

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Disaster Policy and Preparedness

Appeal No. MAA00021

27 August 2009

This report covers the period 1 January to 30
June 2009



A Rwandan Red Cross coordinator explains the colour-coded alert system for the Nyiragongo volcano. The flag behind him shows the current state: yellow. **International Federation/Alex Wynter**

In brief

Programme purpose: To reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters and effective use of national, regional, and international Red Cross and Red Crescent capacities and resources.

Programme summary: To reduce the impact of disasters and complex emergencies, the International Federation continued working on building community safety and resilience by strengthening its programme support in primarily three areas: 1) policy, principles and standards; 2) disaster risk reduction (DRR); and 3) food security and livelihood. To this end, and in consultation and close cooperation with other departments, zones, National Societies and external partners, the Disaster Policy and Preparedness department focused its work on the above mentioned areas, as well as knowledge management.

Financial situation: There has been a decrease in the 2009 budget from CHF 3,958,847 (USD 3,647,463 or EUR 2,596,442) to CHF 3,869,179 (USD 3,564,848 or EUR 2,537,632) as a result of a position which could not be filled due to current freeze on recruitment in the secretariat. The revision reflects the CHF 300,000 that was allocated towards work being carried out in collaboration with the climate change centre. Of this revised budget, CHF 3,368,945 (87 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 1,243,010 (32 per cent of the revised budget and 37 per cent of the income).

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

No. of people we have reached: The International Federation reached out to 14,076,332

beneficiaries through its disaster management (DM) programmes in the first half of 2009. The Disaster Policy and Preparedness department primarily assisted and supported capacity building in National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and facilitated community based initiatives.

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

Context

According to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, in 2008, 585 disasters reportedly killed 242,662 people, affected 214 million people and caused damages amounting to USD 181 billion. If current trends continue, 100,000 lives will be lost each year, while the costs of natural disasters will be in excess of USD 300 billion per year by 2050.¹

Further, it is estimated that 1.4 billion people live under the poverty line and are facing chronic food insecurity and hunger, with the vast majority living in developing countries. The overlapping causes of food insecurity include HIV and AIDS, climate change, environmental degradation, conflict, sharp demographic growth and debt. These pose a formidable hurdle to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) of halving the number of hungry by 2015, as it has rendered traditional livelihoods unsustainable and reduced coping strategies of populations at risk. This has also had a spiralling effect on the availability, access and utilization of food in communities, which are interrelated and essential components of food security.

DRR initiatives encapsulate the growing recognition that relief is not enough in mitigating disasters and that resilient communities in fact are the key to reducing the impact and severity of natural hazards when they strike. Although relief initiatives and emergency appeals attract more donor attention, studies have indicated that investment in DRR can be highly cost-effective, and more importantly have a profound impact in saving lives and livelihoods when hazards strike. Studies show that USD 4-10 can be saved in the cost of recovery post-disasters for every USD 1 spent on mitigation.²

The emerging risks of challenges with regard to epidemics and pandemics further signals the need for effective preparedness measures. The recent outbreak of the Influenza A H1N1 that started in Mexico, reportedly claimed over 159 lives. Since then, there have been reported cases of people infected with the virus in at least 20 countries. The International Federation is treating the situation with a similar level of seriousness and has stepped up its preparedness activities based on projections that it could turn into a possible pandemic.

Disaster preparedness for response, mitigation, DRR and food security are key components of DM, as well as major contributors in building community safety, resilience and development.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Policy and Preparedness

1. Policy, Principles and Standards

Objective: To strengthen the development and implementation of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies DM related policies, principles and standards.

¹ SEI, IUCN, IISD: Coping with climate change: Environmental strategies for increasing human security, August 2001 (Source: Munich Re and UNEP).

² www.emdat.be/Documents/Outputs/ATRISK.pdf

Outcomes:

- Policies, strategies and guidelines related to DM (including preparedness, relief, recovery, food security, protection and risk reduction) are well understood within the International Federation and by the external stakeholders/partners, and being actively implemented by National Societies and zonal offices.
- The various policies, strategies and guidelines in DM as well as in other relevant areas of work, such as Organizational Development, Humanitarian Values and Health, are complementary and mutually reinforcing.
- The department has made a significant contribution to support awareness raising and effective implementation of the new International Federation Performance and Accountability Framework as it applies to DM related work, including the development and implementation of Federation wide DM performance indicators.

Achievements:

The main policy focus has been on the development of the institutional strategy 2010–2020. Once this strategy is finalized (November 2009), work will begin on aligning the International Federation's policy framework in DRR, including technical guidelines, to the priorities of the coming decade. Due to an urgent policy gap in the area of migration, work also continued on the development of a policy on migration which should be finalized by the General Assembly in November 2009.

The International Federation, through its membership of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR), participated in peer review on 'accountability to disaster affected people'. The peer review took place in Indonesia and Ethiopia. The International Federation worked with Caritas and Action Churches Together (ACT) to examine and compare the approaches of each agency on this topic, with a view to improving and developing practice. The outcomes of this peer review will be discussed by principles of agencies represented in the SCHR later in the year.

Work continued on the revision process of the "Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Disaster Relief" (Principles and Rules), with a second expert consultation meeting held in Geneva in March 2009. A first redraft of the Principles and Rules will be sent to all National Societies for consultation over the summer with the aim of finalizing the document for the General Assembly in November.

The core disaster policy activities continued, providing support to the International Federation's Advisory Body on disaster preparedness and relief; preparing the technical agenda items of the statutory bodies; providing technical support on policy and strategy to the zones, delegations and National Societies; and strategic analysis and policy planning and representation on disaster policy issues such as Sphere.

The department continued to work in collaboration with the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) department and the zones to develop indicators related to its DM activities to measure performance and impact primarily using information gathered through the well-prepared National Society (WPNS) to report on indicators.

Ten National Societies and six Zone offices led and participated in a climate change adaptation and DRR dialogue. This dialogue, conducted on behalf of the Inter Agency Standing Commission (IASC) task force on climate change, is part of an overall International Federation initiative to mobilize the humanitarian community to engage in the ongoing climate change negotiations. Results of the this first consultation were presented in summary at the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) Global Platform which convened in Geneva from 16-18 June 2009 (Global Platform), where the call for integration of DRR and climate change adaptation agenda in the international system was strongly reflected by many high level participants.

International Federation increased its presence at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations, where it has an observer status. In the first half of 2009, the organization participated in two rounds of UNFCCC negotiations in Bonn and developed various background documents to help position its own as well as the humanitarian community agenda in the emerging negotiation text for a climate change agreement in Copenhagen in 2009. Three key papers that have been very influential in this process have been a) a non-paper on key DRR and management language b) technical paper for negotiators on climate change adaptation strategies for local impact, including text language suggestions and c) an informal joint International Federation-OCHA paper on financing mechanism for climate change adaptation funding. The latest revised negotiations text for long-term cooperation in UNFCCC has taken into account most of the key points the International Federation promoted on behalf of its membership.

Constraints or Challenges:

The main constraints during this period was under investment in the policy area, meaning that most time was spent in dealing with core commitments with little opportunity for research and development or for providing county level support to National Societies on policy development.

A challenge vis-à-vis the revised negotiations text for long-term cooperation with UNFCCC will be to retain the text in the agreement and to find implementation and financing mechanism that will allow for effective adaptation measures at national and sub-national levels.

2. Disaster Preparedness for Response

Objective: Increase National Society's capacities to support communities to reduce vulnerabilities and disaster impacts.

Outcomes:

- Volunteers and staff of the Red Cross Red Crescent can provide improved risk analysis, through assessment of local vulnerabilities and capacities for effective DRR programming.
- Increased numbers of National Societies have capacity to monitor local disaster risks and use their risk analysis to develop/improve the institutional disaster response planning.
- Systems, procedures and structures are appropriate, effective and efficient in delivery of disaster response services at national and sub-national level.
- National Societies have improved their approaches to inform vulnerable communities of their disaster risks and sensitize them on possible risk reduction measures they can take to reduce the impact of disasters in their lives.

Achievements:

The first draft of the global analysis presenting the results of the WPNS phase II (2005–2008) is ready. Further, regional analysis for West and Central Africa, South East Asia and South Asia are also available. South Asia's experience demonstrated that having one facilitator helped with consistent interpretation and usage of the tool and guidance on questions in general. This also enhanced the analysis of the country and regional capacities. From South East Asia, the lesson of having a facilitator to support National Societies was also raised and enabled not only the completion of the survey but also the use of the outcomes and discussion in wider DM issues.

Building on lessons learnt from phases I and II and following the recommendations from National Societies, zones, technical departments and the International Committee of the Red Cross, the questionnaire was revised for phase III (2009–2011) to make it as comprehensive as possible and better reflect community based initiatives, DRR, food security, climate change adaptation, shelter and early recovery. The questionnaire was pilot tested for readability and comprehension issues in all working languages of the International Federation. Based on feedback provided following the pilot test, the questionnaire was fine tuned and the final version has been administered globally.

With regard to contingency planning, Asia-Pacific worked on a training package for the Disaster Response and Contingency Planning. Asia-Pacific is also working towards establishing indicators or criteria for “best practice” contingency plans.

Contingency planning in 2009		
Africa		
West and Central Africa	Regional	Contingency plans to be updated for greater synergy and coordination of response
Southern Africa	Angola	A national contingency plan for civil protection to be developed
East Africa	TBC	
Asia-Pacific		
South East Asia	East Timor, Lao, Vietnam, Thailand (TBC), Myanmar and Malaysia	Multi-hazard contingency planning to be completed
	Regional DR plan	To be completed
East Asia	DPRK, Mongolia	Multi-hazard contingency plans to be initiated
South Asia	Bangladesh and India	Flood plans to be completed
	Regional contingency planning	Linked to the national plans and monsoon planning during 2009
Middle East and North Africa (MENA)		
Middle East	Syria, Yemen, Libya	
North Africa	Algeria	
Americas and Europe	TBC	

In addition to the contingency planning processes mentioned above, work has been carried out in collaboration with the Shelter department to facilitate National Societies involvement to develop shelter cluster-based contingency planning at country level.

With regard to vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA), Guyana carried out a VCA in February 2009. A VCA training was also conducted in Kyrgyzstan in May 2009. Research is being carried out on how best to capture and incorporate climate change issues in the existing toolbox. Further, terms of reference have been drafted to develop a brochure on urban VCA.

The International Federation participated in the Second Experts' Symposium on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS – II) (5-7 May 2009) and influenced its outcomes. The symposium results fed into the outcomes of the (Global Platform) (16-18 June 2009) and will also be reflected in the World Climate Conference (WCC-3). The key issues for the International Federation at this symposium (and through it for the following two conferences) have been to a) highlight the need for the humanitarian community to have access to early warning at all times, not just 24-48 hours, so that it can shift its focus to save livelihoods and not just lives and b) to strengthen institutional partnership between the national metrological and hydrological authorities and humanitarian actors, in particular the national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.

Meetings were held with UNICEF and ISDR to explore opportunities for partnerships on school-based disaster risk education and awareness programmes. Though there were initial interests, no substantial outcomes were reached in this reporting period. On the other hand discussions with the Americas zone progressed well on developing some standardised material, public awareness and education. The zone, using its two reference centres, together with disaster policy and preparedness department, is developing a concept paper on how to leverage the existing work in the Americas.

The draft on community based early warning guidelines has not made any progress during this reporting period. Some discussions have taken place to ensure guidelines being developed in South East Asia on helping National Society's to engage in national early warning system are complementary and seen as a wider set of material on this subject.

Constraints or Challenges:

With regard to contingency planning, one of the key challenges has been to bridge the funding gap. Further contingency plans should be based on multiple risks, linked to risk mapping, and scenarios need to be better defined. There is a need for general consensus on the methodology used to identify high risk countries. Currently different zones and regions use different methodologies and data sets to do so.

3. Knowledge Management

Objective: To support and promote good practice and policy in DM and risk reduction.

Outcomes:

- Good practice developed and readily accessible to National Societies and external organizations.
- Information on global risk patterns and trends made available to zones, National Societies and other stakeholders.
- Dissemination and advocacy of good practices featured in World Disasters Report (WDR) to National Societies and external stakeholders.

Achievements:

The following publications were printed during the first half of 2009:

- Disaster: how the Red Cross Red Crescent reduces risk
- Disaster risk reduction – Summary of the Oslo conference, February 2009
- The Red Cross Red Crescent and the Hyogo Framework for Action – Focus on the Asia-Pacific region (developed for the ministerial conference in Asia held in November 2008)
- World Disasters Report 2009

The 2009 edition of the WDR focuses on early warning and early action. As is customary, the International Federation produces the full report in English, with summaries in Arabic, French and Spanish. Other National Societies and field offices have translated the summary into Russian, Swedish, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese. Approximately 90 National Societies launched the report on 17 June, while others will be organizing similar events during the year, in keeping with the thrust to elevate the publication to an all year focus, which is one of the recommendations of the 2007 evaluation. As a result, the communications strategy for the report encourages its use throughout the year, to ensure that there is sufficient dissemination of its contents, in order to maximise its effectiveness as a policy tool for the organization.

The report will also be used as a key element of the International Federation's humanitarian diplomacy agenda, including the recently launched global campaign. The main media launch was organized in New York, with the support of our Permanent Observer mission to the United Nations, and included sessions with the Humanitarian Liaison Working Group (HLWG) comprising donor governments, IASC and the Office of the High Representative of Land Locked, Least Developed and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS). The public launch of WDR took place in Geneva during the second session of the (Global Platform). A total of 54 representatives of permanent missions to the UN in Geneva and 10 from international organizations usually invited to the launch also participated in this event. In linking to and reinforcing the key messages of the WDR, the Southern Africa Zone office used this opportunity

to launch the Zambezi Basin Initiative³ in Johannesburg on the same day.

Case studies In collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Zone office, the first two case studies were developed for the ministerial conference in Asia. Four additional case studies were developed for dissemination at the (Global Platform):

- Bridging the gap – Integrating climate change and disaster risk reduction
- China and Cambodia – Integrated programming and cooperation with local authorities boost communities' disaster preparedness
- Lesotho: sustainable food security practices
- One heart, one programme: an integrated approach to raising awareness and reducing vulnerability (Samoa)
- Micro-credit: a Rwandan experience
- Measuring cost benefits of community disaster risk reduction in Ilam, Nepal

Web stories In addition to participating and contributing to various side events, round table discussions etc. during the Global Platform for DRR, the International Federation also ran the following web stories highlighting Red Cross and Red Crescent DRR initiatives globally:

- Red Cross updates risk-reduction plans as Nyiragongo stirs
- Risk reduction in Kenya: a new dawn at 'Borehole 11'
- Yemen Red Crescent on climate-change front line
- Red Cross builders brace for Philippine storms
- After "tsunami number one", risk reduction and seamanship on Tanzania's fishing coast
- A Philippine shore "eaten by the sea"
- Rwanda: an imihigo for risk reduction

Further, disaster preparedness and risk reduction videos have been collected and placed on the International Federation you-tube in all the working languages of the organization.

Vulnerability and capacity assessment

- The two DVDs finalized in 2008 ("VCA - the art and the science" and "The ABC of VCA") were produced in February 2009 and disseminated to the field. The DVDs have been well received by the field and there is a strong possibility that we will need to make additional copies during the second half of the year.
- The Spanish version of the VCA training guide was printed in June 2009.

Emergency assessments

- The French and Spanish versions of the guidelines were printed in June 2009.
- Terms of reference for the development of a training package emergency assessment, including training modules, supporting training materials and notes for trainers has been drafted.

Constraints or Challenges:

The funding for the WDR has been below the level of the contributions of recent years. While efforts were made to keep the operational costs to a minimum, the publication does not have the balance that is required to cover the initial stages of the production of the 2010 edition, unlike in previous years. In addition, the launch of the WDR received limited media coverage both in Geneva and in New York.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Objective: Improve community capacities to assess their own vulnerabilities and increase their safety and resilience to disaster and climate risks.

³ A USD 8 million initiative to help build the disaster resilience of 600,000 people living along the Zambezi river in seven southern African countries. The Zambezi River Basin Initiative is a response to the dramatic increase in the numbers of floods along the river basin.

Outcomes:

- Increased numbers of communities have capacity to monitor their local disaster risks and use this risk analysis to develop/improve their risk response planning.
- More at-risk-communities take timely early action to protect their lives and livelihoods by engaging in community-based monitoring systems that link up to the national, regional and global early warning systems.
- Increased number of communities with a culture and environment of “Safety and Resilience.”
- Increased awareness and capacity to address local consequences of climate change.
- Effective participation in global DRR and climate change dialogues to promote and advocate for community-centred approaches, action and resource allocation.

Achievements:

The International Federation’s first ever global DRR meeting was held in Oslo in February 2009. Around 100 Red Cross Red Crescent participants from all over the world attended this meeting, as well as representatives from donor governments, UN, World Bank, NGOs and the private sector. The conference affirmed the importance of scaling-up DRR globally utilizing the Framework for Community Safety and Resilience as a foundation, as well as agreeing to the way forward.

Most zones strengthened their DRR capacity during the reporting period – MENA, East Africa and Southern Africa hired DRR officers; the Americas hired its first DM coordinator focusing on DRR, and Europe and West and Central Africa initiated hiring processes for DRR officers.

Within the Global Alliance for DRR, baseline analysis and proposal development began in about two-thirds of the 20 focus countries. Bangladesh and Syria were the first to deliver draft baseline analyses, with Syria also developing a draft three year plan and proposal. DRR workshops were held in four countries to facilitate the baseline development and planning process. A regional DRR workshop was also held in Kyrgyzstan.

Seven countries submitted draft proposals to the World Bank’s Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR). Space for Red Cross Red Crescent activities, highlighting also the National Societies’ capacities to influence political dialogue, development planning and strategies as auxiliaries, has been incorporated into the GFDRR’s broader DRR country plans for some of their current 31 priority countries. A proposal for improving early warning in Senegal and Burkina Faso was submitted to the GFDRR’s South-South Cooperation Programme.

Three regional concept notes (Pacific islands, South Asia and the Caribbean) were developed for an ECHO funding opportunity. ECHO has indicated that the Caribbean proposal will be supported.

The second session of the Global Platform convened in Geneva from 16-19 June 2009. The event took place in the context of a growing awareness from all nations, international organizations and NGOs of the challenges posed by climate change and the increase of disaster risks that partly result from it. Among other things, the Global Platform incorporated several official events including the launch of the World Disasters Report 2009. The International Federation delegation had three main objectives for the Global Platform:

- Promotion of the work of the International Federation in DRR and climate change adaptation;
- Learning and knowledge sharing from and with other international organizations, NGOs and governments; and
- Creating and reinforcing partnerships with other international organizations, NGOs and governments.

In addition, the International Federation developed a set of key messages related to the themes of the conference (climate change adaptation, community resilience and DRR). Overall, these objectives were met and a number of action points have been developed for implementation at global, zone and country levels.

The International Federation organized the following six special events at the Global Platform, some jointly with others:

- “Addressing the Humanitarian Challenges of Climate Change – National and Regional Perspectives on the role of DRR”–This event was organized by IASC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.
- “Measuring impacts of DRR”–This event was organized jointly with the ProVention Consortium with speakers from the Nepal Red Cross Society, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET) and the World Bank.
- “Food security” featured speakers from The Sudanese Red Crescent, Malawi Red Cross Society, as well as the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- “Community Safety and Resilience” was a joint event, with speakers from the Sierra Leone Red Cross, the Global Network of Civil Society Organization for Disaster Reduction, the Duryog Nivaran group, the advisor to the mayor of Makati City in the Philippines as well as from Northumbria University in the United Kingdom.
- “Early warning, early action” provided the opportunity for additional discussion on the contents of the current edition of the WDR, with speakers from the International Federation, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and WFP.
- “Legal Preparedness for International Disaster Cooperation in the Context of Climate Change” which was organised jointly by the legal department and OCHA. The speakers included the director of the Cambodian National Committee for DM, Sierra Leone Red Cross Society and the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning.

During the Global Platform, the International Federation had a permanent stand, where various International Federation documentation as well as documents produced by the participating National Societies were distributed. The stand was successful in providing participants with information about the International Federation and Movement activities, leading to increased visibility.

The first ever cost-benefit analysis of DRR in the International Federation, performed in Nepal, was made into a case study and widely disseminated.

A joint effort by the secretariat in Geneva, MENA and the Americas provided DRR training workshops in English, French/Arabic and Spanish to youth volunteers at the World Youth Event in Solferino.

Constraints or Challenges:

Resource and capacity limitations, particularly in the zones, continue to limit the up-scaling of DRR activities and its mainstreaming in Red Cross Red Crescent programming.

Food Security in Africa

Objective: National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have scaled-up community-based food security programming and have the necessary structures and capacities to contribute to the reduction of chronic and transitory food insecurity.

Outcomes:

- National Societies have integrated and coordinated longer-term community-based food security programmes and are contributing to the reduction of chronic and transitory food insecurity.
- Food security database of trained personnel at zonal and National Society level exists and is actively used.
- Improved National Society governance, management and technical capacities.
- Effective response to famine alerts/situations.

Achievements:

In East Africa, the five National Societies (Ethiopia, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda and Sudan) started implementing activities with or without the direct funding support from the zone. The progress in the region has been slow primarily because the National Societies have been involved in responding to prolonged droughts, civil conflicts, displacement, impact of high food prices and lack of rain in the productive areas.

East Africa		
Country	Region/district/province	Description
Ethiopia	1. Tigrey 2. Dedba, Degajen and Shibta	1. Long-term food security programme is being implemented 2. Integrated food security project to build the capacity of the vulnerable in these areas
Kenya	Long-term food security projects	In Machakos, 250,000 people will benefit and watsan activities in Isiolo district are being extended to 30,000 households for 2009–2010
Uganda	Not started implementing long-term food security project due to limited funding	
Sudan	A food security strategy has been developed	
Rwanda	Programmes are underway	

The emergency appeals launched for Angola, Namibia and Zambia flood operations included short-term food security activities. The Zambezi river basin initiative includes a major food security component for seven National Societies namely Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi. This is a long-term initiative with a regional reach and reflects an integrated approach.

Southern Africa		
Country	Region/district/province	Description
Lesotho	Home gardens	Nutritional information and education components of the project have enabled beneficiaries to make informed choices about the vegetables they grow, purchase or consume. Since women are usually responsible for preparing food within the household, the nutrition programmes were primarily focused on them.
Swaziland	Sustainable nutrition-enhancing and revenue-generating projects	The revenue-generating projects comprise communal gardens (individual and income-generating), backyard gardens (individual), communal fish ponds, and communal poultry production.

In West and Central Africa various community-based food security projects are being implemented.

West and Central Africa		
Country	Region/district/province	Description
Mali	Women's market gardening groups	Volunteers, community organizers and technical advisers for health and food security provide advice and training on composting, protecting crops against ravagers, and harvest conservation methods, etc. Each woman's market gardening group (selection based on degree of vulnerability) has a committee that manages not only market gardens but also existing watering points in the village.
Mauritania	The Red Crescent Village Project in Boghe	The project aims at improving food security and health, while fighting against poverty in three villages. The project includes income-generating initiatives for beneficiaries through market gardening and community shops. By adopting an integrated approach, the training sessions aim to improve technical farming methods, and raise awareness on health and nutrition issues.
Guinea	Manfran rice project	The project aims at initiating income-generating activities for the beneficiaries, as well as strengthening the community's capacity through training sessions on improved farming techniques.
Niger's Goure (Zinder) area	Gardening activities and technical training	The project aims at improving food security for 100 farmer households through the promotion of market gardening. It aims at reinforcing and/or initiating gardening activities, providing complementary food during the dry season, as well as creating secondary sources of income. In addition, it also aims to reinforce community capacities with technical training sessions on farm production, health and nutrition.

Baseline work have been carried out in:

- West and Central Africa: Mali, Niger, Mauritania and Burkina Faso
- Southern Africa: Malawi, Lesotho and Swaziland
- East Africa: Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda

The Southern Africa Zone office has set regional food security priorities and developed indicators to monitor the activities in the five National Societies that are a part of the long-term food security initiative. The baseline survey for Malawi Red Cross highlighted the importance of integrating food security with home-based care (HBC) and to reach out to orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) in order to address diversified nutritional requirements.

Constraints or Challenges:

Limited technical capacity as well as lack of plans, policies and strategies at National Society level in West and Central Africa has posed difficulties in providing overall strategic direction and resulted in slow progress in implementing the programmes. Further the thinking is more towards disaster relief operations than to developing risk reduction and long-term food security programmes. Efforts need to be made to ensure that disaster response and recovery operations are integrated and linked to the long-term food security work.

While all the five National Societies implementing long-term food security activities in East Africa have been getting technical support from the Zone as and when requested, funding remains the key challenge. The Zone and National Societies collectively are advocating with PNSs to explore long-term funding opportunities. Integrated approach is being encouraged at all levels for long-term impact.

Working in partnership

While National Societies and Zones developed proposals for the World Bank GFDRR, the Secretariat continued discussions with GFDRR headquarters to build common institutional understanding, providing for smoother and standardized access to GFDRR funding opportunities.

Together with the Red Cross Red Crescent EU Office in Brussels, the disaster policy and preparedness department is participating in the European Commission process of finalizing a new DRR strategy. Discussions with ECHO have been particularly fruitful. The secretariat is a member of the UN/ISDR and participated in the Global Platform. It worked with global partners such as Zurich Financial Services, which pledged to extend technical support. Discussions have been initiated to facilitate a first technical partnership.

Increased numbers of partnerships and long-term support to high-risk communities in food security programmes have been established to ensure sustainability within the communities. Technical expertise is being sought from external institutions such as government, academia, relevant UN institutions such as the WFP and FAO, African Development Bank, local and international non-governmental organizations, among others. National programmes have been developed in close collaboration with these institutions. Their expertise will also be consulted for mid-term reviews and, where necessary, in the redesigning of implementation plans.

Further, the International Federation is coordinating Red Cross Red Crescent efforts towards accessing funding from the European Commission. The European Commission has a EUR 1 billion grant in its “Food Facility” project which aims to support agriculture and improve the food security situation in 50 developing countries across the globe. It is also working together with the European Commission’s DG Development and DG ECHO to mainstream DRR into development and humanitarian policy.

The secretariat works in partnership with IASC members working group on ‘risk informed humanitarian action.’ It is a member in many different UN led thematic clusters that bring together humanitarian actors working in disaster operations. It is also a part of the IASC and the Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness Centre, among others. In moving the policy agenda of DRR to the global level, the International Federation continues to lead an IASC working group on risk-informed humanitarian action.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Changes in risk and disaster patterns result in large-scale emergencies that require the mobilization of huge levels of international disaster assistance. Underlying the Red Cross Red Crescent global agenda is a commitment to address the causes of vulnerability and to build effective DRR capacities.

In order to minimize the impact of disasters, National Societies in countries prone to natural hazards need to have an effective disaster preparedness programme in place. Implementation of effective capacity-building strategies and disaster preparedness programmes must be based on an accurate review of the existing capacities/programmes. To this end, WPNS has proved to be a useful tool in disaster preparedness mapping. It is recognized by the National Societies that WPNS can serve as a vital source of information and help indicate the most urgent issues to be taken into account while responding to an emergency.

Looking ahead

Baselines and proposals for all Global Alliance for DRR focus countries are in process. During the second half of the year, finalization of the World Bank GFDRR proposals will be done. Further, continuous efforts are being made at Zone level to strengthen DRR capacities.

The enhancement of DRR mapping, including centralized collection of inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes and the assessment of goals, is planned. Additional impact and cost-benefit analyses of existing DRR programmes are planned, with the ultimate goal of developing standardized Federation-wide approaches.

Zones and National Societies are committed to the WPNS process and there is a commitment from at least 20 National Societies to carry out the process in the second half of the year.

In terms of knowledge sharing, more case studies will be commissioned to capture good practices and the impact of various programmes and projects in different sectors.

In line with the core membership services, the Disaster Policy and Preparedness department will continue to provide National Societies and zones with support with regard to development of tools and guidance, coordination, knowledge sharing, resource mobilization, representation and needs-based technical support.

How we work	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. • Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. • Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. • Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
Contact information	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Federation Secretariat: Mohammed Omer Mukhier, Head, Disaster Policy and Preparedness, Geneva; email: mohammedomer.mukhier@ifrc.org; phone +41 22 730 4430; fax: +41 22 733 0395. 	