

PROGRAMME UPDATE



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

EASTERN AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

20 July 2004

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In Brief

Appeal No. 01.10/2004; Programme Update no. 1; Period covered: January to May 2004;
Appeal coverage: 50.0%; Outstanding needs: CHF 1,706,823 (USD 1,335,000 or EUR 1,107,600).
[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

Appeal target: CHF 3,412,740 (USD 2,563,078 or EUR 2,196,807)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

- [Eritrea: Drought, Emergency Appeal 04/2004](#)¹
- [Madagascar: Cyclone Gafilo, Emergency Appeal 08/2004](#)²

Programme summary:

The regional delegation continued implementing the Strategy for Change notwithstanding the postponement of the decentralization process at Geneva level. Besides maintaining focus on health activities in line with [ARCHI 2010](#)³, scaling up HIV/AIDS activities, food security, and strengthening the capacity of national societies and volunteers' management systems, emphasis is increasingly shifting to activities directly linked to organizational development and the coordination role of the Federation. A prudent start was made with the establishment of the External Relations Unit. The financial situation of the regional delegation is tight, given the level of coverage (see above).

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

¹ Eritrea Drought Appeal - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/0404.pdf

² Madagascar Cyclone Appeal - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/0804a.pdf

³ ARCHI - <http://www.ifrc.org/what/health/archi/>

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct⁴ and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response⁵ in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

The Disaster Management Coordination Unit of the Eastern Africa Regional Delegation (Nairobi) effectively coordinated several disasters in the region during the period: flash floods in Djibouti city, Cyclone Gafilo in Madagascar and a food security assessment in Tanzania. The unit was also involved in monitoring the refugee influx in Burundi, the drought in Kenya and food security in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Human resource constraints hampered the effectiveness of the delegation over the period. This includes departure of the Programme Coordinator in March; this position will only be filled mid-August. A suitable Health and Care Coordinator has not been found since the departure of the incumbent in December 2003.

The position of the Federation Representative in Sudan is still vacant. The capacity of the regional delegation could not effectively respond to the needs of the Sudanese Red Crescent and participating national societies (PNS) active in Sudan, especially in view of the ongoing review process in the national society, the peace process in southern Sudan and the humanitarian crisis in Darfur (western Sudan).

The handover of the Tanzania Refugee Operation to the Spanish Red Cross was completed smoothly. Negotiations on the future role of the Federation in Tanzania and the link to the sub-regional office with the Tanzania Red Cross are ongoing.

The Burundi Red Cross terminated its cooperation with the task force on Burundi. The departure of the Secretary General and the appointment of an acting Secretary General, and a commitment to organize a General Assembly in 2004 has somewhat eased the relationship between the Burundi Red Cross and the Federation. An influx of refugees into Burundi as a result of hostilities in the Democratic Republic of Congo further opened opportunities for an assessment and new contacts.

The regional delegation was instrumental in supporting the Somalia Delegation and the Somali Red Crescent in holding an 'all inclusive meeting' in Djibouti and adopting a new health policy and long term strategy for the national society.

⁴ Code of Conduct - <http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/conduct/code.asp>

⁵ Humanitarian Charter - <http://www.sphereproject.org/>

Health and care

Goal: Support national societies in the region to contribute towards sustainable improvement of overall health of vulnerable communities through provision of quality community based health care programmes.

Objective: Support national societies in the region and consequently vulnerable communities to address their public health needs in a sustainable manner using the ARCHI strategy while at the same time building upon the capacities of national societies to rapidly and effectively address public health needs in emergencies (preparedness and response).

Expected result 1: Technical support within the ARCHI framework has been provided to national societies to scale up health and care initiatives by 2007.

Progress

Through the support from the regional health and care support unit (HCSU) during the period, Ethiopian Red Cross achieved 100% coverage in areas assigned to it during the national measles campaign in Ethiopia.

The health and care unit also supported the Somali Red Crescent in developing its five-year strategic health plan for 2005-2009 and in the development of a training curriculum for traditional birth attendants (TBA) aimed at improving services to pregnant women, for instance early detection and referral of pregnancy related complications. The regional Water and Sanitation (WatSan) Programme Officer/Software⁶ co-facilitated at an introductory PHAST and CHAST⁷ training workshop organized by the German Red Cross and Caritas International in Somalia for 11 Somali Red Crescent staff attached to an EU-funded health and WatSan programme. The regional delegation also supported Somalia Delegation and the national society to document the maternal and child health clinics into a best practice brief.

In Djibouti, the newly recruited Project Coordinator of the integrated health seed project received support in designing a PHAST/ARCHI curriculum that was used to train 20 volunteers who are now undertaking health promotion activities. Technical support was also given in designing monitoring and evaluation tools, baseline survey checklist and the HIV/AIDS peer educators training outline. UNICEF and the Ministry of Health (MoH) will collaborate with the national society in this intervention to access the vulnerable communities in Balbela.

The Sudanese Red Crescent has been supported in developing a proposal and training curriculum for social mobilization. The proposal will assist the national society to carry out house to house social mobilization through its volunteers to access children aged 9 months to 14 years in the 2004 mass measles campaign.

In Eritrea, the national society is receiving support in implementing its five-year integrated health programme focusing on HIV, malaria, sexually transmitted infections and tuberculosis (HAMSET). A peer education programme and training manual have been developed, and technical support provided in integrating malaria prevention in home management training for women in the villages.

The Kenya Red Cross was supported to develop a project proposal for malaria prevention and control interventions for Bureti branch. The Siaya branch of the national society is being supported to integrate tuberculosis management, malaria prevention and WatSan interventions within a family and home based care project. Other support to Kenya Red Cross has included: developing an HIV/AIDS workplace policy for staff and volunteers (endorsed at its General Assembly in May 2004), initiating a commercial HIV/AIDS programme for the corporate sector in partnership with American Red Cross, documenting and launching a best practice case study of the family and home based care of the Mombasa branch, and preparing and submitting an abstract for the International Conference on HIV/AIDS (ICASA) to be held in Bangkok in July .

⁶ 'Software' refers to the planning stage of a project where needs of a community are identified, defined and capacities build in order to promote self-sustainability, ownership.

⁷ PHAST – Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation; CHAST – Children Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation

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Assistance to Malagasy Red Cross resulted in the national society finalizing its HIV/AIDS strategic plan 2004-2006. The national society will also be supported in its participation in the national mass measles campaign for children aged 9 months to 14 years; this will also be the platform for the distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITN).

The Comoros Red Crescent finalized its five years strategic health plan with support from the HCSU. The national society has received partial funding for implementation from the Global Fund on Malaria.

The National Red Cross Societies from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania developed proposals on access to ARV⁸ for staff and volunteers. So far, Kenya and Uganda have developed proposals detailing appropriate models for access to treatment through consultants financed with support from Geneva secretariat and technical assistance from the regional health and care support unit. Ethiopia Red Cross is in the process of finalizing their proposal which was discussed at a stakeholders meeting in June. The Federation has produced a service delivery model on access to care and ARV for PLWHA⁹ to be used by national societies intending to initiate treatment programmes using ARV.

The HCSU continued to support ongoing integrated health seed projects initiated in 2002 in Kenya, Tanzania and Djibouti. The Kajiado integrated health project in Kenya has completed PHAST training and is in the process of incorporating other components including HIV/AIDS and volunteer training on malaria prevention and social mobilization for uptake of ITN. The home based care project of the Siaya branch will be documented into a best practice to provide vital lessons for management of tuberculosis for PLWHA. In Tanzania, the Masasi integrated health seed project will be evaluated in the second half of 2004. It is the intention to document the experience as a best practice as the basis for expansion of similar projects in the region as well as for scaling up ARCHI.

Impact

Improved partnerships with WHO and UNICEF in Ethiopia have led to closer collaboration in community health interventions. This has also opened up possibilities for funding from UN agencies.

The training of TBA in Somalia will improve the national society's service delivery to pregnant women for safe and hygienic deliveries at home. The training will also address the dangers of female genital mutilation by cascading the information to the mothers to gain their support in the crusade against female genital mutilation.

Integrated seed projects are finally responding to the communities' needs who have always presented integrated problems. Interventions in Masasi will contribute to a decrease in malaria morbidity and mortality among children and pregnant women and the social mobilization activities by volunteers has already improved access and utilization of antenatal clinics by 5%. Safe water is now accessible to 583 households in the community.

Constraints

The Ethiopian Ministry of Health has been reluctant to involve Red Cross volunteers in social mobilization for vaccination normally conducted in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF; MoH personnel at community level fear losing their per diem since Red Cross volunteers do ask to be paid for their service.

The integrated projects have only the initial funding. Support, supervision and monitoring of interventions are crucial; continued funding is vital.

Negative cultural beliefs in Somalia are hindering access to intermittent preventive treatment during pregnancy. Female genital mutilation remains widely practiced, posing a risk to safe motherhood.

⁸ ARV – Anti-retroviral treatment

⁹ PLWHA – Persons living with HIV/AIDS

East Africa Regional Programmes; Appeal no. 01.10/2004; Programme Update no. 1

Lack of regular communication with the health focal persons at the Red Cross of Eritrea has hampered information sharing for the identification of areas of support.

The process of identifying a suitable candidate for the Project Coordinator position for Red Crescent of Djibouti delayed commencement of activities for over eight months.

None of the national societies in the region had access to ARV and care for PLWHA in their strategic plan. The Federation Secretariat emphasized that proposals be finalized and submitted to potential donors, which gave both the health and care support and the national societies very little time to plan for the programmes and the initiative as a whole. The HCSU is also faced with a lack of both human and financial resources that has hampered timely provision of technical assistance and coordination to national societies. The Secretariat is now considering allocating funds to HCSU to enable the unit to coordinate the ARV initiatives of national societies.

Expected result 2: Closer coordination and collaboration has been established among national societies through support to the health and care working group of the RC-NET¹⁰.

Progress

The health and care working group of the RC-NET met 16 January in Nairobi to review the HIV/AIDS and malaria activities undertaken in 2003 in the four sub-regions. The group also analysed the current national societies' health policies, structures and human resources capacities. Core thematic areas on which the national societies committed to network in 2004 include; the implementation of the HIV/AIDS workplace pledge made at the last General Assembly, capacity building of national societies in malaria prevention and control, the provision of psychological support, guidance for providing nutritional support for PLWHA and a review of the blood donor recruitment process. The meeting was attended by the core group members representing each of the sub regions namely Seychelles Red Cross for the Indian Ocean Islands, the Sudanese Red Crescent for the Horn of Africa, Uganda Red Cross for East Africa, and Rwandan Red Cross for the Great Lakes region.

The HCSU is acting as the Secretariat for the network and in this capacity, assisted the core group members of the working group in developing a plan of action for 2004 that identifies core activities to be implemented by national societies for the remainder of 2004, namely; two capacity building workshops on malaria and psychological support, development of a guideline for a questionnaire for conducting situation analysis of national societies' blood donor recruitment programmes and capacity building in nutrition for national societies who are implementing home and community based care programmes before commencement of ARV.

Impact

The RC-NET working group has been instrumental in bringing together a wealth of experience and lessons learnt from various national societies. This has enabled the designing of responsive health programmes to address challenges on malaria and HIV/AIDS.

A guideline for mapping national societies' non-remunerated blood donor programmes has been developed to assist in improving existing programmes. A questionnaire for blood donor programme has also been completed by the HCSU and circulated to national societies. A regional workshop planned for the second half of 2004 will equip national societies with focused interventions to actively roll back malaria in line with the Roll Back Malaria initiative.

Constraints

The RC-NET health and care working group has evolved from a purely HIV/AIDS and health-related working group and now encompasses WatSan issues. However, WatSan issues may not have been adequately articulated and it is proposed that the work plan be adapted to accommodate them.

¹⁰ RC-NET – Red Cross Red Crescent Network for Eastern Africa

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Expected result 3: Resources (financial, material and human) have been mobilized for health and care core costs and scaling up of national societies' health and care programmes.

Progress

Active fundraising by the Regional Health and Care Advisor has earned the department funds to undertake various missions. More qualified staff have also been recruited into the HCSU to provide quality technical support for scaling up of national society health and care programmes. A new Health/HIV/AIDS Programme Officer was recruited during the period to enhance the integration process that began in 2003. A HIV/AIDS Manager has also been recruited.

The HCSU has supported the Kenya Red Cross to fundraise for WatSan, HIV/AIDS and health interventions. These include a joint review of the Kajiado integrated health seed project proposal with the Norwegian Red Cross from which a Norwegian based water company has pledged support for the WatSan component for two years at a total cost of CHF 230,000. Considerations for malaria prevention activities have also been included in the WatSan activities as part of sanitation and hygiene promotion activities using PHAST. The Kenya Red Cross has finalized the job description and profile for a Branch Coordinator to take overall management of the project at branch level.

Although the start of the integrated health project in Djibouti was delayed, the project managed to secure CHF 106,000 from DFID¹¹ which facilitated the recruitment of a Project Coordinator. The regional HCSU and the Regional Organizational Development Delegate undertook a joint mission to review project activities and budgets as part of the induction process for the new Project Coordinator.

Constraints

There is a funding deficit of CHF 11,000 for HIV/AIDS components under the Kajiado integrated health seed project. This poses a threat for the implementation of a true integrated health project.

The recruitment of a Project Coordinator for the Djibouti integrated health project took longer than expected, delaying project start up more than eight months. Climatic constraints (excessive heat, floods) hindered the implementation of some of the activities as scheduled. Scaling up project activities and networking with ICRC within the same project area has also presented challenges.

Expected result 4: WatSan is an integral part of health and care in all national societies in the region.

Progress

The regional WatSan unit was involved in the review of the Ethiopian Red Cross WatSan programme that assessed the performance of the branches in implementing the WatSan programme objectives. The feedback helped define improvements for implementation of WatSan programmes. The recommendations were also synthesized with the draft Ethiopian Red Cross WatSan strategy as well as the Federation WatSan policy. The regional WatSan unit also participated in a joint comprehensive project final evaluation of a 16 month WatSan project in Gursum Woreda, Eastern Hararge Zone together with staff from the Ethiopian Red Cross and American Red Cross. The objective was to assess the effectiveness of the project's plans, implementation and management and to document the lessons learned for application to future programming

The regional WatSan unit undertook a field monitoring and support mission to the WatSan projects of the Tanzania Red Cross in Lugufu refugee camp. A substantial amount of technical support has been required over a six months developmental phase and a further 14 months in the operational phase. Water supply systems needs for the refugees in Lugufu 1 and 2 are now entirely being met through the groundwater sources (four boreholes) for a current caseload of 92,617 refugees (58,361 refugees in Lugufu 1 and 34,256 in Lugufu 2).

¹¹ DFID – Department for International Development (U.K. Government)

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Similarly, WatSan is a major component in the refugee camps in Uganda. Findings from a review mission during the period indicate that the construction of rainwater harvesting structures is going on well. Four shelters each with a roof area of 162 square meters and erection of T95 Oxfam tanks have been completed while two T70 Oxfam tanks from the regional WatSan stocks will be donated to the Uganda Red Cross to supplement the existing storage capacity.

The PHAST trainer based in Orukinga refugee camp concluded a training-of-trainers workshop in Nakivale refugee camp for 38 participants drawn from the 17 zones and included selected members from the zones as well as the existing WatSan caretakers. This is a continuous process expected to cascade to the community level where 25 of the 38 trainers will facilitate sessions. The PHAST process should be linked to the rainwater-harvesting programme and in-cooperate capacity-building initiatives for better management of the facilities.

All the integrated health seed projects initiated in the region have components of WatSan. These included the Djibouti integrated health project to provide the community in Balbela with safe and accessible water; the Masasi integrated health seed project in Tanzania that includes training in PHAST methodology; and the Kajiado integrated pilot project in Kenya. Implementation of the five year strategic plan of the Red Cross of Eritrea will incorporate WatSan activities.

Impact

The recommendations from the review of the WatSan Strategy of the Ethiopian Red Cross have been shared with other stakeholders such as the American Red Cross, the Swedish Red Cross and the British Red Cross. This has a potential source for additional funding from these bilateral national societies. Preliminary findings from the WatSan evaluation indicate that the project has met most of its objectives in improving access to water supply and hygiene promotion through PHAST methodology. Community participation and capacity building was achieved in all the project activities.

As a result of the support given to the Tanzania Red Cross projects in Lugufu, there has been a 30% gross reduction in costs for staff, chemicals (coagulants and disinfectants), diesel and oil. As a result, water needs per beneficiary met SPHERE standards at a lower cost. The intervention in Lugufu refugees' camp has prevented outbreaks of major water-related diseases through the health information teams and health promoters of the national society who have mobilized the refugees and host communities through health education campaigns.

Rain water harvesting in Uganda has reduced the running cost for water provision to the refugees from the water trucking system. Interviews with some of the trained refugees indicated that the concepts of better hygiene practices acquired during PHAST training would be well received in the community

Constraints

There are problems of integration in ear-marked funding projects. This problem would be solved by supporting the national societies to develop technically sound proposals that would attract funding to enable recruitment of more personnel and diversify interventions.

The Ethiopian Red Cross is yet to complete the final report of the WatSan review and to incorporate its recommendations into its WatSan strategy.

Low funding levels for WatSan activities (such as hardware¹² facilities and comprehensive follow up of PHAST activities) meant that most of these could not be undertaken thereby limiting the spread over of benefits to a higher number of beneficiaries. The emerging trend whereby the bilateral national societies are engaging directly with the national society has meant a reduced coordination role for the regional delegation. Whereas there are viable

¹² 'Hardware' refers to the structural aspect of a project which involves actual implementation of the needs that have been identified e.g. borehole drilling, latrine construction.

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reasons for bilateralism, there is need to share plans, reports and funding core-costs in order to maintain the coordination.

Expected result 5: Strategic partnerships to address the challenges in public health and technical input for national societies have been developed and promoted.

Progress

The regional delegation has increased its collaboration and has made the existing global partnerships with UN agencies. Immunization activities have been used as an entry point for promoting malaria prevention in some measles campaigns. It has been proven to be cost effective for national society volunteers to distribute ITN during social mobilization for immunization of children.

National societies that have conducted social mobilization for measles immunizations using community-based first aid (CBFA) have been encouraged to partner with their Ministries of Health and UN agencies to scale up community based interventions. The UN agencies look forward to accessing the vulnerable children through the national society community volunteers in countries that have already initiated the 'reaching every district' approach.

The regional delegation coordinated the participation of national societies from Kenya and Uganda at the East African Roll Back Malaria Network and Roll Back Malaria constituency meeting that took place in Nairobi in March. This will support the national societies in planning for integrated activities in routine immunizations and malaria prevention.

The Africa Malaria Advisor visited the Malagasy Red Cross and was instrumental in re-establishing collaboration between the national society, the ministry of health and UN agencies. The national society will further strengthen this partnership through house to house social mobilization by Red Cross volunteers during the upcoming national mass measles campaign. The volunteers will also promote malaria prevention by distributing insecticide treated mosquito nets (ITN) during the measles campaign.

The Somali Red Crescent health staff received training on early detection and correct diagnosis of malaria provided by WHO-Somalia in addition to a donation of diagnostic reagents and microscopes for the health facilities. The national society will also distribute ITN supplied by UNICEF Somalia targeting children below five years and pregnant women. The HCSU has continued to strengthen its linkages with the Somali Aid Coordinating Body by attending the water and infrastructure sectoral meetings and the stakeholders' forums and other related activities. A joint PHAST training undertaken in Somaliland strengthened partnership with the Swiss Caritas group.

With support from the HCSU, the Rwandan Red Cross will partner with WHO/EPI¹³ to pilot a project in accessing unaccompanied minors (UAM) and children from disadvantaged communities (i.e. slum dwellings) to receive routine immunizations and malaria prevention messages and tools. A questionnaire for a baseline survey is currently being developed that will be shared with the national society for input before commencement of the project.

Through the Measles Partnerships Initiative, the Sudanese Red Crescent will receive funds for the participation of its volunteers in the mass measles campaign. The involvement of the volunteers will ensure that vulnerable children in hard to reach areas are accessed. The HCSU will support the national society to develop the proposal and draw up a training curriculum for social mobilization.

NetWas International, a regional training centre in WatSan has requested the WatSan unit to co-facilitate at a regional training on water hygiene and environmental sanitation in disaster and emergency situations to be held in October. The first joint training was held in October 2003 during a regional training on water hygiene and

¹³ EPI – Expanded Programme on Immunization

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environmental sanitation in disaster and emergency situations although the regional WatSan unit has attended annual WatSan conferences organized by NetWas over the past two years.

The HCSU has continued to provide technical support and assistance to national societies to develop meaningful partnerships with networks of PLHWA as a means to reduce HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination and to enhance uptake of HIV/AIDS programmes at community level. The partnership with the Network of PLWHA (NAP+) has served as a spring board in initiating partnership between national societies and national networks and groups of PLWHA. To date partnerships have been developed between PLWHA associations and national societies from Kenya, Uganda, Eritrea, Rwanda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Mauritius (see respective country reports for details on these partnerships).

During the period the regional delegation's HIV/AIDS Partnership Officer participated in the NAP+ strategic plan mid-term review hosted by the Ethiopian Red Cross. A review of the regional delegation/NAP+ work plan for 2003 was undertaken and priorities for 2004 agreed upon.

Impact

UN agencies are now more willing to fund and collaborate with national societies in providing communities with basic health care. The revival of the partnership between Malagasy Red Cross, the Ministry of Health and WHO is expected to lead to closer collaboration. All parties have committed to working together in all relevant areas of malaria control in future.

The involvement of the regional delegation in the review of the strategic plan of NAP+ offered opportunities to explore new directions to strengthen the partnership between national societies and associations of people living with HIV/AIDS; mainly focusing not only on the continuing stigma reduction campaign but also on nutrition, orphan care and support, literacy and community preparedness in support of the Federation's initiative to implement anti retroviral therapy.

Eight National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Sudan, Rwanda and Madagascar) are currently working with PLWHA associations to strengthen and scale up their national responses to HIV/AIDS. Joint training initiatives to build and decentralize capacities of both national societies and NAP+ in advocacy and networking such as the 'Ambassador of Hope' training workshops (attended by Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Eritrea) has resulted in more focused response and better strategies to involve PLWHA thereby making the GIPA¹⁴ principles operational. A leadership and communications skills building workshop during the NAP+ Delegates conference in Pretoria brought together Red Cross and Red Crescent participants from other regions and culminated into a decision being taken to extend the partnership to other regions in Africa. To date there is a likelihood of extending the partnership to Central and West African regions.

Visibility of PLWHA has increased in countries where an 'Ambassador of Hope' mission has taken place (Sudan, Eritrea) through the partnership with national societies. This has also strengthened the contribution of PLWHA and reduced the stigma directed at PLWHA. There has also been continued involvement of PLWHA in the regional delegation's HIV/AIDS workplace programme. Joint Ambassadors of Hope missions in difficult to reach countries like Sudan have succeeded to sensitize and lobby governments on the rights of PLWHA.

Constraints

Limited human resource capacity at national society level and lack of regular communication with the health focal person has prevented effective sharing of information and therefore a missed opportunity for technical support from the HCSU. National societies need to recruit more support staff to assist their health coordinators and health directors with some of the daily routine work to allow them time for consultation with the regional delegation as well as with partner national societies.

¹⁴ GIPA - Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS

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The slow pace in developing collaboration between two different organizations and the willingness for joint activities has been a key challenge in operationalizing the partnership between the national societies and their national PLWHA associations. While the regional delegation and NAP+ are committed to developing the partnership in all the countries in the region, most PLWHA associations are not well structured and organized and do not have enough capacity to enter into meaningful partnership with other stakeholders. Most members of these support organizations do not have access to treatment leading to high morbidity and mortality, which impedes efforts to empower PLWHA and effective implementation of joint activities. Lack of negotiation skills among many PLWHA groups coupled with the glaring stigma and discrimination have also slowed down the development of partnerships.

Expected result 6: HIV/AIDS and reproductive health related issues are integrated in national societies' programmes such as Disaster Management, Organization Development and Information, Communication and promotion of humanitarian values.

Progress

Health personnel from national societies were represented during the RDRT¹⁵ training held in Rwanda in March. The topics covered during the training clearly brought out the need to integrate interventions if the Red Cross Red Crescent hopes to achieve its goal of making a major difference in the health of vulnerable people in Africa through the implementation of ARCHI.

Expected result 7: Continued support given to the Regional Disaster Response team initiative.

Progress

The regional WatSan unit was also involved in short listing participants from the national societies for the RDRT training. The training of more health personnel during the RDRT training in Rwanda will increase the capacity of national societies' health personnel to undertake rapid assessment in emergencies both within their countries as well as during regional deployments to support other operating national societies.

There is increasing acknowledgement of the importance of including health and care issues in disaster response and the HCSU is called upon to either take part in field assessments or make input to emergency response operations or training of national societies' disaster response teams. Examples during the period include the Tanzania Red Cross food insecurity local Appeal. The Rwandan Red Cross WatSan coordinator was the key facilitator for the WatSan components of both the theoretical and practical sessions of the training supported by the Uganda Red Cross WatSan Coordinator based in Mbarara.

Impact

Integration of health and care within the RDRT training has provided field assessment missions with a holistic approach for an effective intervention. This was evident in the Eritrean, Ethiopian and Malagasy assessments. There has been an expansion of technical expertise in WatSan within the RDRT pool through the training of three additional persons from Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia.

Constraints

There is still need for training of more health personnel as members of the RDRT to effectively support assessment missions in the region. National societies need to decentralize beyond headquarters level to utilize personnel at the branch level for sustainable community health interventions.

¹⁵ RDRT – Regional Disaster Response Teams are a cost-effective regional disaster response support system that is entirely staffed by members of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The aim of RDRT is to actively promote building of regional capacities in disaster management.

Expected result 8: National societies in the region have implemented the health HIV/AIDS workplace policies that include access to treatment for staff and volunteers.

Progress

The regional delegation has expanded a comprehensive HIV/AIDS workplace programme it developed for its staff and volunteers to the national societies by facilitating a capacity development workshop for governance, senior management and HIV/Health Coordinators.

Following this, Uganda Red Cross has developed an HIV/AIDS workplace policy for staff and volunteers which is already under implementation. Tanzania Red Cross has also initiated a comprehensive HIV/AIDS work place programme for staff and volunteers including a peer education programme in one camp in Lugufu in collaboration with other partners such as the Ministry of Home Affairs, police officers, environmental protection and employees of UNHCR. Sexual and gender violence are some of the issues discussed during the monthly peer educators forum.

Twenty six (26) of the 53 branches of the Kenya Red Cross are actively implementing the workplace activities. Focal persons have been nominated, knowledge, attitude and practices surveys undertaken and dissemination of information, education and communication (IEC) materials undertaken. A HIV/AIDS workplace policy for staff and volunteers developed with technical assistance from the HCSU was endorsed during the general Assembly in May 2004. The Kenya Red Cross is currently in the process of developing a commercial HIV/AIDS workplace programme with support of the American Red Cross.

The Ethiopian Red Cross has made the HIV/AIDS workplace programme an integral part of its prevention, advocacy and care intervention. An HIV/AIDS workplace policy has been presented to the national society's board for endorsement.

The Tanzania Red Cross and the American Red Cross were supported to develop a project proposal for a programme targeting 400,000 Youth through the "Together We Can" youth peer education concept under a five-year USD 2 million grant from the President Bush Emergency fund for HIV/AIDS. The Rwandan Red Cross undertook a review of its HIV/AIDS strategic plan as well as short review of HIV/AIDS interventions in the country with support from the Regional Medical Advisor.

Impact

The HIV/AIDS workplace programmes has led to more openness in discussing HIV/AIDS issues; breaking of silence around the pandemic and behaviour change among staff and volunteers. This can also be attributed to the participatory process involved in which surveys were administered to staff and volunteers. There is also a marked improvement in the participation of senior management and the leadership in supporting the programme thus giving it more credibility. Some national societies like Uganda have been able to provide treatment to a limited number of volunteers living with HIV/AIDS through the workplace programmes.

The work place programme of the Kenya Red Cross has attracted support from the corporate sector including the French business club in Kenya, and Nestlé Kenya. The national society has also submitted a proposal to the Global Fund for continuation of these activities.

Constraints

Not all national societies who received training policy development for HIV/AIDS in the workplace in 2003 have developed programmes due to lack of human and financial resources.

There has been resistance to the HIV/AIDS workplace programme in Ethiopia especially the issue of condom promotion and distribution among staff and volunteers for religious reasons. Some staff members also feel that the HIV and AIDS workplace programme should be the responsibility of the HIV/AIDS Coordinator.

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Expected result 9: Health and Care components (nutrition, CBFA, WatSan, and HIV/AIDS) are integrated into food security.

Progress

The HCSU provided support to the ongoing CBFA programme in Eritrea. As a component of the five year strategic plan, the Red Cross of Eritrea developed a curriculum for training women in home management to equip them with the necessary knowledge on preserving, preparation and utilization of locally available food. Water trucking is still ongoing in the Anseba Zoba, Shebek region of Hagaz sub Zoba under the relief operation for 8,000 beneficiaries. Other activities include the rehabilitation and construction of boreholes and hand dug wells.

The emergency drought relief operation in Ethiopia was finalized in February 2004 and included the provision of safe water as well as the health education. Some of the water facilities constructed included ten springs, four hand-dug wells and a pond in South Wollo while two springs were completed in West Hararghe. Water committees have been formed at the Kebeles level. 100 volunteers in South Wollo and West Hararghe were trained in the PHAST methodology; an additional 47 volunteers were involved in monitoring the employment generation scheme in South Wollo under the emergency intervention. The 100 volunteers trained in the PHAST technique have already reached out to a total of 4,680 households in South Wollo and 9,120 households in West Hararghe. Thirty four volunteers in South Wollo and 66 in West Hararghe were trained to be involved in sanitary platforms (SanPlat) preparation in their respective Kebeles; one sanplat mould was provided for each Kebeles. To date 340 households have constructed their own latrines increasing the latrine coverage of the Woreda by more than 2%.

The HCSU provided technical support for the WatSan activities funded by the German Red Cross. Fifty traditional wells serving 11,449 families were rehabilitated/ protected, five boreholes catering for more than 588 families drilled and seven haffirs (reservoirs) intended to provide water for about six months for domestic consumption and animal use for 5,360 families were constructed. Five earth dams meant to irrigate 3,070 feddah (hectares) for 4090 families were also rehabilitated.

The unit will coordinate support to national societies in capacity building at country level in nutritional aspects for integration within the home and community based care projects since this is a cornerstone for effective utilization of ARV treatment by PLWHA. The HCSU made a contribution to the food security planning workshop held in Djibouti by the regional disaster management department. This will ensure that health and care components are an integral part of the food security working document.

Impact

The increased supply of water in the communities in Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia has not only alleviated suffering during the drought period but will also improve the health of the population. In Sudan, the rehabilitation and construction of water points and the training of water committees will ensure water security for the communities and sustainability through training for local artisan in maintenance coupled with provision of spare parts and tools for repairs at community level.

Benefits accrued from availability of WatSan services have been better secured through hygiene promotion using the PHAST methodology. Trained volunteers are applying the PHAST methodology to provide regular health education to communities on the major health problems. In Ethiopia, the volunteers are actively assisting the communities to use the step-by-step guide to improve their environment and manage their WatSan facilities, particularly for prevention of diarrhoea diseases.

The home management training by Red Cross of Eritrea will contribute to a reduction in malnutrition of above 20% that has been evident during the relief operations.

Integration of health and care in food security will address the crucial element of nutrition especially for national societies that are implementing home based care projects for PLWHA.

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Constraints

So far CBFA training has been more relief oriented than developmental. There is urgent need to revisit the CBFA training to encourage ownership of the programmes at community level since it is the basis for other training to the volunteers.

Low funding for the regional delegation Appeal has continued to hinder the realization of all the planned activities with specific national societies. National societies continue to request assistance and therefore funding is urgently required to cover for the field missions.

Disaster Management

Goal: To support the capacities of national societies in terms of human resources, materials, systems, procedures, information and partnerships at regional, sub-regional, country and local levels to predict and prevent disasters, to mitigate their impact and to respond and cope with their consequences.

Objective: To strengthen and support appropriate national society capacities in order to provide quality response services to vulnerable communities against common disasters facing the region (food security, political disturbances and population movement, cyclones and seasonal floods; lack of Disaster Policy Plan/Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment).

Expected Result 1: Federation and national society capacities to establish food security programmes at national, sub-regional and regional levels have been improved for Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan and Eritrea by the year 2007

Progress

The Regional disaster management coordination unit convened a three-day food security workshop in Djibouti in March for all food security focal points from national societies in the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia). During the meeting, each national society presented their country risk maps, food security strategies and programmes and discussed potential donor funding and lesson learning. At the end of the workshop, participants developed a sub-regional food security strategy for the Horn of Africa to which national societies committed to make follow up action. Hosting the event in Djibouti increased the profile of the Red Crescent of Djibouti with the government, other humanitarian partners and the general public. The West Africa regional delegation and the Federation Food Security Advisor in Geneva have expressed interest in the sub-regional strategy.

Refer to objective five for the 2004 RDRT training held in Rwanda. The two weeks theory and field practical training had a major focus on household socio-economic security during emergency assessment and included a practical household needs assessment of a neighbouring village.

Following a worsening food security situation in Tanzania, the regional disaster management unit coordinated the deployment of a team to assess the situation in the three worst affected areas in Dodoma, Singida and Shinyanga in March/April. The team was composed of a Food Security Delegate from Harare Regional delegation (East Africa trained RDRT and member of the regional working group on food security), a team leader from the British Red Cross, and two RDRT members from Tanzania Red Cross. The findings recommend close monitoring of the situation, participating in interagency crop and rapid vulnerability assessments and a possible intervention later in the year after the result of the harvest was known. In view of this, the Tanzania Red Cross opted for a local Appeal for targeted assistance towards which the regional disaster management unit provided technical support.

The department supported the Ethiopian Red Cross in identifying a consultant to assist the national society and local consultants in evaluating the 2002-2003 drought relief operation in West Hararghe and South Wollo. A full report is available at the regional delegation. The Ethiopian Red Cross was also assisted in identifying food security programmes to utilise the surplus of funds from the drought operation.

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Support to Kenya Red Cross saw the national society develop a concept sheet for an integrated food security project in Katangi and Masinga division of Machakos district. The department attends the monthly Kenya Red Cross Disaster Management Committee meetings and provides technical inputs to emergency preparedness and food security related issues.

In February, the Rwandan Red Cross was supported through a vulnerability capacity analysis (VCA) process in Butare province to replicate the community based food security project in Gikongoro supported by DFID.

Expected Result 2: The readiness for political disturbances and population movements has been improved (in Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and eventually Burundi by 2007) through developing contingency plans at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

Progress

The regional disaster management department attends regular inter-agency coordination meetings led by OCHA¹⁶. During the period, the department attended two OCHA led regional inter-agency contingency planning workshops, one for the Great Lakes in February and the other for the Horn of Africa in May. Reports on likely scenarios and indicators of these two sub-regions were developed at the workshops and have been circulated to the respective national societies to assist them in developing their preparedness plans (contingency plans). Various contingency planning exercises were also carried out during the March 2004 RDRT training, to assist participants in preparing contingency plans for internal and cross border population movements.

The regional disaster task force coordinated technical input to support the Uganda Red Cross in developing a national Emergency Appeal for internally displaced persons in Northern Uganda in April. A training workshop to reinforce the regional working group for population movement and disaster preparedness plans scheduled for this period was rescheduled to 2005 due funding constraints.

Expected Result 3: The preparedness for seasonal floods and cyclones at national, sub-regional and regional levels has been strengthened in Sudan, Kenya and Seychelles by 2007.

Progress

The Sudanese Red Crescent received technical support to develop a draft concept sheet and agenda for a workshop to establish their national working group on floods that is being supported by the ProVention Consortium. This was followed by a field mission to Sudan to assist the national society and ProVention to plan a second phase for the flood risk reduction project initiated in 2003. An agreement has been reached with UNEP to provide training materials for the Disaster Preparedness training manual of the Sudanese Red Crescent.

The regional Disaster Management Coordinator undertook a joint mission with the Regional Organizational Development delegate to attend the annual planning meeting of the PIROI¹⁷ in February. Discussions were held over the future of PIROI after the French Red Cross scaled down their support in 2006. Meetings were also held with Mauritius Red Cross over their organizational development programme programme and with the Malagasy Red Cross for technical support over cyclone Elita and their plans to distribute emergency food assistance through financial assistance from the French Government.

Technical support was given to the Kenya Red Cross during the floods season in April and May including drafting of an Information Bulletin and news articles, logistics support and requesting a DREF¹⁸ allocation of CHF 50,000 for pre-positioning disaster preparedness stock in flood prone areas.

¹⁶ OCHA – (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

¹⁷ PIROI - Plate-forme d'Intervention Régionale Océan Indien

¹⁸ DREF – Federation Disaster Relief Emergency Fund

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Expected Result 4: Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) analysis for disaster preparedness plans in Rwanda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Eritrea and Seychelles have been undertaken; lobbying with the government and UNDP to establish disaster preparedness policy plans at country levels in Seychelles, Rwanda, Tanzania and Ethiopia has been done.

Progress

The department supported Rwandan Red Cross in its preparations for a community based vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) held in Nyakizu, Butare province in February.

Technical support was provided to the Disaster Preparedness Coordinator of the Seychelles Red Cross to lobby for the role of the national society in the overall national disaster management policy during the final discussions. The discussion was attended by an inter-ministerial delegation and other stakeholders.

The department coordinated the participation of representatives from national societies' from Kenya and Rwanda at the global VCA training-of-trainers' workshop in Spain in June.

Expected Result 5: Improved knowledge sharing, capacity building and skills transfer has been achieved for all 14 national societies by 2007.

Progress

A training-of-trainers workshop on community based disaster preparedness was conducted in Khartoum in January using training material developed in the Pacific region and previously used for a similar session in India. The participants included the Sudanese Red Crescent staff, the Spanish Red Cross and consultants from Khartoum University; they are assisting in preparing the disaster preparedness training manual for the Sudanese Red Crescent.

The regional disaster management department held the 2004 RDRT training in Rwanda in March attended by 26 participants from nine national societies (Sudan, Somalia, Seychelles, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Comoros and Eritrea). This was the third RDRT training and was funded by the British Red Cross, the first two having been held in 2001 and 2003 in Kenya and Ethiopia respectively. Special emphasis was placed in the 2004 training to fill gaps in the RDRT database for relief, health and WatSan. The workshop focused on disaster assessment, reporting, household food economy and coordination and included a week on theory and a week of practical field exercise in Gisenyi. Facilitation was provided by a team from the regional delegation and Rwandan Red Cross. Guest facilitators were from Federation's Disaster Preparedness Policy Department Geneva and ICRC Kigali. The report will be available from the Regional Delegation.

During the period, RDRT-trained staff were deployed to assist in conducting assessments in Madagascar and Tanzania.

The Regional Disaster Preparedness Officer facilitated a disaster management training workshop for 26 branches of the Kenya Red Cross from Rift valley province in Nakuru branch.

The department coordinated the visit of a team to evaluate the DFID-supported disaster reduction programme in East Africa. The visit including field trips to Rwanda, Sudan and Kenya provided an opportunity for the three national societies' staff to consolidate their experiences in implementing disaster risk reduction programmes.

Expected Result 6: Integration of disaster preparedness and response with other regional programmes (health and care, organizational development and promotion of humanitarian values units) has been done by 2007.

Progress

The Regional Disaster Management Coordinator participated at a food security and HIV/AIDS strategic planning meeting held in Johannesburg in January at which issues on an integrated approach disaster preparedness and response were discussed.

Issues on integration features prominently during the 2004 RDRT training and due consideration was given to select participants from a multidisciplinary pool of national societies staff from health, WatSan, logistics/IT, communication/information and relief.

A close working relationship was maintained with other departments in the regional delegation for an integrated approach to the support to national societies. Regular disaster task force meetings were coordinated with other regional departments for Madagascar cyclone, Tanzania food insecurity, Djibouti floods and for the review of the Eritrea drought Appeal and Madagascar cyclone.

Expected Result 7: Networking has been improved with external key organizations e.g. government, UN agencies and NGOs.

Progress

Close cooperation was maintained with ProVention¹⁹ in the development of a second phase of the flood risk reduction programme in Sudan.

The regional disaster management coordination unit was represented at the launch of Global Disaster Risk report by UNDP in Nairobi. Communication was maintained with UNEP concerning environmental policy additions to the flood risk reduction programme in Sudan as well as new funding possibilities for refugee projects in West Africa. Initial discussions were held with ECHO²⁰ regional office over the possibility for thematic funding for natural disaster preparedness for the Federation. The department also coordinated the visit of the Fritz Institute Chief Logistics Officer to Ethiopia and Kenya.

Continued good relations were maintained with OCHA, UN agencies and donor organizations through the two contingency planning events and the bi monthly information sharing events. The department co-chaired two inter-agency working group meetings for disaster preparedness attended by international NGO and the UN agencies based in Nairobi, and also participated in monthly meetings and workshops of the sub-groups on disaster preparedness, logistics and telecommunication. Contributions were made in the SPHERE project consultation meeting in Nairobi.

Expected Result 8: Coordination, training and technical support has been improved to increase national society capacities in logistics to enhance self-reliance in procurement, warehousing, fleet management, and logistics relief

Progress

A regional logistics strategic plan was drafted during the period for fund raising purposes. The Regional Logistics Officer undertook a follow up mission in February to support Uganda Red Cross with the review of its fleet management and procurement system. The mission drew recommendations for the vehicle pool system, vehicle management guidelines and human resources requirements and capacities for logistics.

¹⁹ The ProVention Consortium, currently hosted by the International Federation is a global partnership of governments, international organizations, academic institutions, the private sector and civil society dedicated to increasing the safety of vulnerable communities and to reducing the impacts of disasters in developing countries.

²⁰ ECHO - European Community Humanitarian Office

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Several national societies were supported in procurement during the period: the Red Cross Society of Eritrea for relief items for the drought operation; Sudanese Red Crescent for telecommunication equipment, Uganda Red Cross for vehicles; Seychelles Red Cross for tents, first aid kits and stickers; Malagasy Red Cross for relief items for Cyclone Gafilo operation; Red Crescent of Djibouti for the floods operation; and finally and Kenya Red Cross for the floods operation. Assistance was also accorded to the Malagasy Red Cross Logistics Officer clear the relief items for the cyclone operation.

Expected Result 9: Information technology and telecommunication co-ordination, training and technical support has been undertaken to enhance national societies' self-reliance in information technology and telecommunication (annual event).

Progress

The Ethiopian Red Cross was assisted to improve their internet connectivity, email system and computer network system. The procurement of the necessary equipment is now in progress. The Sudanese Red Crescent was supported in the procurement of HF radios.

With the support of the Netherlands Red Cross, the Regional Telecom Manager undertook a mission to the Red Cross of Eritrea in March to assess the level of staff IT skills and to design an appropriate computer training programme. A radio network design for the national society's ambulances service and branch communications system was also developed during the mission.

A number of missions were undertaken to assist the Kenya Red Cross for computer support, to design a branch email system, and to update and install HF radio stations in the branches as part of disaster preparedness in the advent of the flooding season in April and May. Six existing stations were repaired/upgraded and 11 new stations set up. HF radios were also installed in seven vehicles.

During a mission to Rwandan Red Cross in April, the Regional Telecom Manager assisted the national society in establishing a partnership with ICRC for setting up a radio network. The national society's computer and email networks were overhauled and a proposal for their upgrade developed as well as a plan for the handing over of IT and telecom equipment from the delegation to the national society.

Humanitarian values

Goal: Red Cross Red Crescent Principles and Humanitarian Values are known and respected throughout the region; discrimination against vulnerable groups is reduced.

Objective: The Regional Information Unit developed the potential of the Communications Forum to respond to humanitarian emergencies; increased the capacity of its national societies to promote Red Cross Red Crescent Principles and Humanitarian Values in the Eastern African region; increased tolerance, and reduced vulnerability through anti-stigma and anti-discrimination campaigns.

Progress

Expected result 1: The development and capacity building of national society information units to meet minimum technical, professional and human resources standards, as approved by RC-NET has been completed.

The Regional Information Delegate together with the Kenya Red Cross and ICRC counterparts organized the third Regional Communications Forum in Nairobi in April. For the first time ever the event was attended by counterparts from European national societies (British Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross) as a measure to better use Federation's resources in the development of national societies from the region. Guest

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facilitator at the meeting included representatives from IRIN²¹, UNHCR and the Reuters Chief Photographer for Central and East Africa. The exchange programme between Ethiopia Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross facilitated by the Regional Information Delegate and the Head of the Media Service in Geneva in which the Norwegian Red Cross information delegate undertook a coaching mission to Ethiopia was used as a case study during the meeting. As a measure to further consolidate good coordination and collaboration, half of the Forum was hosted at the ICRC premises and the second part at the Federation's regional delegation premises. A Secretariat Media Service counterpart also attended the meeting. A full report on the Forum is available at the regional delegation.

The regional information delegate participated in facilitating information and humanitarian values sessions during the RDRT training in Rwanda in May.

Contribution of articles from within the region increased substantially; articles are signed by national society Information Officers and posted on the Federation web site. The Regional Information Delegate acts as manager, advisor and editor. A second and last editing as well as posting is performed by the Press Officer in Geneva covering Africa.

Impact

The Regional Communications Forum has become a major event on national societies' agenda. It is also perceived as a strategic lever which enables the RC-NET to make decisions that will strengthen and harmonise communications and promotion of humanitarian values across the region. During this year's meeting, a customized job description for national society information officers was discussed, amended and unanimously adopted. The job description has an annex which specifies the basic needs for information units to perform effectively. This document, along with recommendations of the meeting was presented to the RC-NET during the regional partnership meeting held in Nairobi in June.

The participation of European counterparts at the meeting has opened up opportunities for closer collaboration with national societies from the region. Communication with these counterparts indicates that they are already undertaking advocacy for the allocation of a certain percentage of their national societies' donations towards the development of activities for information and humanitarian values. It is hoped that this approach would help ease the present burden covering the annual budget of the regional information unit as well as the needs of the national society information units in the Eastern African region. As a direct outcome of the presentation of the partnership between the Ethiopian Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross, the British Red Cross Head of Press Unit has pledged to initiate a similar relationship with the Uganda Red Cross Information Officer.

The forum provided national societies' information officers opportunity to share regional contacts to establish and build stronger links with IRIN correspondents in their respective countries. Positive contacts are already building between IRIN correspondents and Red Cross press officers in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Occasional contacts also take place in other countries as well.

Reuters has expressed their intention to develop a regional network of stringers for digital photography. There is opportunity within this arrangement for national society's information officers submit their photographs to be posted on the Reuters web site. It is hoped that these and other measures will act as an encouraging and motivating factor for them.

Constraints

Although many more Press Officers from Europe expressed interest in attending the Regional Communications Forum, they were unable to make it due to tight schedules. Earlier planning and advance invitations will be made in future to make it possible for more to attend.

²¹ IRIN – Integrated Regional Information Network (UN system)

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Despite the improvement both in performance and capacity of some of the information units at headquarters level, national societies lack capacity at branch level which makes it difficult to cover events and share them with the Regional Information Unit in a timely manner. The Kenya Red Cross has taken a lead in training and equipping key branch personnel as focal points for information. This experience will serve as a case study at the next Regional Communications Forum.

Recent reductions in staff at media service in Geneva in the wake of the Federation Change strategy have increased the burden on the few remaining staff. Ways of enabling the Nairobi Regional Information Unit to post articles on the Africa News page of the Secretariat's web site could be one avenue of easing the workload and at the same time ensuring that the site is updated frequently.

Staff-on-loan-type assignments of national society information officers to the Regional Information Unit were postponed to the second half of the year due to insufficient budgetary coverage of the unit. The British Red Cross has indicated its interest in supporting this activity in the coming period.

The representation of information officers in the RDRT is still low. Measures will be taken to increase the number of information officers at the RDRT training. The next Communications Forum task force will also undertake to prepare a draft Terms of Reference for the deployment of national society information officers in regional small and medium scale disasters.

Expected result 2: Cooperation between national society information units on bilateral, sub regional and regional level has been formalised.

The Regional Communications Forum has contributed to strengthening regional collaboration between national society information units. Visits by press officers from the British Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross to Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya also contributed to consolidating the image and perception of the information units within a national society.

The Regional Information Delegate undertook coaching missions to Rwanda and Kenya at the request of the respective national societies. These visits also coincided with specific events, for instance the 10th anniversary of the Rwanda Genocide and the RDRT training which also broadened the scope of the missions.

Constraints

There is still no clear framework for cross border cooperation for national societies in information/promotion of humanitarian values. Exchanges take place on ad-hoc than planned basis. The next Regional Communications Forum Task Force will among others address this issue and offer a road map for improvement.

Limited time and funding constraints made it impossible for the regional information delegate to undertake missions to Eritrea, Madagascar and Sudan. These have been deferred to the second half of the year should the funding situation improve.

Expected result 3: Red Cross Red Crescent responses to emergencies have been professionally promoted and received appropriate coverage at national, regional and international levels.

National societies' information officer provided support to the regional disaster management coordination unit during a number of disasters that struck the region. This included the flash floods in Djibouti, cyclone Gafilo in Madagascar, a food security assessment in Tanzania and floods in Kenya. Support was also provided for the food security operations in Ethiopia and Eritrea, as well as operations for internally displaced persons in Northern Uganda.

Impact

The regional delegation displayed an unprecedented cohesion in responding to emergency situations coordinated by an emergency response task force. Each emergency situation provided training as well as learning opportunities for the information counterparts. This corresponds to the development approach set by the Regional Information

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Delegate which emphasizes the benefits of 'learning on the task' rather than in a class room. The effectiveness of the coaching support to national societies' information officers was proven through the coverage of emergencies and disasters during the period as outlined above.

Constraints

The absence of information resources at branches presented a challenge gathering and transmitting information rapidly. Information officers are not always included in emergency response task forces – in many cases field missions include all specialities but information and reporting. These obstacles issues were among those widely debated during the recent Regional Communications Forum and recommendations presented to the RC-NET.

Expected result 4: Red Cross Red Crescent campaigns, events and regional programmes have been given consistent visibility through an integrated, well-structured approach.

At the request of the Secretary General, the Regional Information Delegate accomplished two missions to assist the Rwandan Red Cross Information Officer in the preparation and coverage of 10th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide. The event was not only a major event for Rwanda but for the entire world. During the event, several regional correspondents among them the Head of DPA (German news agency) and Reuters Chief Photographer visited and covered the national society's programmes.

World Red Cross Red Crescent Day (8 May) was celebrated throughout the region. The press kits prepared by Geneva were shared with the counterparts in the region. Eleven counterparts shared relevant information with the regional information unit making East Africa the best represented on the special web page covering the events. The events focused on health issues, particularly on the Federation's and national societies' work with networks of PLWHA. The close cooperation with the regional health unit contributed to increase the visibility of PLWHA among them the coverage of the 'Ambassador of Hope' missions to Sudan and Eritrea. Several best practices brochures were also produced.

A total of 18 articles and press releases as well as a photo gallery were posted on the Federation web site during the period. Additionally, a number of regional press releases and media briefs were issued and documents and images posted on Reuters AlertNet web site. Many of the productions of the regional information unit were quoted by IRIN and excerpts used by UN Relief web and other regional news web sites (in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Rwanda and South Africa).

The regional information delegate made a consistent contribution to the Lake Victoria Partnership covering Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. An article for the Red Cross Red Crescent Magazine introducing the Lake Victoria Initiative and focusing on health issues was finalised following a series of field trips conducted together with colleagues from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and the Swedish Red Cross Desk Officer for East Africa.

Impact

The relationship with the Rwandan counterparts was further improved during these two missions. Despite numerous obstacles a series of articles highlighting the achievements of the Rwandan Red Cross as well as the needs of the most vulnerable sections of the population particularly orphans and widows were produced and posted on the Federation's web site. Images from a photo gallery produced during these missions were widely used by member national societies such as the Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross.

For the first time ever, the successful work of the Kenya Red Cross and Federation in a Muslim community was documented as a best practise document. Articles and a video documentary were produced to assist in breaking some of the barriers, stigma and taboos surrounding the HIV/AIDS issue. A similar document describing the health activities of the Somali Red Crescent was also produced.

The article produced for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Magazine on the Lake Victoria Initiative will ensure global visibility for this ten-year programme supported by the Swedish Red Cross.

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Constraints

The decision of the ICRC to have a 'reactive attitude' during the commemoration of the Rwandan genocide was adopted both by the Rwandan Red Cross and the Federation. It was however misunderstood in the sense that articles and media contacts were kept to a limited level. This diminished the possibility to profile the national society as it deserved. The position of the regional delegation was that while national societies across the world marked the event visibly but respectfully, the Rwandan Red Cross risked to be perceived as having nothing to say. When confronted with such events, establishing an open dialogue with Movement²² partners as early as possible could solve most of the problems and confusion encountered.

Due to time constraints it was impossible to accomplish joint health-information missions as planned. These joint missions which were to be conducted along with health and information counterparts from national societies were expected to serve as an example of the integrated approach and strengthen the relationship between the two counterparts. At least one such mission should be successfully accomplished during the second period.

The regional delegation has extremely limited funds for visibility materials such as brochures, leaflets, posters or videos. The decentralisation process brought forward notions like 'regional marketing' and 'aggressive regional external relations' in view of establishing partnerships with the corporate sector. The absence of a clear marketing policy and adequate budgeting are serious obstacles in the effort to promote national societies and the Federation in the region.

Expected 5: The cooperation with the ICRC in the field of dissemination and promotion of humanitarian values has increased.

Following a press officers meeting held by ICRC in Nairobi in November 2003, the Regional Communication Forum served to consolidate the relationship with ICRC in the region. The forum had extensive sessions covering dissemination of international humanitarian law and promotion of humanitarian values by the various components of the Movement. Contacts with ICRC cooperation counterparts in Rwanda and Ethiopia remained cordial.

Impact

The good relationship between ICRC and Federation had a positive impact on the network of counterparts in the region. For example, the issue of information officers sponsored by ICRC was openly discussed during the Regional Communications Forum which concluded that information officers are part of their respective national society structures and as such directly reporting to their Secretary General. Consequently, open and professional relations with both ICRC and the Federation should provide the necessary information needed by counterparts within the Movement.

The regional information delegate has twice facilitated session on Federation challenges and priorities during ICRC induction courses. This is also an excellent opportunity to promote a Movement attitude among the new recruits of the ICRC, as well as to try and sensitize them on subjects such as information and humanitarian values.

Constraints

In almost each of the 14 countries served by the Nairobi regional delegation there are at three ICRC Information, Communications and Cooperation counterparts to the Regional Information Delegate in addition to their respective assistants. This makes it practically impossible for the regional information delegate to establish a minimum relationship with the ICRC Delegates across the region.

The ICRC and the Federation have a different geographic division of the continent. Whilst from Nairobi the Federation covers 14 countries in East Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Indian Ocean islands, the ICRC Nairobi covers only three countries (Djibouti, Kenya and Tanzania). The Indian Ocean islands are covered by ICRC Pretoria, while the other countries have individual delegations. The challenge in working together is obvious.

²² 'Movement' refers to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Organizational Development

Goal: Red Cross and Red Crescent societies maintain a high profile in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable

Objective: National societies have the necessary structures and systems in place to respond to clearly identified community needs

Progress

The Regional Organizational Development Delegate has provided support to other departments within the regional delegation as part of promoting an integrated approach to the assistance to national societies. The health and care support unit was supported in integrating a pilot health project into the existing capacity building activities of the Red Crescent of Djibouti. Regular support was also given to the Regional Disaster Management Unit in carrying out an assessment following the floods in Djibouti in April, and drafting an Emergency Appeal following Cyclone Gafilo in Madagascar. As the focal point for the Indian Ocean Islands, the Regional Organizational Development Delegate has been providing support to the Malagasy Red Cross and the Federation Relief Delegate deployed to assist the national society in implementing the ensuing Cyclone Gafilo operation.

Expected result 1: National society statutes are revised and applied, in conformity with Federation guidelines, in Sudan and Somalia by 2007.

Progress

The prevailing political situation in Somalia prevents the Somali Red Crescent from operating in conformity with its existing statutes or from revising them. However progress is being made at branch level where the regional organizational development delegate assisted the national society's leadership in establishing systems and procedures for the effective implementation of programmes at branch level. A training programme for the newly established Executive Committee was also drafted.

Following continuous advice and support to the Somali Red Crescent in the drafting of its Strategic Plan in the first half of 2004, the document was presented and approved at an all inclusive meeting of the Somali Red Crescent held in Djibouti in May. For further details on this process, please refer to Annual Appeal Programme Update no. 2 on the website: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/01050402.pdf.

Support was also given to the national societies in Kenya and Rwanda over the revision of their Statutes. The Delegate also provided support to the Red Cross of Eritrea as it initiated its Cooperation Assistance Strategy process.

Expected result 2: Human Resource policies are in place in Ethiopia and Somalia by 2005 and in Burundi, Tanzania and Sudan by 2007.

Progress

The Somali Red Crescent received technical advice in the finalization of its volunteer policy and guidelines. This was analysed during work group sessions at the all inclusive meeting in Djibouti and subsequently approved. This will be followed up with support during the second half of the year in designing some of the procedures for its implementation.

Advice was also given to the Ethiopian Red Cross and the country delegation in finalizing the terms of reference for a human resource survey initiated in the first half of the year.

Impact

The regional organizational development unit has increasingly become recognized as a resource by national societies in the Horn of Africa. The Somali Red Crescent has made considerable progress in implementing its

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2004 Plan of Action. Regular coaching of the national society's leadership has built up their confidence and encouraged a more proactive approach to capacity building.

Support to other departments within the regional delegation has seen aspects of capacity building and organizational development taken into account in their support to implementation of activities within the national societies.

Constraints

The delayed implementation of the new sub-regional offices for the Horn of Africa, coupled with a number of senior level vacancies in delegations has resulted in a significant increase in requests to support capacity building of national societies. It is sometimes difficult for one Organizational Development Delegate to give the efficiency and quality of support needed to respond to these requests. The lack of French speaking skills within the delegation meant that the Delegate had to become more involved in responding to Djibouti floods and setting up the Cyclone Gafilo Operation. This further reduced the time available to respond to organizational development/capacity building requests from other national societies.

Coordination, Cooperation, and Strategic Partnerships

Goal: To establish an effective Coordination and Cooperation role for the regional delegation and the implementation of strategic partnerships in the region.

Objective: The regional delegation's responsibility for coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships both at regional and sub regional level is acknowledged and supported by all national societies in the region.

Expected result 1: Experienced delegates responsible for implementing the objectives in three sub regions are in place.

Progress

Wide consultations were held with the national societies to be covered under the proposed Horn of Africa sub-region (Eritrea, Sudan, Djibouti, and Ethiopia) and the Indian Ocean Islands sub-region (Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, and Comoros) as well as with Movement partners. The position of Head of the Sudan Delegation is still vacant and the recruitment process is ongoing while the present Heads of Eritrea and Ethiopia Delegations end their missions in June and August respectively.

A concept paper for the Indian Ocean sub-regional office has been developed and circulated to Movement partners. However, in line with the strict financial procedures of the Secretariat, the advertisements of the positions for the heads of the two sub-regions have been delayed because the budgets should be secured in advance.

Several key changes in the regional team are coming in the next few months that will affect the work in the regional delegation and impact the region. The Head of the Regional Delegation completed her mission in June; a successor is yet to be identified. The Transition Manager ended his mission in July. The position of a Regional Programme Coordinator was filled in August while the recruitment of a Regional Health and Care Coordinator is still going on.

The mission of the Head of Tanzania delegation ended in July but will not be replaced. Instead, oversight responsibility will be handed over to the Head of the East Africa sub-region until future Federation support for Tanzania is agreed with the national society. The same will apply for Burundi since it was being handled by the Head of Nairobi Regional delegation whose mission ended in June.

Finally, the Head of Somalia Delegation has been appointed Head of the sub-regional office in Amman. Consequently the position has been advertised.

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Expected result 2: The Co-operation Agreement Strategy (CAS) documents for all national societies are in place and regularly updated.

Progress

The Red Cross of Eritrea has begun the process of initiating a CAS. The process of updating of the CAS for the three national societies under the East Africa sub regional office (Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda) has commenced and the process will be concluded in the second half of the year.

Expected result 3: All international and inter-regional cooperation have been properly documented and standard cooperation, service or other agreements are in common use.

Progress

Initial discussions have been held over a proposed collaboration between WHO/EPI and the Red Cross in accessing children in slums and disadvantaged communities for routine immunization. WHO is currently working on a concept paper that will be finalized with input from the regional delegation prior to sharing with national societies of Kenya and Rwanda identified for piloting the project. These pilot projects will combine immunization and malaria prevention and control activities.

As part of the partnership with PLWHA groups, the Regional HIV/AIDS Partnership Officer assisted the NAP+ to finalize a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Coca-Cola Foundation-Africa. The MoU was signed during a strategic planning review workshop held in Addis Ababa in March and focuses on accelerating the uptake of the Greater Involvement of People living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) among the private sector. It will enable Coca-Cola to provide employment to NAP+ members in all countries where it has bottling plants in Africa while NAP+ members will be engaged as counsellors to provide psychosocial support to staff and casual employees of the Coca-Cola bottling plants. Coca-Cola will also ensure that the PLWHA staff and volunteers from NAP+ national networks are provided with ARV drugs to prolong and improve the quality of their lives, thereby improving their productivity at the work place.

The Federation was represented by the national societies of Uganda, Kenya, Zambia and Senegal, the Nairobi regional delegation and the Federation's Africa Malaria Advisor at both the sixth East African Roll back Malaria Network (EARN) and East Africa NGO constituency roll back malaria meeting. The NGO constituency meeting brought together UN agencies, international and local NGO and the Ministries of Health who implement/coordinate and resource funds for malaria interventions. EARN is a sub-regional network of the Roll Back Malaria Secretariat that comprises organizations with a regional coverage.

Expected result 4: The RC-NET task force meets regularly and discusses the policies and priorities of the regional delegation.

Progress

The board of the RC-NET held its first meeting of the year in January to discuss major changes that will occur in the region this year and to prepare and set the agenda for the regional partnership meeting held in June. Issues discussed included the change of Head of Regional delegation, the future of the RC-NET, the elections of the RC-NET board, preparation of the Pan African Conference in September 2004 and the future challenges for Africa. The financial situation of the network has improved significantly although many 2003 contributions remain to be paid. The RC-NET is also closely following some national societies with integrity and succession concerns and a plan has been drawn up for peer pressure and early interventions before issues reach crisis levels. The minutes of the meeting were circulated to all stakeholders in both English and French.

Refer to the health and care section for a meeting of the health and care working group of the RC-NET in Nairobi in January 16 at which the developed the 2004 plan of action.

Effective Representation and Advocacy

Goal: Effective advocacy, communications and external relations at regional level.

Objective: To increase the visibility and influence of the Red Cross Red Crescent's humanitarian agenda at the regional level and to profile Federation in targeted international organizations, with special focus on disaster preparedness/risk reduction, HIV/AIDS, respect for Red Cross principles/humanitarian values and reducing stigma and discrimination.

Expected result 1: Relevant international organizations and agencies are regularly informed on the work, positions and responsibilities of the Federation and national societies in the region.

Progress

The regional delegation continued its active participation in OCHA meetings on the preparation and launch of the OCHA consolidated Appeal. An External Relations Officer recruited in May is drafting a strategy for the external relations unit and will including priority organizations with whom the regional delegation will strengthen contacts. In the mean time the bi-weekly newsletter which is distributed to a wide range of organizations in the region and abroad remained the main source of information on the activities of the regional delegation

Expected result 2: The regional delegation issues position papers on regional subjects in liaison with relevant department in Geneva and Africa.

Progress

A number of position papers were prepared by the regional delegation, most of them for the facilitation of the regional partnership meeting. Among these was a paper on the upcoming UN peace conference for the Great Lakes through which national societies were informed on the position of the regional delegation and humanitarian issues that they could take up with their governments in view of the preparation for this conference.

Impact

The international representation and external relations functions of the regional delegation continued at the same level and ad hoc basis as in the previous period. The expected additional impact of the external relations unit has been limited as a result of the late recruitment of the external relations officer. Furthermore, the position is on a consultancy basis due to uncertainty in funding.

Constraints

The late recruitment of an External Relations Officer has delayed the development of the external relations unit and the implementation of activities. The sustainability of the unit is still uncertain since the budget for international representation is only 16% covered.

International Disaster Response

Goal: To respond in an effective and timely manner to rapid, slow-onset and 'forgotten' disasters in line with the Seville Agreement and within the capacity of the affected national societies, the regional and the international resources of the Federation.

Objective: To build and maintain capacity at the regional delegation and national societies' levels to provide effective early warning, disaster assessment and disaster response and coordination at regional and international level with the Secretariat in Geneva.

Expected result 1: Emerging disasters in the region are tracked, key parties provided with rapid and accurate information, and ongoing disaster operations are monitored and key actions taken in a timely manner.

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Progress

Close communication was maintained between PIROI and the Regional Disaster Task Force to track cyclones Darius, Elita and Gafilo, and monitor the activity of the volcano "Karthala" in Grande Comoros. The drought situation in Tanzania was closely monitored through communication with the Tanzania Red Cross and FEWSNET²³. Due to good coordination mechanism, the floods in Kenya were well monitored but the floods in Djibouti were totally unexpected and caught everyone by surprise. Disaster Management Information Systems (DMIS) heads up alerts were posted for Madagascar and Djibouti.

The department worked closely with the regional information and reporting units for external communication: three Information Bulletins were posted for Madagascar cyclone, three for Djibouti floods, one for Tanzania food insecurity and two for Kenya floods. Four news/press releases or articles were posted for Eritrea drought, three for Madagascar floods, and one each for the floods in Djibouti and Kenya respectively. An Operations Update for each Emergency Appeal was processed in coordination with the department, namely; Sudan and Eritrea droughts, and Madagascar cyclone. Final reports for Ethiopia drought and Sudan drought and an interim final report for Kassala floods were also prepared during the period for posting in the Federation website

Expected result 2: Appropriate and timely assessments are implemented and operational planning and appeal preparation providing from the reports. Rapid deployment of RDRT and FACT²⁴ teams in consultation with the Disaster Management and Coordination Division in Geneva.

Progress

A two person assessment team comprised of a FACT leader from Mozambique delegation and an RDRT member from Seychelles Red Cross was deployed within four days of Cyclone Gafilo striking Madagascar to assist the national society. An Appeal was launched ten days later from the assessment report for 427,000 CHF to assist 25,000 beneficiaries for three months with shelter, basic health assistance; a Relief Delegate was identified and deployed 12 days after the launch. The Appeal is currently 90% funded.

Swift deployments were also made following the floods in Djibouti between 11 and 13 April: RDRT personnel from Kenya and Rwanda, a FACT person and a WatSan ERU were made available. The Regional Disaster Management Coordinator also went for an assessment within five days of the disaster and worked closely with the Red Crescent of Djibouti disaster preparedness officer and stood down the RDRT, FACT and ERU²⁵. An appropriate intervention was designed from the ensuing assessment report.

Refer to the disaster management section for the deployment of a joint FACT/RDRT team was deployed to assist Tanzania Red Cross in a drought assessment.

Expected result 3: Regional and international disaster response resources such as regional and international human resources, financial and material contributions, ERU, logistical and other technical support, are well coordinated to ensure appropriate level of response.

Progress

The department has made joint deployments of FACT and RDRT personnel to good effect. ERU has not been required but was offered.

During the period, DREF was allocated for Madagascar (CHF 50,000), Tanzania (CHF 15,000), Djibouti (CHF 30,000) and Kenya (CHF 50,000).

²³ FEWSNET - Famine Early Warning System Network

²⁴ FACT – Field Assessment and Coordination Team(s): <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/fact/>

²⁵ ERU – Emergency Response Unit(s): <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/eru/>

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Expected result 4: Good coordination maintained with national societies in the region, Disaster Management and Coordination Division and other departments in Geneva, partner national societies, ICRC, UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations.

Progress

Close communication was maintained with the national societies affected by humanitarian crises. The absence of an Operations Manager in Geneva limited the coordination of support and advice although other staff acted on his behalf. Operational relationships were enhanced through interaction with ECHO, OCHA, UNICEF and World Vision regional staff concerning humanitarian situations in Madagascar, Tanzania, Djibouti and Kenya.

Expected result 5: Organization learning maximized through learning reviews and evaluations that lead to high level of accountability and development of procedures and systems for improved disaster response.

Progress

The department facilitated a disaster management training workshop and learning review of the 2003 drought relief operation in Ethiopia. An innovative training event was organized by the Ethiopian Red Cross and Ethiopia Delegation using the Mozambique flood disaster of 2001 as a learning process with a focus on communication, coordination and collaboration. Thirty five (35) staff from South Wollo and West Hararghe branches as well as headquarters personnel from the disaster management, health/Watsan, disaster preparedness, administration, finance and volunteering departments participated in the event.

A learning review is planned for the Madagascar cyclone response at the end of the operation. Refer to the Ethiopia drought evaluation and DFID evaluation of the disaster reduction programme under the disaster management section.

Impact

The DFID evaluation of the East Africa Regional Disaster Reduction Programme (2001-2003) commended the work of the five working groups as having overall impressive deployment rates and good results. The draft report observed the working groups reached and involved some 190 national society staff and set an innovative example of how regional delegations can more efficiently contribute to national society capacity building through involving their staff in programme management.

National societies are taking the issue of food security more seriously as demonstrated in the Horn of Africa meeting in Djibouti. The food security working group has been actively involved in preparing responses to the Eritrea and Tanzania drought operations while the Ethiopian Red Cross has appointed a dedicated food security officer (funded by British Red Cross) and initiated new innovative approaches to food insecurity in the country. It is hoped that the agreement with Euro Aid will release new funds for longer-term food related programming.

National societies have demonstrated a capacity to take a lead role in disaster response as demonstrated by Uganda Red Cross launching the fourth local Appeal for the internally displaced persons (IDP) in Northern Uganda and the Kenya Red Cross in the flood response. National societies are also taking up ownership of the RDRT concept and are showing a willingness to receive and release RDRT personnel and harmonize with FACT personnel. A greater emphasis on responsiveness to disasters has born fruit in the rapid assistance given to Madagascar and Red Crescent of Djibouti.

The VCA in Ethiopia have resulted in promising prospects for funding from the American Red Cross and the European Commission through the Spanish Red Cross. Flood risk reduction has taken root in Sudan and ProVention have agreed to a second phase of funding.

National societies are also taking up a lead in logistics aspects in relief operations under the support of regional logistics unit as was demonstrated by the Kenya Red Cross procurement of disaster preparedness stock during the 2004 floods operation. The logistics review in Uganda Red cross resulted in a change in their vehicle fleet

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management. Rwandan Red Cross has requested support in installing a fleet management structure similar to that in Uganda.

More requests for IT and telecom support have been received from national societies who are now willing to pay for the consultancy. The Kenya Red Cross now has a fairly good email system and a permanent internet connection. Communication with branches in flood prone areas has been made possible through the installation on HF radios. The Rwandan Red Cross has just acquired a permanent internet connection while the Ethiopian Red Cross is in the process of setting up a permanent internet connection with an email system.

Constraints

The regional disaster management department absorbed staff from the former regional logistics unit and is also supporting some of the delegations costs. This has meant that some capacity building initiatives have been put on hold awaiting improvement in the funding situation. Funding applications have been submitted to the Capacity Building Fund (CBF) and ECHO and efforts have been taken to recover support costs from emergency operations.

Lack of qualified IT/Telecom personnel in the national societies is continuing to weaken support for systems.

The second round of interviews for the position of Senior Disaster Response Officer was unfortunately not successful and wider advertisement is planned.

Governance Support

Goal: To support members of the constitutional fora to contribute effectively to the Governance of the Federation and the Movement as a whole.

Objective: To improve the communication with members of the Board and Commissions specifically on issues concerning the region

Expected result 1: The head of the regional delegation regularly contacts board and commission members and keeps them informed on key issues in the region.

Progress

Communication with the representatives for the region in the Board was maintained on a regular basis at which issues of concern were discussed.

Expected result 2: Board and commission members are invited for regional partnership meetings and informed of the outcomes of RC-NET meetings.

Progress

Preparations for the regional partnership meeting held in June started as early as January. The agenda for this meeting was set by the RC-NET in consultation with the national societies in the region including the board and commissions members. The Vice-Chairman of the Board for Africa fully participated in the meeting.

Expected result 3: The regional delegation facilitates preparatory meetings for the board and commission members in advance of statutory meetings.

Progress

The agenda for the regional partnership meeting included discussions on decisions taken at the General Assembly of the Federation, the progress of different working groups and committees set up by the Federation and the preparation of the Pan-African Conference to take place in Algiers in September 2004.

Expected result 4: The regional delegation supports board and commission members to represent the Federation in international forums or at international events.

Progress

No representation took place during this period.

Impact

Governance support continued as usual without specific highlights. The representatives of the Board and other committee members from the region were informed at an early stage of the regional partnership meeting which allowed for their participation and presentation especially on the progress with ongoing Federation processes.

Delegation Management (General Services)

Goal: The regional delegation's structure and processes are improved to support the implementation of the foregoing objectives.

Objective: To maintain an efficient and service-oriented infrastructure in order to facilitate the staff of the Federation to work effectively, to maintain an effective structure of communications with sub-regional offices and the national societies in the region, to recruit and employ highly skilled national and international staff, to create staff-on-loan positions in the region and to render services to partner national societies wanting to have a presence in the region.

Expected result: the office of the regional delegation is equipped and able to implement its objectives.

Progress

The Senior Management Team of the regional delegation continued to hold weekly management meeting and to focus on producing various updated and appropriate regional procedures, guidelines, policies and strategies to better manage the regional delegation in line with the change process and its implications to the field. Outcomes will be shared with other delegations in Africa and colleagues in Geneva as a best practice tool. This includes a review of signatories in the delegation, the development of an IT strategy to reduce and better manage telephone costs and improve email access, the review of the regional procurement procedures, the implementation of a new car pool system, the cost effectiveness of regional transit warehouse, the update of housing guidelines for Delegates, the negotiation of a catering system, the analysis of the logistics cost recovery system, the renegotiation of insurance coverage and medical scheme for local staff including reimbursement of ARV treatment, the review of the welcome service and the renegotiation of the implant at the regional delegation premise. A re-organization of offices aiming at improving formal and informal cooperation was successfully implemented.

Expected result: The overhead costs remain below 10% and are recovered through different sources of income.

Progress

This year's budget for the first time includes a specific budget for administration expenditures. However the activities of the Federation are changing. Where 'coordination cost' were until recently viewed as overhead cost, they are now becoming an activity; the financial mechanisms do not yet clearly define overhead cost. A rough estimation of the overhead indicates a figure which is around 15%. Budgeting will be further reviewed during a workshop in July and efforts are continuing to reduce the non-productive expenditures.

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Expected result: High quality national and international members of staff have been recruited; mechanisms to maintain standards of performance are in place.

Progress

The regional delegation recruited several new local staff members to complement its capacity to provide efficient and professional services to national societies in the region. Positions filled during the period include that of an Information Assistant, a Senior Health-HIV/AIDS Officer and a fourth Finance Analyst in the Regional Finance Unit. An External Relations Officer was employed on consultancy basis. Unfortunately the recruitment of the Health and Care Coordinator who left in December 2003; a Programme Coordinator and a new French-speaking Disaster Response Officer were not successful and will be pursued in the second half of the year; the process of recruiting a new Head of the Regional Delegation is also on-going.

Expected result: Partner national societies are rendered support services at a competitive level.

Progress

Service by the regional delegation to both partner and operating national societies on a cost recovery basis increased over the period. The regional delegation staff have handled all requests of the national societies in a 'client friendly' manner leading to client satisfaction as a result of which no incidences of non-payment occurred.

Expected result: More members of staff from the national societies in the region are linked to the regional delegation as staff-on-loan.

Progress

There was no staff on loan attached to the regional delegation over the reporting period. However local employment of high qualified Federation personnel in the region occurred in Kampala and Khartoum

Impact

As the Strategy of Change continues to be implemented, the type of services rendered to national societies is significantly improving through. Missions aiming at strengthening national societies in the field of reporting, finance, IT and logistics took place. In most of the cases both operating and partner national societies were positive towards cost recovery. Measures to reduce cost were successfully implemented, especially in insurance.

Constraints

The year started in a hectic tone as the rigorous budget control mechanisms could only approve those projects which had left over funds from 2003. It took a lot of efforts and advocacy to convince donors to make pledges early enough in order to base budget approval on sound commitments. The regional delegation will put more effort to overcome the serious disadvantages of the Annual Appeal system and to look for long term commitments from donors hopefully through a regional cooperation assistance strategy.

The regional delegation was seriously hampered by the unexpected departure in March of the Programme Coordinator. The Regional HIV/AIDS Advisor is also the acting Health and Care Coordinator until a suitable recruitment is identified; however, this has greatly increased his workload. As the end of the mission of the Head of Regional Delegation drew closer, she was less available to provide guidance in the period before the replacement took office. However, the Regional Transition Manager effectively held the position in interim until his mission ended in July 31.

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

East Africa regional programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.10/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

18/08/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3,412,740	TOTAL COVERAGE 50.0%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				286,009		
AMERICAN - RC		2,000	USD	2,528	11.06.04	REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEETING
AMERICAN - RC		4,000	USD	5,056	25.06.04	REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEETING
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				303,000	29.01.04	
BRITISH - RC		15,000	GBP	35,392	04.03.04	DP/R - RDRT TRAINING
BRITISH - RC		5,000	GBP	11,688	27.04.04	REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEETING
BRITISH - RC		25,000	GBP	57,150	04.08.04	RC NET, DISASTER MANAGEMENT
DJIBOUTI - RC				1,000	23.06.04	RC-NET
ETHIOPIA - RC				1,000	16.03.04	RC-NET
FINNISH GOVT/RC		3,000	EUR	4,608	14.06.04	REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEETING
FRENCH - GOVT		33,000	EUR	51,464	02.03.04	COOPERANT, DIRECTLY TO DELEGATION
GERMAN - RC		6,050	USD	7,647	16.06.04	REG. PARTNERSHIP MEETING
KENYAN - RC		60,000	KES	966	01.03.04	RC-NET
MALAGASY - RC		2,325,750	MGF	500	01.04.04	RC-NET
MAURITIUS - RC		826	USD	1,045	12.07.04	RC-NET
NETHERLANDS - RC		5,348	EUR	8,215	03.06.04	REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEETING
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,000,000	NOK	179,500	12.03.04	HEALTH, ORGANISATIONAL DEV.
NORWEGIAN - RC		3,875	USD	4,987	24.5.04	REG. PARTNERSHIP MEETING
SEYCHELLES- RC		724	USD	940	16.03.04	RC-NET
SUDANESE - RC		407,161	SDD	1,995	30.06.04	RC-NET
SWEDISH - GOVT		2,800,000	SEK	471,800	15.04.04	HEALTH & CARE, DISASTER MANAGEMENT, HUMANITARIAN VALUES & INFORMATION, ORGANISATIONAL DEV., COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
UGANDA - RC		1,474,930	UGX	1,027	30.06.04	RC-NET

East Africa regional programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.10/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

18/08/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,437,517	CHF	42.1%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATES			73,200		
IRELAND	DELEGATES			73,200		
SWEDEN	DELEGATES			73,200		
NETHERLANDS	DELEGATES			48,800		
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				268,400	CHF	7.9%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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