and visionary NS leadership with systems and procedures in place for effective and efficient service delivery, ensuring harmonised Movement support to NS for improved sustainability, expanding partnerships and diversifying income sources as well as promoting and strengthening NS auxiliary roles. Crucial to achieving these goals are the commitment and willingness of NS to drive the change process and for adequate funding to be availed for SARO to support NS on the road to recovery.

As this is a transition year in the region, this report is directly linked to the regional LTPF. However, references will be made to NS funded activities through the country appeals in this report. In the financial sections, links will be provided for the nine country financial appeals- excluding Zimbabwe which has an IFRC country office and will produce its own report. By 2013, all country appeals will be included in the regional appeal.

Working in partnership

Operational Partners	Agreement
Food and Agriculture Organization	MoU for Namibia and Zambia
Red Cross Movement Partners	MoU with all movement partners working in the region
Southern Africa Development Community SADC	MoU
World Health Organization	Global MoU
International Organization on Migration	MoU in progress
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	Global MoU
European Union –ECHO	MoU
Department for International Development UK (DFID)	MoU
Malaria No More MNM UK	MoU for Malaria in Namibia
UNICEF	Global MoU
REPSSI	MoU Psychosocial support
UNAIDS	MoU HIV/AIDS in South Africa
Eli Lilly pharmaceutical company	Global MoU Tuberculosis projects in Namibia, Malawi and South Africa

Business Line 1: TO RAISE HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	BL	Annual Target ^[1]	Year to Date Actual
Outcome 1: A regional trend report on key humanitarian and development issues is developed and kept updated.			
Output 1.1: Southern Africa regional representation provides analysis on regional context and trends every quarter			
Quarterly regional context and analysis provided quarterly	0%	100%	50%
Output 1.2: Context analysis informs all programming and dialogue with stakeholders and is part of the SMT agenda.			
% of regional analysis forming part of SMT agenda	50%	100%	50%
Outcome 2: A databank of objectively-analysed National Society capacities is established that creates greater self-awareness of their profile at all levels, services, strengths, gaps, and their future potential for boosting their own development			
Output 2.1: The Federation-wide Reporting System and Databank are established in National Societies progressively as follows: 2012 : Uptake by 3 NS in Southern Africa			
Number of Federation reporting Systems and Databank established	0	3	0
Outcome 3: An independently-validated regional peer review mechanism is facilitated to benchmark National Societies and the Secretariat itself			
Output 3.1: NS in Southern Africa participate in the validated peer review mechanism such as the Organisational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process			
Number of NS that have been targeted and agreed to participate in the OCAC process	NA	6	3
Outcome 4: The professional qualifications and competences of staff and volunteers at all levels are strengthened through an international academic network			
Output 4.1: Staff and volunteers of NS in Southern Africa participate in accredited learning systems established by the Secretariat			
Number of NS that have staff or volunteers registered/participate in the accredited learning systems established by the Secretariat	0	10	1

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The region has been working in close collaboration with SADC and the regional UN organizations to get regular up-to-date facts on the humanitarian trends and analyses in the region. Monthly regional analyses are sent to all partners in the region to ensure that the regional situation influences their humanitarian response and activities in the region. The Federation wide reporting databank has not yet been implemented in the NS. This is mainly due to funding constraints presently being experienced in the region. The OCAC process has been explained to five of the 10 NS in the region during support missions to the countries in the first half of this year. Malawi, Mozambique and Swaziland have confirmed that they would like to partake in this process. The Secretariat office in Geneva has been informed and is making plans to support the 3 NS in this process. The accredited online learning system has been promoted amongst all the NS in the region. In Malawi, a health staff was successful in his application for the Postgraduate Certificate in Global Health which is a one year course being conducted by the University of Manchester.

Business Line 2: TO GROW RED CROSS RED CRESCENT SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	BL	Annual Target ^[1]	Year to Date Actual
Outcome 1: Timely quality disaster relief assistance is delivered to people affected and to National Societies, mobilising fully operational regional disaster response teams where required			
Output 1.1: At least 7 out of the 10 NS in the region are able to respond to disasters within 24 hours of occurrence through pre-positioned stocks, NDRT and RDRT and partnership collaboration			
Number of NS that are able to respond to disasters within 24 hours	3	7	5
Output 1.2: At least three NS in the region have established a nationwide psychosocial support service to victims of disasters			
% of NS that have established a nationwide psychosocial support services to victims of disasters	0	3	0
Output 1.3: Effective and trained national and regional disaster response teams are on stand-by in Southern Africa region			
Number of NS with trained National and Regional disaster response teams in place	5	10	5
Outcome 2: Comprehensive technical assistance is provided to National Societies on community level disaster management programming, incorporating disaster risk reduction			
Output 2.1: Community level disaster risk reduction programmes are established in at least 7 NS implementing the Zambezi River Basin Programme Initiative			
Number of DDR programs established	3	7	5
Outcome 3: Comprehensive disaster management database is developed and continuously updated			
Output 3.1: Inputs from all the NS in Southern Africa are incorporated into the Africa wide disaster management database			
Number of NS that have input into the Africa wide disaster Management database	0	10	3
Outcome 4: A southern Africa Plan of Action is developed for strategic engagement with regional and intergovernmental organisations in tackling major disasters and crises			
Output 4.1: Southern Africa regional representation engages with regional bodies and humanitarian agencies (e.g. SADC, UN System Agencies, etc) in tackling major disasters and crises			
Number of agencies that SARO has effectively engaged with on tackling major disasters	4	10	10
Output 4.2: An efficient and effective logistics support is in place both within the secretariat and in National Societies.			
Number of NS with effective logistics support	4	10	6

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The region has been faced with a few disasters in the first half of the year. Mozambique and Malawi experienced floods that resulted in the NS assisting many people who had been displaced. In Malawi, the heavy rains that were experienced in Traditional Authority Mlolo in Nsanje District from 22nd January 2012 resulted in floods where a total of 6,159 people (about 1235 households) were affected. The floods also

affected other institutions including education, agriculture and religion. The MRCS applied for a DREF amounting to CHF 275,993 was approved on 9th February 2012.

In Mozambique **Tropical Storm Dando** hit the southern provinces of Mozambique on the 18th of January 2012, affecting the Southern provinces of Maputo City, Maputo, Gaza (especially Chokwe and Xai-Xai districts) and Inhambane (Zavala district) affecting approximately 49,690 people.¹ Early warning systems were activated and families living in at-risk areas were evacuated wherefore the number of casualties and injured people was low. 774 houses were fully destroyed, 5,670 partially destroyed and 3,800 flooded; 330 classrooms and 21 health centres were damaged. The DREF later evolved into a CHF1,8 million emergency appeal of which 27% coverage was reached by the end of June 2012.

Tropical Cyclone Funso, a category 4 cyclone with winds ranging from 166 to 212km/h and heavy rainfall also hit the Mozambican coastline between 20 and 22 January 2012, affecting approximately 64,781 people (in Zambézia province especially, but also in Nampula province). Damages were particularly high in Zambézia's coastal areas: 4,104 houses were fully destroyed, 9,514 partially destroyed and 4,455 flooded; 202 classrooms and 10 health centres were damaged.

In Lesotho, Through the DREF, the Lesotho Red Cross was able to support 800 Families (4,000 people) most at risk in the nine affected districts. LRCS provided amongst other things food items to 1,030 households, thus a total metric ton provided per item were as follows;

Food items	Total People	Ration/person	Total ration	Tons /month	Total in three months
Maize meal	4000	13.5	54000	54	162
Pulses	4000	1.8	7200	7.2	21.6
Veg oil	4000	0.9	3600	3.6	10.8
Salt	4000	0.45	1800	1.8	5.4

In all these cases, the Red Cross were among the first ones at the disaster areas providing immediate assistance to the affected with a response time within 48 hours. However, due to limited financial resources, the NS volunteers and staff could not respond adequately without the request for financial assistance from the IFRC Secretariat. NS in such cases have been able to provide psychosocial support to the victims and their families. However, no formal nationwide psychosocial support services are available to victims regardless of the geographic areas affected.

In the first six months of 2012, RDRT systems have been very effective in the region with RDRT members being sent to Mozambique from Malawi, Zimbabwe to Lesotho, from Namibia to the IFRC regional office and from Botswana to Swaziland. NDRT have not received further trainings but an RDRT training is planned for to take place in Mozambique November 2012. The region has been able to effectively engage with the humanitarian players in the region. SARO is part of numerous task teams including the RIASCO (Regional Inter Agency Standing Committee). Contact has been initiated with SADC and a workshop on International Disaster Response Law is planned for in October 2012. This 3 day workshop will bring together member states as well as all the NS in the region.

Support from FAO to Namibia and Zambia has strengthened the resilience of the vulnerable communities and households from the risk of food insecurity and agricultural losses caused by seasonal floods. The activities implemented included the provision of agricultural inputs and livestock to communities, mentorship support and capacity building through training of project beneficiaries. In Namibia, a total of 1180 kilograms (10kg per person) of maize seeds and 100 kilograms (5kg per person) of rice seeds were procured and distributed to 118 beneficiary farmers out of 250 targeted beneficiaries. 250 farmers received two trainings, one on Project Management, Early Maturity Varieties, Drought tolerant seeds and Vegetable Management and one on Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, pre- and post- Disaster Risk Preparedness, Prevention and Mitigation through Food Security and Conservation Tillage.

In Zambia, 500 farmers benefited from the distribution of 5kg maize and groundnuts per farmer. Trainings in the above topics were also held in Zambia.

The regional logistics delegate was not replaced following the move from South Africa to Gaborone due to lack of funding. Support to NS logistics department has been through the Zimbabwe country office logistician, who has supported all forms of logistics within the regional office and also the NS.

¹ National Institute of Disaster Management (INGC) January 2012

Business Line 3: TO STRENGTHEN THE SPECIFIC RED CROSS RED CRESCENT CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	BL	Annual Target ^[1]	Year to Date Actual
Outcome 1: Strategy 2020 is rolled out throughout southern Africa, with support provided to National Societies for strategic planning based on S2020			
Output 1.1: By 2014, all NS in Southern Africa have developed Strategic Plans that aims to achieve the objectives of Strategy 2020			
Number of NS that have developed Strategic plans by 2014 to achieve strategy 2020	0%	40%	50%
Outcome 2: Programmes and support mechanisms addressing health and care priorities are developed and improved, enhancing social mobilisation and encouraging volunteering and engagement of youth in RC/RC activities			
Output 2.1: By 2012, HIV and AIDS is fully integrated in all NS health programmes			
Number of NS that have fully integrated HIV-Aids into health	2	10	8
Output 2.2: NS in Southern Africa adopt the CBHFA approach by 2013			
Number of NS that have adopted CBHFA approach	4	10	8
Output 2.3: Each year the total volunteer base in Southern Africa NS is increased by 10% per year			
Number of NS with a 10% increment in volunteer base	NA	10	No data available
Outcome 3: Social cohesion is promoted and situations of discrimination and exclusion are addressed			
Output 3.1: 5 NS in Southern Africa (SARCS, Swaziland RC, Lesotho RC, Zimbabwe RC and Mozambique RC) are each implementing nationwide anti-xenophobia programmes addressing discrimination and exclusion (Ubuntu)			
Number of NS addressing xenophobia	1	5	1
Outcome 4: NS capacities and internal development are strengthened by alignment of assistance to their self-determined needs			
Output 4.1: NS successfully implement leadership and management development programmes, and have put in place systems and procedures for efficient/effective service delivery and accountability			
Number of NS that have successfully implemented leadership and management development	2	10	2
Outcome 5: National Societies are working together more closely in initiatives aimed at peer coaching and sharing of resources for sustainable development			
Output 5.1: NS in Southern Africa work in three (3) sub regional groupings to address priority areas for sustainable development			
Number of functional sub regional groupings	4	4	0

Comments on progress towards outcomes

During this period, the National Societies of Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe have continued community level implementation of CBHFA. Partner National Societies supported the roll-out by ensuring that CBHFA is used as the common approach in community-based health activities. CBHFA was recommended

as the standard approach for community based health interventions under the Zambezi River Basin Initiative. The African First Aid Material was launched in June 2011 by the Belgian Red Cross Flanders. This material can be used by National Societies as an expansion of the CBHFA module that deals with first aid in communities.

All the 10 NS have now fully integrated HIV/AIDS programming into health with the exception of Mozambique Red Cross which still runs a parallel system. 5 NS have developed their Strategic plan and have aligned this to Strategy 2020. Although, Migration remains a huge challenge in the region with South Africa being an economic hub, the Ubuntu proposal has had very little financing and hence NS have not been able to set up effective systems to address xenophobia. However, South Africa Red Cross did respond to a Xenophobic attack in June 2012 by providing shelter and food to over 300 victims.

Regional HIV funding supported the development of the southern Africa Strategic Health plan in place for the first time in the region. A meeting was held in Johannesburg in January for health coordinators to contribute to the strategic focus of the strategy. An experienced and knowledgeable consultant was hired from Australia to facilitate the process and to package the strategic plan. The strategic plan has been finalized and disseminated. In addition, in the first half of the year the refinement of an innovative Regional HIV plan focused on "Bridges and Borders of Southern Africa and the Zambezi River Basin" have been finalized. Plans are underway to share the initiative widely with partners.

SARO supported Zimbabwe RC on an OVC project that has provided support to 260 OVC. Peer educators and Ambassadors of Hope have reached approximately 1,500 people. Educational support has been provided to OVC including uniforms, shoes and schools fees. Further, 1,000 hygiene articles and 76 blankets were also provided to OVC's.

Botswana and Lesotho are implementing the Lars Amundsen funded OVC activities. The projects are on track. In Lesotho, key activities have so far been initiated including a baseline survey, training of 40 volunteers on OVC related issues and 20 lead gardeners. 21 kids clubs have been established, 321 clients under community home based care receiving support, 12 adult support groups running and 537 OVC receiving support in form of educational, material, food and psychosocial. Food security initiatives benefiting PLHIV and OVC were established in the form of keyhole gardens, communal and back yard gardens. Support groups are engaged in income generating activities such as poultry, piggery and cattle ranching.

The Namibia RC was supported with funds to train 60 volunteers on HIV, Gender, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights in three regions. It is projected that with this training the volunteers will contribute to making the communities safe and peaceful through the educational activities targeted at the population.

The OVC working meeting took place in Mozambique from 3-9 June 2012 and the major outcome of the meeting was the finalization of the revised Regional OVC Strategy with focus on Child Protection and participation, family strengthening, demystifying of psychosocial support and clarification of holistic support. The major action points deduced from the meeting were the need to strengthen strategic partnerships and documentation to which NS committed to pursue.

The communities' "Fighting Malaria" campaign is being implemented in Namibia and Angola. The project in Namibia started with a baseline data collection using the Rapid Mobile Phone (RAMP) based survey technology. The rapid spread and use of mobile technology throughout the world offers health programme managers new and exciting means of data collection. The time and monetary costs of data collection can be substantially reduced if mobile phone-based questionnaires are used in place of the traditional paper and pencil method that has been the best practice in health surveys for decades. Over the past few years, the IFRC has worked with partners to develop an innovative approach to de-signing health surveys and improving the timeliness of the data collection cycle. This approach has been named Rapid Mobile Phone-based (or RAMP) survey. The RAMP survey in Namibia helped to provide a survey methodology and operations protocol that enabled Namibia Red Cross in collaboration with the MoH to conduct malaria surveys at reduced costs, in a timely fashion and with limited external technical assistance.

In Namibia and Angola, malaria prevention education was provided through its pool of volunteers based at the grass root level. In Namibia, the project reached 10,680 households and 59,436 beneficiaries and in Angola, the program targeted 105,053 beneficiaries in 21,011 HHs, through household visits by trained volunteers, information dissemination through radio programmes and distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to the households. Overall, the project is contributing towards the national target of reducing morbidity and mortality due to malaria.

The South African Red cross Society (SARCS) MDR TB project contributed to the reduction of human suffering by reducing the number of patients defaulting and to scale up support and follow-up for patients on

MDR TB treatment. In the first half of this year, the project aimed at improving the quality of life and in restoring human dignity for the people affected or infected by MDR TB. This was done through the dedicated team of 36 caregivers and 4 facilitators who work very hard to bring focus and attention to the needs of vulnerable communities. A total of 191 clients were cared for by the care givers. Clinic based DOTs and Home based DOTs are being conducted on a daily basis by the Red Cross caregivers. When patients are diagnosed of having MDR-TB and are placed on injections for 2 months, the caregivers meet the clients on a daily basis at the clinic to ensure they take their injections and medications. If the client is too ill to go to the clinic by him/herself, the caregivers go to the clients house and take them on a wheelchair or by public transport to the clinic for the daily injections and medications (clinic DOTs). Once the client is off the daily injections and is adherent to treatment, the clients is given weekly oral medication to use at home. At this stage the caregivers go to the client's household on a daily basis to ensure adherence (Home-based DOTs). Staff and volunteers facilitate the work of support groups once a week to provide psychosocial support during home visits and refer those who need referral to relevant places.

As part of the leadership development, SARO convened induction meetings for Board members of 3 National Societies, namely, Botswana, Lesotho and Malawi. In addition, there has been a lot of mentoring by the senior management of the region to the Secretaries Generals and NS program coordinators. Also, in terms of peer support, in the first six months of 2012, RDRT systems have been very effective in the region with RDRT members being sent to Mozambique from Malawi, Zimbabwe to Lesotho, Namibia to the IFRC regional office and Botswana to Swaziland.

Business Line 4: TO HEIGHTEN RED CROSS RED CRESCENT INFLUENCE AND SUPPORT FOR OUR WORK

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	BL	Annual Target ^[1]	Year to Date Actual
Outcome 1: National Societies are supported to adopt or amend NS legislation and further develop their auxiliary role, as well as promote and advocate for IDRL and risk reduction law.			
Output 1.1: Every two years, at least two NS incorporate IDRL guidelines into their respective country DP/DRR policies			
Number of NS that have in-cooperated IDRL into their respective country DP/DRR policies	0	2	0
Outcome 2: Resource mobilisation capacities of NS are scaled up, diversifying income sources and expanding partnerships			
Output 2.1: Innovative programmes and new partnerships have resulted into an increase of about 25% in domestically generated funds			
Number of NS with increased funding	0	10	0
Outcome 3: National Societies are supported to develop competences and skills in promoting humanitarian diplomacy			
Output 3.1: The HD Working Group of the Southern African network (SAPRCS) becomes a vehicle for skills development, constructive engagement and resource mobilisation			
Number of NS with effective competencies and skills in Humanitarian diplomacy	1	10	2
Outcome 4: Information and communication strategies support advocacy on behalf of the vulnerable, RC visibility and resource mobilisation			
Output 4.1: All National Societies have Communications Policies			
Number of NS with communication policies in place	2	10	2

Comments on progress towards outcomes

As most countries do not have special laws in place for facilitating and regulating international relief, this result in a common set of problems, including unnecessary taxation or delays at customs, restrictions concerning the use of communication equipment in operations and poor overview of the quality of the assistance delivered to the affected communities. The IDRL delegate together with the SARO held a three day workshop in Gaborone with SADC to sensitize them on the use of IDRL especially in relation to disaster response and disaster preparedness. Although no NS has yet in-cooperated IDRL into their respective country DP/DRR policies, it is envisaged that following a similar workshop in October with all member states in the region, the inclusion of IDRL in country policies will increase.

The region has faced numerous institutional crises and donor confidence was at its lowest in the first half of the year. Supporting National Societies in resource mobilization and promotion of humanitarian diplomacy skills have not yet taken place. The regional office is working with NS to address some of their critical issues. In most NS, SARO is working with them to put robust systems and procedures in place to regain donor confidence and be able to attract funding. In addition, in some of the NS, audits have not been done in years, which make it very difficult to approach new donors. During the restructuring and relocation process of the regional office, the small team that moved to Botswana was without a communication officer. Hence, support to NS on communication issues has been very minimal. Efforts are being made with partners to support the regional office with funding to recruit a communications officer.

Business Line 5: TO DEEPEN OUR TRADITION OF TOGETHERNESS THROUGH JOINT WORKING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	BL	Annual Target ^[1]	Year to Date Actual
<i>Outcome 1: Assistance is aligned among Movement components: National Societies (including PNS), ICRC and the Federation, to optimise the Movement's work and impact at country level</i>			
Output 1.1: All NS in Southern Africa establish new MoUs with their key Movement partners and work together under the auspices of the country, sub regional and regional coordination frameworks			
Number of NS that have revised MoUs with partners	0	10	3
<i>Outcome 2: International cooperation and coordination dialogue is enhanced through regular regional National Society leadership meetings, dialogue platform meetings and other National Society groupings and regional networks</i>			
Output 2.1: NS actively participate in the Southern Africa Partnership of RC (SAPRCS) Network with support from the Regional representation			
All NS participate in the biannual SAPRCS meeting	2	2	0
Output 2.2: Regional Representation facilitates the participation of NS in continent-wide dialogue, meetings and consultations			
Number of NS involved in continent wide dialogue	0	3	1
<i>Outcome 3: Information sharing is promoted through mapping existing capacity gaps and other global initiatives including digital divide, NS databank and the Federation-wide Reporting System</i>			
Output 3.1: Regional Representation actively facilitates the implementation by NS of global initiatives			
Number of NS included in global initiatives	2	10	2
Outcome 4: National Societies increase the quality and impact of their programmes through sound programme management, including timely and quality planning, monitoring and reporting			
Output 4.1: All NS in Southern Africa provides quality reports on time to all major donors with assistance of funded PMER officers			

Number of NS providing quality timely reports	4	10	6
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Comments on progress towards outcomes

In the first half of the year, many of the NS have gone through some sort of institutional crises. Although the recovery process in some cases has not begun, in other NS this has already started and has provided an opportunity and platform for NS to renegotiate their MoU's and/or standing agreement with their partners. This is most especially the case in Malawi, Swaziland and South Africa. With the recovery process taken place, other NS will follow suit in the coming months.

Unfortunately, due to the relocation of the regional office and the appointment of the Regional Representative only in May, 2012, a leadership meeting with the Secretaries General was not held in the first half of the year. Hence, a continent wide dialogue was also not held for the above reasons. However, a SAPRCS meeting had been held as of the time of compiling this report. The meeting brought about discussions on the linkages to the Humanitarian Diplomacy Unit African Union and planning for the next Pan African Conference to be held in Addis Ababa in October 2012. This will be reported upon in the annual report.

On a programmatic level, NS were involved in a continent wide and global dialogue through the preparation 2012 HIV/AIDS conference in Washington. Botswana RC was supported by IFRC to attend the conference having submitted two abstracts. Malawi RC was supported by the Netherlands RC to attend. IFRC secretariat in Geneva also supported a beneficiary of the Masambo funds from Malawi RC to attend the conference. Two abstracts from Malawi RC were selected for the poster presentations. In total, 5 participants attended the conference from the Southern Africa region which was held in July 2012.

The regional representation has been actively involved in linking global organizations with the National Societies. Contact has been made with the International Organization on Migration and we are in the process of drafting an agreement that will better link NS to IOM enabling NS to be better engaged when it comes to migration issues. South Africa Red Cross being the economic hub of SADC, attracts a lot of economic migrants and hence, a lot of dialoguing has been had with South Africa Red Cross, IOM and IFRC.

The regional Representation with the support of the PMER delegate and all other delegates has been working with NS to ensure that quality and timely narrative reports are produced regularly. This reports have improved somewhat, however, a lot of work still needs to be done in this area. Financial reports however, have been delayed in most parts with irregularities in some cases. The regional Finance officers went on technical support missions to Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa in the first half of the year.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

The regional team continued to work through partnerships, networking and collaboration with relevant organizations in the humanitarian and development sphere, resulting in improved preparedness and response in the region and at national level. NS and regional teams carried out joint operations and missions with other partners. This reduced costs made response more effective and efficient.

SARO is a member of the Regional Inter-agency Coordination Support Office (RIACSO) of the UN which is coordinated by OCHA and Southern African Development Community (SADC). Other partnerships at regional level include Famine Early Warning System Information Network (FEWSNET) of the USAID, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Witwatersrand School of Forced Migration and School of Public Health in Johannesburg. The regional team also worked with FAO and WFP on food security initiatives.

All the ten NS continued as members of the national disaster committees, and through these fora, information was shared on early warning, preparedness and response coordination between the different agencies.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
Forging trusting relationships with national society leadership committed to change	High	The regional office will need to continue its support to the National Society' that are committed to a recovery process
Attract long-term donors to support developmental programming and capacity building	Medium	Ongoing process that might take time to achieve
Stabilise and increase the team at Regional Office' to preserve institutional knowledge and relationships and pass skills on to others.	Medium	After the relocation process, the team has remained small, but more staff is needed in Communications and PMER
Increasing donor confidence in the region	High	The regional office continues to dialogue with partners in a transparent manner

Lessons learned and looking ahead

Lessons Learnt

- Trust, confidence and relations building among the National Societies' management and staff, are imperative for the successful achievement of targets.
- Capacity building measures among National Societies' Management and focal points are critical in improving their internal systems and management.
- Essential that NS show commitment to drive the change process with harmonised support from Movement and non-Movement partners.
- Revision of regional LTPF is necessary to include the country strategic plan.
- Activities initially planned within the regional log frames might change due to a lack of funding

Looking ahead

The rest of the year focus is on capacity building, regaining donor confidence and improving NS service delivery. With funding permitting, Governance and Management workshops will be held to try to steer NS back in the right direction. The regional office will ensure to work with all Ns in order to create an enabling environment for movement partners to support and also work.

Crucial to achieving these goals are the commitment and willingness of NS to drive the change process and for adequate funding to be availed for SARO to support NS on the road to recovery.

The Zones support on IDRL issues and the forthcoming workshop with member states, SADC and NS in October 2012 will tremendously help enhance the relationships of mutual respect and collaboration between the national societies, the national governments and the IFRC.

Financial situation

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

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations](#) (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

Contact information

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