

# Mid-Year report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Community preparedness and risk reduction

Appeal No. MAA00021

25 AUGUST 2011

This report covers the period 01 January 2011 to  
30 June 2011

### In brief

**Programme outcome:**

In an attempt to reduce the impact of disasters and complex emergencies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) will contribute towards building community safety and resilience by strengthening its programme support in primarily three areas: 1) community-based disaster preparedness; 2) disaster risk reduction (DRR) including climate change adaptation (CCA); and 3) food security and livelihoods.

**Programme(s) summary:**

The IFRC's *Framework for Community Safety and Resilience* represents a common Red Cross Red Crescent understanding of DRR, and provides a foundation upon which all activities contributing to the building of safe and resilient communities can be created, developed and sustained. Beyond guiding integrated, multi-sectoral DRR, it also provides an opportunity to advocate on behalf of vulnerable communities and National Societies. The focus of CCA, as part of the wider DRR effort of the IFRC, will include developing methodologies at the community-level to integrate climate risk into existing community action to promote safety and resilience in order to address the humanitarian consequences of climate change.

Work to strengthen livelihoods in order to improve food security and resilience is at the heart of the IFRC's work in DRR in Africa. The overall objective will be to develop programmes that effectively address longer-term needs in livelihoods and food security.

**Financial situation:** The total 2011 budget is CHF 3,486,810, of which CHF 2,461,292 (71 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 958,961 (28 per cent) of the budget.

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

**No. of people we have reached:** The community preparedness and risk reduction (CPRR) department primarily assisted and supported capacity building in National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and facilitated community-based initiatives.

**Our partners:** The IFRC is continually working towards increasing coordination with external partners at all levels (governments, the UN system and associated bodies, private sector, academia and civil society) especially in the areas of information and technical expertise related to community preparedness, DRR, CCA, food security, nutrition and livelihoods. It works in partnership with many different governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for coordination, resource mobilization, advocacy and representation purposes.

## Context

According to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, figures for the first six months of 2011 already illustrate the impact that natural disasters have on societies. The Tohoku earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on 11 March 2011 caused over 28,000 deaths and had the highest earthquake mortality in Japan since 1923. The Christchurch earthquakes in 2010 and 2011 were among the most destructive disasters that New Zealand has ever experienced and multiple tornados in the United States in the spring of 2011 were the most severe in decades.

The food and nutrition security situation of significant number of the world's population has been exacerbated by the impact of climate change, ongoing economic crises and high food and commodity prices. In the Horn of Africa, the first half of 2011 has been characterized as one of the driest periods in the past decade. The drought has affected more than 10 million people in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Tanzania. The National Societies of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia supported by the IFRC have launched appeals in support of the most vulnerable. The economic crises and the high food and commodity prices have also been affecting significant number of people in the North African countries. Assessments note that some of the root causes exacerbating the food and nutrition security in North Africa are direct and indirect linkages with the deteriorating political and socio-economic situation in the region.

Latest FAO figures indicate that the number of people going to bed hungry globally stands at approximately 925 million. Long-term predictions indicate that the world needs to increase its production by over 70 per cent to meet the growing food needs of the world's population by 2050..

## Progress towards outcomes

### Programme component 1: Community-based disaster preparedness

#### Outcomes

Increased community awareness and understanding of local disaster risk, emerging climate change consequences, and better community preparedness to respond and protect lives and livelihoods.

#### Achievements

Considerable research was carried out during this period to understand what already exists by way of best practice within and outside the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the area of community-based early-warning monitoring systems (CBEWS) with the aim to develop a global guidance on this topic. As in public awareness and public education, this is an area of work that National Societies, with their presence in the community, are exceptionally well placed to work in, especially when it comes to collection of socio-economic data which can help identify local level vulnerabilities and be used to prepare and plan for response. Many National Societies are already

supporting early warning activities in the communities for a wide range of disaster risk, both slow onset and quick onset disasters. The aim of the guide is to strengthen and to a certain extent standardize the Red Cross Red Crescent approach as well as to ensure that CBEWS are better linked with the national, regional and global early warning systems. The guide needs further work in order to shape the research material into a product, which is easily understood and can be easily translated into concrete action and early warning products. The guide is expected to be finalized by the end of 2011.

An extensive review of the IFRC's main assessment tool, the vulnerability and capacity (VCA), has been carried out, in conjunction with the Institute for Development Studies and the International Institute for Environment and Development in the UK. The review looked at the strengths and challenges of the VCA tool from a variety of perspectives including training, facilitation and communications materials. It also examined in practical terms, through field assessments, how the VCA is used in situations of climate change and urban risk – issues which represent “new risks” as compared to when the VCA tool was originally developed in the 1990's. The findings of the review have not been published and will be made widely available to the IFRC network as well as to other humanitarian organizations that use or are interested in the VCA approach. The next steps will involve developing an action plan to address the main challenges identified by the review.

Additionally, during this period, CPRR collaborated with the UN IASC cluster on humanitarian financing and the sub-working group on preparedness to develop an inter-agency study project entitled “Analysis of Financing Mechanisms and Funding Streams to enhance funding for Emergency Preparedness” in five countries (including Ghana, Nepal and Uganda). The study, which will be carried out during 2011/12 aims to assess how preparedness funding has been delivered by humanitarian organizations and in close consultation with the governmental and non-governmental partners in-country, will contribute towards developing country funding strategies for preparedness.

## **Programme component 2: Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation**

### **Outcomes**

Zones and National Societies are provided with sufficient coordination, global representation, guidance, tools and technical support to enable community-level DRR and CCA to be effectively improved and increased.

### **Achievements**

The third biennial Global Community Safety and Resilience Forum took place in Damascus from 29–31 March 2011 and gathered nearly 120 participants, including representatives from approximately 70 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The discussions in Damascus were guided by Strategy 2020's broad agenda and focused around the broad goal of strengthening approaches and commitment to promoting community safety and resilience. The meeting also set an agenda for the coming two years to further enhance and integrate community safety and resilience into IFRC programmes. The final conclusions consisted of a 16-point programme of recommended action points around three themes:

- Scaling-up investment in safety and resilience programming at the community-level and sustaining community interventions
- Integrating cross-sectoral concerns into Red Cross and Red Crescent programming
- Increasing investment in community safety and resilience through advocacy and effective resource mobilization

The third session of UNISDR's Global DRR Platform, which took place in Geneva from 8–13 May 2011 provided the IFRC with an opportunity to profile its DRR agenda. This included participation with the German Committee for Disaster Reduction in addressing early warning needs and the content of early warning messages. The IFRC also collaborated with UNDP and other UN agencies to present a side event at the Global DRR Platform, which addressed the importance of risk

identification in the context of strengthening national capacities to manage risks. The IFRC led its own side event posing questions around how legislation can promote DRR at the community-level.

Key recommendations and actions points for the Red Cross and Red Crescent were highlighted during the Global DRR Platform, these included demonstrating how Red Cross Red Crescent investments in local action have paid off; ensuring that a sustainable Trust Fund is established; finding ways to develop risk transfer (micro-insurance, micro credit, etc.) capacity in DRR work, and including DRR into the work plans of all National Societies. Other recommendations included improving knowledge on what partners/government are doing at the communities on CCA and strengthening awareness raising on risks brought by climate change with government authorities, communities and youth through education. Action points and follow-up plan were set, as well as recommendation to support the next Global Platform in 2013. The full report is available on FedNet.

The IFRC continues to engage with the UNFCCC, most recently through its engagement at the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP 16) held in Cancun, Mexico, in November and December 2010. CPRR, working closely with the Africa zonal office, the southern Africa regional office and the South Africa Red Cross Society, is currently leading preparations for the IFRC engagement in COP 17 which will be held in Durban, South Africa, from 28 November to 9 December 2011.

CPRR attended the 16th World Meteorological Congress that was held in Geneva from the 16th May to 3rd June 2011. CPRR contributed as presenters to the session "Understanding User Needs for Climate Services."

A mapping of 2010 DRR spending was carried out early this year, it noted an increase of 30 per cent in expenditure from the previous year, reaching at least 17 million people in approximately 90 countries. The largest portion of funding was targeted for community-based DRR and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Society disaster preparedness.

To support National Societies efforts to translate their longer-term national DRR and CCA strategies into programme activities a DRR performance framework has been developed. The performance framework provides a menu of options for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to translate longer-term national DRR and CCA strategies into a logical planning framework.

A study on post-Indian Ocean tsunami programming was initiated in 2010 to identify and document lessons learnt in implementing at-scale DRR projects to strengthen community safety and resilience. In 2011, the report on post-tsunami DRR activity prepared by the independent consulting and engineering group Arup was presented to the working group (comprised five Participating National Societies, disaster management coordinators from the five zones and relevant secretariat departments). The study produced four outputs (a) six characteristics of resilience, from community perspectives, with clear indicators for each; (b) key determinants of successful community-based DRR, with clear recommended actions on how to increase success; (c) lessons learnt, based on a meta-evaluation of all CBDRR programmes implemented in tsunami affected countries; and (d) DRR database. Arup will finalize the product, based on feedback from the working group, by end of September 2011. The four products will be used globally, and similar research is to be conducted in the Americas and the Horn of Africa.

The Global Alliance for DRR now includes 29 National Societies, with the addition of the Lebanese Red Cross and the Palestine Red Crescent. The Ghana Red Cross Society and the Mali Red Cross have also made known their intention to join.

Following extensive consultations with National Societies and external partners including UNICEF, UNISDR, WHO and others, *A Guide on Public Awareness and Public Education for Disaster Risk Reduction* was finalized and is being published in English and Spanish. This guide was designed to help scale-up long standing efforts by Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies in cost effective interventions in public awareness and public education for DRR. During the next half of 2011, efforts will be dedicated to translating and disseminating the guide and working with the zones and National Societies to develop and strengthen their existing work on public education and awareness for DRR using the best practices and ideas promoted by the global guide.

During this period, there was a focus on promoting multi-sectoral integration for community resilience, particularly with health and care programmes. Specifically, consultation with the health and care department has resulted in general agreement to utilize the “Community Safety and Resilience Framework” as an overarching concept for disaster management, DRR and health work. A pilot project in Indonesia was also initiated to test how health and DRR approaches can best complement each other at the community-level. Further pilot approaches are expected to be carried out in 2011 in conjunction with British Red Cross.

### **Programme component 3: Food security, nutrition and livelihoods**

#### **Outcomes**

National Societies expand integrated community-based food security and/or livelihoods programming and have the necessary structures and capacities to contribute to the reduction of chronic and transitory food insecurity.

#### **Achievements**

CPRR provided specific and/or tailor-made technical supports to National Societies and zones in the areas of food security/livelihoods and nutrition. Technical briefs on grain banks, seeds and therapeutic care for malnourished children have been developed and will be available electronically (intranet) for use by National Societies. CPRR participated in the Horn of Africa meeting, “Responding to Complex Emergencies” where the cases of Kenya and Somalia were discussed. Food security, nutrition and livelihoods technical resources were shared among National Society’s focal points. The draft Africa Hazard Map was reviewed and feedback was provided to the southern Africa regional office. Review and comments were provided on the Americas zone’s food security nutrition and livelihoods strategic plan.

Opportunities from ACP-EU Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) are explored for obtaining an extensive set of technical guidance documents focused on particular agricultural topics/interventions, to be shared with National Societies. The documents will be available in July 2011.

Moreover, guidance and support was provided to at least 30 National Societies to conduct regular reviews with a view to measuring performance against planned food security activities. A final food security, nutrition and livelihoods consultation workshop was held in East Africa in March 2011 as the penultimate of three workshops which brought food security and some health/nutrition focal points from 13 African National Societies and four Participating National Societies working in Africa, seven IFRC staff from the secretariat and regions together to address food security, nutrition and livelihoods programming issues in Africa. Participants gained deeper understanding of food security, livelihoods and nutrition programming as it is being carried out across Africa by IFRC members, with a focus on: current programming approaches, challenges and solutions; and common capacity-building needs and resources; integration and strategic positioning models and strengthening informal technical networks. It was agreed to organize a review meeting end of the year 2011.

Global guidance was provided on integrating long-term food security programme with other programmes such as health, water and sanitation, organizational development and humanitarian values. In line with this, consultations have been held related to working together with health, water and sanitation and organizational development departments. Additionally, a nutrition working paper was developed and integrated into health department’s *Strategic Operational Framework for Programming*, and several presentations/discussions were facilitated for health department staff on raising the profile of nutrition alongside health topics and programming, with an emphasis on integration and linkage with community-based health, maternal, newborn and child health and emergency health. Facilitation support was also provided for a workshop on early recovery, including exploration of integrated programming approaches.

Food security/livelihoods framework, tools and guidance and educational material on nutrition education were developed to increase the capacity (knowledge) of staff and volunteers. This has included updating the *Five Year African Longer-Term Food Security Strategic Framework*, which now includes a number of indicators and performance tracking tabs. New nutrition supplement guidance was developed in order to complement existing guidance the community-based health and first aid, epidemic control for volunteers and HIV manuals. This document focuses in-depth on four key topics: malnutrition, dietary diversity, women's nutrition, and infant and young child nutrition. It will serve as a reference for programming to support improved nutritional outcomes, and complement health and food security programming. It fills an important gap in IFRC documentation regarding evidence-based, globally agreed to priorities and best practices to reduce 30 per cent of child deaths currently attributed to malnutrition. It signals areas for priority intervention, and provides key information and related messages, against which programmers may compare locally adapted materials, and select the most appropriate focus areas.

Appropriately adapted food security nutrition and livelihoods programmes across the IFRC were captured for sharing programme experiences. They include case studies from Kenya, Lesotho and Malawi which were collected and will be compiled for distribution and sharing. Documentation of livelihoods programmes from Ethiopia, Kenya and Niger were shared with the IFRC Livelihoods Resource Centre in Madrid. CPRR also facilitated/supported the development of food security, nutrition and livelihoods posters by Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Somalia, Togo and Uganda and displayed during the east Africa Consultation Workshop and Syria Global Safety and Resilience Forum. CPRR also reviewed and provided input on the *World Disasters Report*, which in 2011 focuses on hunger and malnutrition. A draft note on ``Hunger and Malnutrition, the Forgotten Disaster`` was developed to examine opportunities for organizing a side event during 2011 DG ECHO's Annual Conference of Humanitarian Aid Partners.

The IFRC's food security, livelihood and nutrition networks were strengthened through CPRR's engagement and participation in a number of global policy forums, meetings, workshops and seminars. CPRR consulted with French Red Cross representatives on food security and nutrition strategies and activities. Outcome includes plans for further coordination discussion regarding west Africa programmes. Follow-up discussions were conducted for possible partnership with the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change. Latest concept paper was received and shared between IFRC eastern Africa and southern Africa regional representations. CPRR also participated in the Kenya Red Cross Society's donor roundtable, related to the drought appeal.

Additionally, with regard to external partnerships, CPRR entered into dialogue with Syngenta east Africa regional office to tap into more private sector technical support for National Societies. Linkages were established between eastern Africa regional representation and IGAD secretariat for possible collaboration. CPRR also established contact with Helen Keller International to explore potential to work with east Africa regional office on capacity strengthening for nutrition programming. Some initial dialogue with FAO/nutrition has been initiated to identify specific countries where the two institutions could explore increasing engagement on food security and nutrition.

The African National Societies have revised the Africa Food Security Initiative through participation in three workshops conducted in western Africa, eastern Africa and southern Africa. The purpose is to take stock and to improve the scale and quality, as well as incorporating issues linked to nutrition in a systematic manner. The revised framework will be re-launched soon. Currently, about 19 African National Societies are implementing longer-term food security programmes.

## **Constraints or Challenges**

Staff turnover in the field, at regional and National Society levels, and ad hoc funding are important challenges in taking forward quality programme implementation; and in establishing an adequate technical assistance base for project support in design, monitoring and evaluation, as well as strategic positioning for programming policy, partnership, and resource mobilization at the field - level.

## Working in partnership

National Societies and the IFRC are implementing food security, nutrition and livelihoods programmes in partnership with Participating National Societies, governments (national and local) UN Agencies (such as FAO, UNICEF and), EU, CIDA, USAID, NGOs and CSOs. Within the secretariat, the community preparedness and risk reduction department has been working in partnership with humanitarian diplomacy for advocacy works; organizational development in relation to National Society technical capacity strengthening; knowledge management for training; disaster services to review appeals and provide technical input related to emergencies; shelter related to livelihoods; and health to develop effectively linked HIV and AIDS and nutrition programming. The cooperation between the different partners within the Movement and externals is being facilitated using cooperation agreements, strategies, global/operational alliances, bilateral, multilateral, inter-agency collaborations, and the different national, regional and global coordination mechanisms.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

National Societies in Africa are well aware of the importance of quality programme design, monitoring and evaluation, positioning, networking and partnership. The updated Africa Longer-Term Food Security Framework remains a living document and an umbrella/guidance for food security programmes, with important linkages to livelihoods and nutrition. The performance tracking table with revised impact indicators will be shared among the National Societies to assist in their reporting of mid- and annual programme performance for 2011.

The concrete approach to sharing lessons learnt that was employed during the third eastern Africa consultation workshop motivated National Societies' staff to share and exchange their knowledge in areas of better programming and impact. Each National Society demonstrated their posters and shared their knowledge and experiences with their peers. Selected posters were also displayed during the Global Safety and Resilience Forum at Damascus.

The activities implemented by National Societies contribute to the MDG objective of reducing hunger and malnutrition and the Hyogo Framework for Action.

## Looking ahead

The Red Cross Red Crescent will continue to be engaged in addressing the transit and chronic food insecurity of the most vulnerable and better demonstrate its auxiliary role to governments. It is expected that National Societies implementing food security, nutrition and livelihoods programmes and projects will increase not only in number, but also in the quality and scale of their programmes. More effort will be made to mobilise financial resources at national, regional and global level. Improved movement coordination will be sought for increased leverage of programming expertise and effort. Community safety and resilience is being adopted as an overarching theme to link various portfolios. Efforts to mobilize and tap external technical resources will continue in the remaining six months of 2011.

### How we work

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

<p>The IFRC's vision is to:</p> <p>Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.</p>	<p>The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.</li> <li>2. Enable healthy and safe living.</li> <li>3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.</li> </ol>
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