Southern Africa has a population of over 340 million. With 60 per cent of the population living in urban areas, the rise in urbanization means more youth are living in towns where employment opportunities are limited. Although some countries have succeeded in reaching middle-income status, poverty and vulnerability remain high, as can be seen by multidimensional poverty index (MPI) rankings.

Every year, the countries of southern Africa are adversely affected by both human induced and natural disasters such as drought and floods, as well as trans-boundary and socio-economic crises. These hazardous events result in loss of lives, assets, livelihoods and damage to the environment. This consequently leads to a weakening food and nutrition security, fragile environments, forced migration, health risks, increased vulnerability and poverty. These crises are further aggravated by the impact of climate change. The region in 2019, witnessed variability in rainfall patterns and distribution, resulting in serious recurrent drought and destructive floods and cyclones that have weakened particularly agricultural based livelihoods, leading to chronic food insecurity. We witnessed this very recently in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Our collective RC support in Mozambique elevated the Red Cross Movement as one of the main actors in the response and recovery efforts. The Mozambique example should not be an exception but the norm. Given the increasing frequency and complexity of such crises, a holistic approach is needed in southern Africa. Hence, the cluster vision is anchored on six key pillars, namely on National Society Development, Disaster Risk Management, Health, Communications and Partnerships and Resource Development and the sixth pillar of Programme Quality and Accountability, which cuts across all the other five pillars and includes community engagement and accountability (CEA), protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER).
National Society Profile

Support to National Society programmes and activities in the seven areas of focus will be across the continuum from Disaster to Development. This means, results sought at community level should articulate the Federation’s collective contribution to SDGs by 2025. In particular, programmes designed to focus on National Society Development will place emphasis on ensuring greater investment in strengthening their role as Partners of Choice locally.

The 10 NS in the region are at various stages of development which necessitates the need for continued investment in good leadership in the NS and creating strategic partnership with Government and other partners. Governance matters have bedevilled some NS including SARCS and Zambia RC, and mediation from the AGG and SAPRCS peer support network will continue in 2020. The NS in the region will continue to focus on sustainability and domestic fund raising. However, the elevation of some countries such as Namibia to Upper Middle class, has meant that the NS must seek funding elsewhere with the Global aid market focusing on more vulnerable countries. In each of the 10 NS in the region there requires improved accountability, and financial management, with Mozambique and Malawi receiving support from country partners for the turnaround strategy. Referencing the Africa Operations room, and the PAC indicators, the NSs will need to improve their reporting and implementation of the PAC indicators to ensure well-functioning NS.

Movement Footprint

The Cluster has representatives from all three arms of the movement, ICRC, IFRC and 11 PNS working in the Region. Movement partners work together to support the NS, and also contribute to Shared Leadership in different thematic areas.

The ICRC in the region has the main delegation in Pretoria, with missions in Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The support to the NS is through the Cooperation department as well as RFL. The Pretoria Delegation also supports the NS in preparation for statutory meetings through the Regional Legal office. The IFRC cluster office is already working closely with ICRC on many of the issues of common concerns. Joint field visits/joint letters to NS leadership when the need arises, will continue to occur in 2020.

Inclusivity

The Southern Africa Cluster plan will be largely influenced by the “Do no harm” principle in all programmes. Emphasis will be on not leaving out youth or older people from volunteering. The team will continue to support National Societies to develop and deliver orphaned and vulnerable children programmes and ensure that the basic rights and safety of these disadvantaged and marginalized groups are improved and affected groups live in a safe environment.

STATISTICS

340 Million is the estimated population of the sub-region

65% of the cluster countries do not have access to safe drinking water.

12.8 Million people living with HIV

50% Of the population in Southern Africa living on less than a dollar a day
AREAS OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 340,000

Southern Africa is heavily affected by climate change and variability, with projections suggesting that the impact of climate change will become more severe over the next decades. Taking into cognisance increasing vulnerabilities, there is still a need to further strengthen the preparedness and resilience building work of the NSs.

- 25,000 people reached with public awareness campaigns
- 5 SADC Member States supported to increase disaster preparedness mechanisms
- 4 National Societies are in the process of developing Early action protocols

SHELTER

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 80,000

Flood disasters have a propensity to impact the built environment and cause huge losses by destroying property, including home and other infrastructures. Over the years, the NSs that have been responding to emergencies have developed capacities in shelter management capacities for both short-term and long-term.

- 2,500 households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance
- 2,500 households provided with household assistance
- 2,500 households provided with technical support and guidance

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 700,000

Disasters often threaten or wipe out the livelihoods of survivors. The 2018/19 rains were delayed and erratic resulting in food insecurity in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe declared national drought emergencies. The drought has affected water supplies for domestic, industrial and agricultural use. Fodder and pasture continue to decline as the dry season progresses, with farmers losing their animals daily from drought. Strengthening community resilience to food insecurity requires long-term interventions, therefore IFRC needs to continue supporting the NS in their efforts geared towards food security.

- 1,000 households supported to increase household food production
- 70% of targeted population whose livelihoods were restored to pre disaster level
- 5,300 people reached with food assistance or cash for basic needs

HEALTH

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 670,000

Southern Africa remains the global epicentre for the HIV epidemic. IFRC and Southern African NSs have a long history in being the lead in the field of HIV & TB and implementing community-based HIV & TB activities. The burden of HIV & TB continues to be a remarkable health need in the area and RC must work especially in prevention of new infections on community level.

- 18,000 people reached by long term health care support
- 10,000 people provided with clinical health care services during emergencies
- 220 people trained by National societies in epidemic control

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 630,000

Long-term developmental WASH programme interventions, including health surveillance and capacity building elements, are needed to reduce the continued threat and incidence of cholera in target communities, while contributing overall to global cholera epidemic elimination.

- 20,000 households provided with safe water services
- 20,000 people provided with knowledge on and access to improved excretal disposal

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 340,000

The IFRC Southern Africa Cluster Office recognises the importance of promoting and mainstreaming protection, gender and inclusion to meet the different needs of various groups in a community in emergency ad non-emergency situations.

- 100% of DREFs and EA operations address the specific needs people
- 7 National Societies has annual plan with IFRC that address SGBV
- 7 National Societies have country plans to improve equitable status

MIGRATION

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 130,000

Climate change, natural disaster as well as the labour migration and taking into consideration the unique status of the NSs in being auxiliary to their local authorities, presents an opportunity for the IFRC and the regional NSs, in close partnership with the ICRC, to ensure that the rights and protection of migrants are maintained.

- 2,000 people reached by sensitization campaigns to address xenophobia and discrimination
STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 410,000

To achieve and maintain an organisation that consistently delivers service to vulnerable people sustainably, efforts to strengthen NS will focus on developing National Society Development Plans for targeted countries that will clearly outline priorities and quick wins in NSD. These plans will be used to mobilize resources to support the implementation.

- 10 National Societies are engaged in peer to peer support through the IFRC network
- 10 National Societies report that it benefits for the expertise/innovation/learning opportunities of the IFRC network

ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 450,000

The Southern Africa Cluster will focus on strengthening preparedness for response by promoting initiatives such as PER and Cash Based Programming; improving effective and efficient implementation of the EAs, capitalising on different response tools; and coordination and collaboration with Red Cross Movement Partners and external stakeholders.

- 15,000 of crisis affected people assisted through cash transfer programming (CTP)
- 250,000 CHF of cash transfer programming delivered year to date

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 380,000

Support will be extended to the Southern African National Societies to assist them position themselves as partners of choice in their national contexts. The SAPRCS meetings and dialogue will continue to be strengthened with particular focus on strengthening communication networks, promoting peer to peer learning through online and virtual collaboration tools and forums, collaboration in multi country PRD efforts and sustainability.

- 100% of evaluations were followed up by a management response
- 1 institutional partner formally registered with the One Billion Coalition for Resilience

ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 270,000

The South African Cluster office will endeavour to be relevant through supporting the strengthening of the national societies to be effective and sustainable partner of choice in their countries. This will be done through Communication, disaster Management, health, Movement coordination and the oversight role to the National Societies.

- 5 National Societies have strategic plans and key policies in place

CONTACTS

For more information on the work of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Country, please contact:

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