

SOUTHERN AFRICA

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

CHF 1,753,000

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The Regional Delegation for Southern Africa, located in Harare, Zimbabwe, serves ten countries and their National Societies (NSs) in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Originally established to increase NS disaster preparedness in Southern Africa in the mid-80s, the Regional Delegation (RD) has in recent years become a conduit for National Societies of the region to come together to collectively tackle common challenges, be they ongoing natural disasters, issues of integrity which threaten to compromise the Fundamental Principles, or challenges of institutional development and financial self-reliance. As a reflection of this solidarity, the member National Societies of what had been the Southern Africa Programme (SAP) recently re-established themselves as the Southern Africa Partnership of Red Cross Societies (SAPRCS) with a mandate to “strengthen the collaboration, co-operation and self-determination of NSs in the region in order to achieve a greater level of self-sustainability”. Parallel to this redefinition, Participating National Societies, which had an historic or current interest in supporting NSs of the region, formed their own interest group. Biennial meetings of the two groups are held in tandem to increase resource mobilisation through improved co-ordination, communication and lobbying of National Societies’ needs and priorities.

Objectives in 1998

The Regional Delegation for Southern Africa is committed:

- To promoting regional collaboration, facilitating the exchange of information and expertise among NSs and their partners;
- to playing a heightened role with governments in the region, to promote permanent annual contributions to their respective NS;
- to providing the necessary support to NSs in order that they can fully and successfully implement the Kampala Declaration;
- to developing the capacity of NSs through strengthening their human resource bases, by providing relevant training;

to conducting a Basic Training Course for prospective delegates in the region in the last quarter of 1998.

Regional Institutional Development Programme

1997 saw the start of the Regional Institutional Development/Resource Development Programme with the ten NSs of the region. One delegate positioned at the regional level and country specific Development Delegates placed throughout the region (Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia) are working closely with NSs, assisting them to identify country level institutional and resource development programmes. Within the context of the SAPRCS, region-wide focus groups have been formed to address issues related to branch development volunteers, resource development, and financial systems, allowing for co-ordinated peer group action and follow-up.

Objectives:

To strengthen NS governance, leadership and management capacity at both headquarters and branch levels;

to assist in the development and adaptation of NSs' institutional structures, systems and procedures to maximise their capacity for appropriate, effective and flexible response;

to support NSs in their efforts to broaden their resource bases and increase their levels of sustainable income from domestic sources enabling them to independently cover a greater percentage of core costs and contribute towards the maintenance of their traditional programmes;

to promote regional co-operation and working together as a Federation vis-à-vis development initiatives and key issues.

Plan of Action:

Conduct four "good governance" workshops, developing corresponding induction materials designed for the orientation of key leadership and management personnel (Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe).

Conduct three training workshops for headquarters and branch staff in improved volunteer management practices (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zimbabwe).

Assist up to five NSs to carry out self assessments and baseline surveys at both the headquarters and branch levels, developing medium-term strategies and subsequent workplans (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia).

Conduct four training workshops to improve skills and competencies for resource development personnel and assist in the production of two medium-term resource development workplans.

Organise financial management advisory missions towards improving three NSs' financial control systems (Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe).

Organise biannual joint planning meetings to co-ordinate institutional development strategies and methodologies among the Development Delegates working in the region.

Organise one meeting each of the regional focus groups on resource generation, financial systems, branch development and volunteers.

Regional Information Programme

Given the disaster prone profile of the Southern Africa region, NSs have recognised the importance of establishing an information and communications network to support disaster preparedness and emergency response activities. Developing appropriate telecommunications and information infrastructure is only one part of the picture. Building NSs' capacity in this area is equally vital if there is to be a more rapid and co-ordinated action towards victims of disaster.

The Regional Information Programme has benefited from the activities undertaken in connection with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) grant given to the Federation in 1995 for the development of a global network aimed at increasing effectiveness in disaster management. The goal is to enhance the essential information infrastructure capacity and services within NSs, at both

headquarters and branch levels, which in turn will facilitate the exchange of operational information with other organisations and partners in the field.

While the grant focuses on disaster-prone areas globally, the Southern Africa sub-region is the pilot area for this initial work. During the pilot phase of the programme five consultative missions were made to NSs in the region to assess specific information management and communication needs. Additionally, a follow-up session at the SAPRCS meeting was conducted which also served to highlight common priorities in the region. From this collective participation a regional strategy was prepared with specific objectives and actions. These activities will be carried out within the framework of the Regional Institutional Development strategy.

Objectives:

To position the Regional Delegation as an overall focal point for information facilitation;
to improve the effectiveness of information management both at the regional and NS level;
to increase the level of awareness and knowledge amongst NSs concerning information technology and its implications for Red Cross activities in the region.

Plan of Action:

Set-up a World Wide Web Home Page, linking into the Federation's site, which will provide information about the RD as well as current NS programmes and operations.

Identify information products required to provide NSs a regular forum to share information about their programmes and to exchange ideas.

Set-up a database as a tool to collect, organise and disseminate information on volunteer resources (Regional and all National Societies).

Conduct a regional workshop for all ten NSs in records management and general administration, with related technical support missions.

Establish a core resource collection of Federation materials within the RD and for each NS in the region.

Initiate the establishment of a communications network for NSs in the region, implementing electronic mail services.

Regional Disaster Preparedness (DP) Programme

Previous disasters have prompted involved NSs in the region to respond by providing both relief as well as assistance through mitigation activities. They have, to varying degrees, experienced complications with the implementation of such disaster mitigation activities. This has recently prompted a collective redefinition of common priorities and identification of essential needs amongst National Societies in the region. In 1996 the National Societies of Southern Africa reviewed the direction of the then Regional DP Programme, and while it was agreed that a continued need for such a programme existed, it was decided that the programme would necessarily have to adopt a process-oriented approach, including participatory planning, design and implementation.

Objectives:

To establish the extent of NSs' existing DP capacities in order to identify development and training needs;

to review existing needs and establish clear and effective guidelines and management systems for DP;

to establish comprehensive information systems for the identification, management and development of available NS human resources for DP;

to establish clear and effective DP policies for each NS;

to establish clear and effective guidelines and identify emergency material needs based on ongoing risk assessments;

to improve staff and volunteer skills in DP programme design, management and implementation.

Plan of Action:

Conduct two inventories of existing structure and systems and available skills and materials for different operational magnitudes at headquarters, branch and community levels (Botswana, Swaziland).

Undertake two technical support missions (Botswana, Zambia) and four provincial level seminars (Zimbabwe) to establish, in writing, roles and responsibilities within NSs according to the nature and level of the disaster.

Develop management systems for human resource data collection and updating, and train data base operators (Botswana, South Africa).

Support a capacities and vulnerabilities assessment at the branch and district levels and national level workshop for presentation of results (Mozambique).

Conduct a regional workshop on DP policy development (all National Societies) and support three follow-up national policy formulation workshops (Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe).

Hold two workshops in which draft guidelines for staff and volunteers in emergency response will be formulated (Lesotho, Malawi).

Conduct a regional workshop on DP programme design (all National Societies) and four follow-up branch level workshops on project design (Namibia).

Conduct four national level workshops on DP skills training for staff and volunteers (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland) and one follow-up training for branch personnel (Swaziland).

Conduct a DP Training of Trainers course and basic training at branch level in nine provinces (South Africa).

Regional Water and Sanitation Programme

NSs in the region, with support from the Federation, have been implementing water and sanitation projects over the last five years. Most of these interventions have been emergency in nature, in the context of a drought or large population movement. Today's perspective, however, is to view water and sanitation as a key aspect of both regional health and DP strategies, treating it no longer as a supporting activity, but as an essential programme. Water and sanitation interventions not only have an immediate and measurable impact upon the health and quality of life of the most vulnerable populations, but they have also proven to enhance the Red Cross image, raising the NS profile both locally and nationally. Responding to National Societies' identified needs in the region, the Regional Water, Sanitation and Health (WatSan) Programme was launched in 1997. Consultative missions to National Societies who have or are presently implementing water and sanitation projects have resulted in the mapping out of mid to long-term activities, providing the foundation for a comprehensive Regional WatSan Programme for the period of 1998 to 2000.

Objectives:

To improve the design and planning process of NSs' WatSan Programmes;

to support effective WatSan programme implementation at the country level;

to enhance regional disaster response capacity as it relates to water and sanitation interventions;

to guide present and future water and sanitation policy decisions and programme directions through continuous monitoring of both global and regional trends and topical information in the field.

Plan of Action:

Undertake six technical support missions (one week each) assist NSs in their WatSan Programme planning processes and programme proposal writing.

Undertake 14 missions (one week each) to provide technical field services throughout programme implementation, review and evaluation.

Develop two WatSan training modules jointly with the Regional Health Programme and conduct two modular training courses (two weeks each) for the 25 involved NS staff in the region.

Organise five exchange visits between NSs involved in WatSan initiatives.

Establish a regional register of qualified NS staff experienced in Wat San, and conduct an annual training course and field exercise (two weeks) to maintain their skills level.

Procure basic WatSan response equipment as a regional hardware reserve.

Publish a quarterly bulletin to share information on current water and sanitation trends with NSs.

Regional Health Programme

As a sequel to the region's health programme in the early 90s, which focused on the promotion of community based health care and community facilitator formation, the Regional Health Programme Phase II was designed to further empower the NSs' human resource base, but more strategically and with great specificity. Following a needs assessment and planning process in 1995, it was determined that while there existed a wealth of experienced potential resource persons at the NS level, there was an obvious disparity in capacities amongst health personnel in similar positions at the branch level. Furthermore, the need to promote training from the regional level to the branch level was highlighted as critical in order to maintain a standard in formation, as well as in programme monitoring and evaluation. This year's priority countries for each objective will be selected by the National Societies themselves at the January planning meeting.

Objectives:

To facilitate an environment of shared learning and "common solutions to common problems" through the strengthening of regional networking;

to improve the design, management and co-ordination of NS health interventions at the headquarters and branch levels;

to alleviate identified gaps in capacities and technical "know how", with particular attention to the branch level;

to support NS cascade implementation to promote regional training initiatives at the branch level;

to identify, document and facilitate the development of standard IEC (Information, Education and Communication), training, and programme monitoring and evaluation tools.

Plan of Action:

Co-ordinate four peer support missions (two-four weeks each) to specifically identified projects, exchanging of NS health personnel in the areas of AIDS control, CBFA, PHC and programme management.

Conduct one yearly technical planning meeting for NS Health Programme Officers (all NSs).

Undertake ten missions to provide requested technical support to NSs in programme planning, design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and SWOT analyses.

Conduct seven national level courses (two weeks each) for headquarters health personnel including training modules in: strategy and prioritisation, needs assessment, programme development, management and co-ordination, resource mobilisation and management, and programme monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

Conduct three training courses (one week each) for selected branch co-ordinators and health officers including modules in: community entry and mobilisation and needs assessment, volunteer motivation, training and management/support, programme implementation, local fund-raising and sustainability of programmes, and monitoring and reporting.

Provide one time seed moneys (USD 5,000) for branch level NS training initiatives (available to all NSs).

Review existing training curricula, IEC materials and progress indicators in the areas of CBFA, AIDS control and patient care, and programme monitoring and reporting (within the context of the 10 technical support missions above).

