SOUTHERN AFRICA
IFRC Country Cluster Support Team

2019 PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Southern Africa is projected to be one of one of the most vulnerable regions to the impacts of climate change. Floods and cyclones affected several countries and more than 400,000 people across the region were affected in 2018. The estimated population in the sub region is over 340 million. With 60 per cent of the population living in urban areas, this rise in urbanization means more youth are living in towns where employment opportunities are limited leading to increased crime and other socio-economic development challenges.

The 2019 plan is being developed within a context where there is a 70 per cent probability of an El Niño event in 2019 season which could lead to a further deterioration of food insecurity particularly following the low and erratic rainfall recorded to date in 2018. This food insecurity situation is likely to affect the gains made in decreasing the prevalence of child malnutrition making it difficult to attain the World Health Assembly target of a 40% reduction in the number of stunted children by 2025.

The sub region has the most severe HIV epidemic accounting for almost one third (12.8 million) of all people living with HIV in the world. Although the rates of new infection have generally declined, the prevalence of new infections in adolescent girls remains high. Investing in partnership with Southern African National Societies will be boost in their existing advanced HIV programs with a strong focus on reducing new infections contributing towards the global initiative of 'ending AIDS by 2030'.

Cholera is endemic in Southern Africa and most recently in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe more than 15042 cases and 237 deaths were confirmed. Other communicable diseases are also present in the region, including Hepatitis E in Angola and Namibia, Guinea Worm in Angola (first case confirmed in June 2018), measles in Zambia, typhoid in Zimbabwe and listeriosis in South Africa.

National Societies programmes and activities will be supported to address the outlined humanitarian challenges. While governments in the region continue to respond to recurrent shocks, there is an urgent need for comprehensive action by governments and development partners to address the root causes of chronic vulnerability. The IFRC is part of humanitarian partners supporting Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to develop a Regional Resilience Strategy. The IFRC also Chairs the Food Security Working Group thereby championing the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as a leading humanitarian actor and positioning Southern African National Societies to be more visible and credible humanitarian players in their national context.
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Humanitarian Challenges

The Southern Africa region experiences the most severe HIV epidemics in the world. Nine countries - Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe - have adult HIV prevalence rates of over 10 per cent. At an estimated 26.0 per cent, Swaziland has the highest HIV prevalence rate in the world, followed by Botswana (23.4 per cent) and Lesotho (23.3 per cent). With 5.6 million people with HIV (17.3 per cent), South Africa has the world’s largest epidemic.

The number of food insecure people in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region in the 2018/19 consumption year will be 29 million people, representing 14 percent of the population, according to the “State of Food and Nutrition Insecurity and Vulnerability in Southern Africa” report published in July 2018. This report reflects the challenges the region will be facing when it comes to resilience.

STATISTICS

Estimated population in the sub region is over 340 million. 60 % population living in urban areas,

50% of the population living on less than $1 a day in Southern Africa

80% change of El Niño phenomena in 2019 with below average rain.

19.6 million of people living with HIV in Southern Africa

50% more case of cholera in 2018

AREA OF FOCUS

LIVELIHOOD/DRR/SHELTER

CHF 640,000 required

Our Approach will be to enhance the 1 billion Coalition initiative focussing on establishing National Coalitions to develop innovative DRR approaches such as micro insurance and other safety net initiatives. Considering that one of the biggest challenges is food insecurity, the focus will also be to support National Societies to strengthen livelihoods at household and community levels. Following the last cycle of El Nino, National Societies were introduced to Cash Programming and these activities are gaining momentum. The IFRC will seek opportunities to train more National Society staff and volunteers to be ready to roll out cash programs when needed.

- 20 000 people are reached through public awareness campaigns to reduce and mitigate risks
- 5000 people reached with food assistance
- 70% of target population livelihood restored to pre-disaster level

HEALTH /WASH

CHF 630,000 required

As outlined in the Africa Road Map, the priority will be enhancing CBHFA to support weak Health systems in an auxiliary role to governments. Emphasis will also be placed in supporting National Societies to scale up their community-based interventions to reduce new HIV infections. Long-term development WASH such as One WASH approach to reduce the continued threat and incidence of cholera in target communities, while contributing overall to global cholera epidemic elimination.

- 500,000 people reached through direct health service provision
- 350 volunteers trained in epidemic control
- 5000 households provided with safe water and sanitation services

PROTECTION, GENDER & INCLUSION

CHF 260,000 required

The Southern Africa 2019 plan will be largely influenced by the “Do no harm” principle in all programmes. Not leaving out neither youth or older people from volunteer basis or from target populations and the team will continue to support the National Societies to ensure that the basic rights and safety of disadvantaged and marginalized groups are improved and affected groups live in a safe environment.

- 7 National societies country programmes reflect measures to improve equitable status

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITY

CHF 340,000 required

Several of the National Societies in Southern Africa are emerging from years of financial crises and weakened leadership and in 2018 the emphasis was on supporting the National Societies to recover. In 2019 IFRC will build on these achievements and focus on other areas for improved National Society Development.

The sub region has a strong network (SAPRCS) which is a solid platform which will reinforced. Furthermore, innovative communication and coordination tools (WhatsApp group, online communication platform) will reinforced.

- 10 National Societies will be producing audited financial statements
- 10 National Societies have a self-development plan in follow up to OCAC
- 10 National Societies provide data on FDRS on an annual basis
- 10 National Societies have National Society represented in Governing Boards

ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

CHF 300,000 required

DM network among NS, Partners National Societies, ICRC and external stakeholders will be enhanced. Furthermore, innovative communication and coordination tools (WhatsApp group, online communication platform) will reinforced.

- 10 of southern Africa NSs staff trained as RDRTs and registered with Africa region roster
- 250 000 CHF cash programming delivered
- 100% operations comply to IFRC Principles and rules for Humanitarian Assistance

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNER

CHF 260,000 required

The Cluster Office will continue to support the National Societies to be more visible and credible humanitarian players in their national context. A network of communication specialists in National Societies has been formed and will be strengthened as a mechanism to promote peer to peer learning. Visibility of National Societies will also improve through production of more compelling and evidence-based testimonies from beneficiaries.

Four societies have draft national & local disaster & climate change plans to implement activities in 2019; 9-10 of southern Africa NSs staff trained as RDRTs and registered with Africa region roster

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