

KENYA

HEALTH, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

CHF 1,328,000
500,000 beneficiaries

Programme no 01.16/99

The Context

From the early eighties onwards, Kenya has been affected by floods, famine, refugee influxes, internal population displacements, and HIV/AIDS. For more than a decade, the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) has been responsible for providing emergency relief to approximately 500,000 beneficiaries, as well as 150,000 people affected by HIV/AIDS. In 1998, Kenya experienced the full impact of the El Niño phenomenon. Right now, the country is struggling to recover from damage to infrastructure and the loss of life and livelihood. Many parts of the country were without water for months, as central supply systems were inundated and destroyed. Illnesses such as cholera, Rift Valley fever, malaria, and diarrhoea are prevalent in areas such as the Lake and Coastal regions, as well as in the arid and semi-arid zones of the country.

The Operation

KRCS will build on such achievements and experience as dealing with the 1998 floods and the ensuing outbreaks of disease in North Eastern Province and the Coast, cholera outbreaks in Nairobi and Western Kenya, as well as the bomb blast in Nairobi. In 1999, the disaster preparedness and response programme will focus on strategic disaster-prone areas with well-established Red Cross branches. This approach has proven to be successful, but there remains a lot of ground to be covered. Therefore, it will be continued in 1999 and the years beyond. Meanwhile, the 1999 health programme will focus on drought- and flood-prone areas plagued by the increasing incidence of water-related diseases. Another major component will be the prevention of HIV/AIDS and the care for those affected by it.

At the same time, KRCS will continue to strengthen its organisational structures by professionalising its senior management, streamlining its organisational structure, strengthening its governance and reinforcing its local fund-raising efforts.

Objectives

- Improve the operational capacity of KRCS's Disaster Relief and Preparedness Department to respond effectively to disasters and emergencies as they arise.
- Increase disaster management capacity of 15 KRCS branches likely to be faced with floods, refugee influx, internal displacement, drought, famine and ethnic violence.
- Expand and improve the basic health and quality of beneficiaries' life through improvements in access to clean water and sanitation facilities, preventive health education on water-related diseases and HIV/AIDS, as well as by psychological counselling and home-based care for people affected by HIV/AIDS.

Plan of Action

- Disaster Relief And Preparedness

The KRCS 1999 disaster response and preparedness programme will focus on building preparedness and response capacity in 15 branches identified as being disaster-prone. More than 500,000 people in those branches will benefit from the programme.

- Conduct disaster management training for Red Cross Action Teams all 15 branches involved.
 - Install HF radios in all 15 branches to facilitate communication with headquarters.
 - Conduct hazard and risk analysis in all 15 branches to enable those communities to better assess vulnerabilities and locally available resources in the event of disaster.
 - Conduct Emergency First Aid training for volunteers in all 15 branches.
 - Stockpile relief goods in target branches to facilitate timely emergency response.

- Health

Water and Sanitation

The major goal is to provide safe drinking water and sanitation to 300,000 beneficiaries in eight branches.

- Protect 30 potential water sources identified by the community in each of the branches.
 - Construct five demonstration latrines in each branch and provision of improved refuse disposal systems.

Control, Prevention and Treatment of Cholera and Malaria

In 1999, KRCS will continue its focus on the preventive approach by educating communities in the target areas on the prevention and treatment of malaria and cholera. Over 350,000 people will benefit from this programme.

- Conduct awareness campaigns through Branch Community Health Workers to sensitise the community on such preventive methods like draining of stagnant water, clearing bushes, spraying, boiling water and observing personal hygiene. In 1998, 303 trainers were instructed in training techniques and health education information, who in turn trained over 3,760 volunteers.
- Establish mobile malaria and cholera clinics in 11 districts.

HIV/AIDS Education, Counselling and Home-Based Care for AIDS Patients

The HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to impact heavily on hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country. The KRCS HIV/AIDS programme, which benefits over 150,000 people in 15 branches, integrates counselling, awareness creation, and home-based care for patients. The programme offers counselling for groups and individuals, provides Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to target populations, and provides home-based care for chronically ill patients.

- Train 30 HIV/AIDS peer counsellors and the develop IEC material through the KRCS Community Counselling Centre in Nairobi.
- Conduct awareness campaigns, targeting at-risk youth.
- Strengthen the family health and home-based care programmes in Kisumu to benefit the increasing number of patients and their families through home visits, client identification and referral, formation of support groups, formation of widow support groups and voluntary HIV/AIDS counselling. Train 50 home-based care providers.

Resource Planning#

In 1999, the KRCS contribution to implementing its programmes will be in staff and infrastructure. Continued external financial support is of critical importance to ensure service delivery to the targeted vulnerable communities as the National Society continues to respond to new and ongoing disasters and emergencies.

Capacity

- The National Society

KRCS has the lead role in overall co-ordination. It will provide the focal point for programme design and implementation. KRCS branches will be the key implementing agents on the ground. The Branch Executive Committees will work closely with headquarters field officers

in the planning and implementation of projects, including community mobilisation and involvement.

- The Federation

The Federation's Regional Delegation in Nairobi, through its Programme Co-ordinator for Kenya, will provide advisory and technical input. KRCS also benefits from the technical input of regional delegates based at the Federation's Regional Logistics Centre and of the regional DPP and relief delegates.

- Other Red Cross Resources

For the past several years, the Swedish Red Cross has supported the KRCS branch development programme. The German Red Cross, which maintains a liaison office at the Federation's Regional Delegation, was a primary donor to the 1997/8 Drought and Floods Emergency Appeals for the Coast and North Eastern Provinces.

Co-operation

Co-operation with UNHCR and WFP is expected to continue in the future. WFP will continue to be the source for food in all food security operations. Collaboration is underway with USAID/OFDA to strengthen the KRCS's preparedness capacity in the aftermath of the Nairobi bomb blasts. OFDA, in conjunction with the American Red Cross will implement a disaster response training programme with KRCS at the beginning of 1999. Since 1996, when ethnic clashes disrupted the north-western part of Kenya, KRCS and the Federation have enjoyed a close relationship with the ICRC through its Regional Office.