The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

**Humanity** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

**Impartiality** It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

**Neutrality** In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

**Independence** The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

**Voluntary service** It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

**Unity** There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

**Universality** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.
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59-year-old Adalia Francisco Tivane walks home after collecting her seeds from the Red Cross distribution in Changanine, Chibuto District. She says, ‘thanks to the Red Cross life will get better once I plant my seeds and the rains come’.

Mozambique experienced its worst drought in three decades, leaving large sections of the population facing food insecurity.

Photo: German Red Cross/Aurélie Marrier d’Unienville
Message from our Regional Director

Despite numerous humanitarian challenges in 2017 in Africa, there were also a number of heart-warming accomplishments. A case in point, was when a local response of Red Crescent teams—and other partners—curbed Somalia’s cholera outbreak through the power of local volunteers and shared international expertise. In terms of support to our members, 36 National Societies were able to kick start initiatives that built their capacity through seed grants.

It is such highlights that I am pleased to present in this annual report for 2017, a year during which the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Africa continued to pursue the direction and specific milestones defined in the “IFRC in Africa, Road Map 2017 – 2020.”

The humanitarian context in 2017 remained challenging. A food crisis continued to worsen in Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan, north-east Nigeria and Central African Republic (CAR). The refugee crisis in Uganda was compounded by a new influx of thousands of people fleeing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In Madagascar, an outbreak of pneumonic plague killed over 100 people. In the same year, Cyclone Enawo, the strongest storm to hit Madagascar in over a decade, left enormous humanitarian needs in its wake.

Perhaps one of the most dreadful humanitarian disasters of the year was when deadly mudslides killed over 1,000 people in a very short time on the outskirts Freetown, Sierra Leone, leaving about 8,000 families of survivors in need of humanitarian assistance.

Our gallant volunteers responded to all of these challenges with unerring courage and determination. Sadly, it was not without a price: several volunteers lost their lives in line of duty in 2017. Six Red Cross volunteers were killed in an attack on a health centre in southeast Central African Republic on 3 August. That was the third attack on Red Cross workers in Central African Republic that year. In January 2017, in Nigeria, six Red Cross aid workers were killed in an airstrike on the town of Rann, near the border of Nigeria and Cameroon.

My experience as the IFRC Regional Director for Africa continues to be immeasurably rewarding. The commitment of the network of African Red Cross and Red Crescent staff, volunteers and partners in response to the needs of vulnerable communities has inspired me to be deeply committed to the Movement. It is humbling to see the greatest strength of African National Societies – the volunteers – at work. The 1.4 million volunteers in Africa who selflessly offer unparalleled presence at local level. They help us to respond fast, and to go the extra mile.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers and IFRC colleagues who made 2017 a successful, if challenging, year. Their dedication and hard work has ensured we’ve reached millions across the region. This report provides useful insights and inspiration for taking humanitarian work in Africa to the next level.

Dr Fatoumata Nafo-Traoré
Regional Director, IFRC Africa
Our Impact: In a snapshot

63 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS responded to across Africa in 2017

27.6 million people targeted

- 30,000 reached to prevent, mitigate and respond to foster a culture of peace.
- 78,000 reached with emergency shelter.
- 1.5 million reached with livelihood activities, including cash transfers.
- 2 million benefiting from cleaner water as well as better sanitation and hygiene.
- 2 million targeted through food crisis responses.
- 4.8 million reached with disaster risk reduction activities.
- 7.4 million reached with health-related activities.

40% Natural disasters
25 responses

3% Complex emergency
2 responses

5% Civil unrest
3 responses

8% Food insecurity/Crisis
8 responses

27% Epipemics and health outbreaks
17 responses

13% Population movement
2 responses

Operations initiated and ongoing
The IFRC Africa region has the **HIGHEST** number of emergency appeals and Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREFs) globally.

- **15** Emergency Appeals Operations
  - CHF 167,560,579
  - (Large disasters)

- **46** Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Operations
  - CHF 8,773,750
  - (Small and medium-sized disasters)

- **2** One International Appeal/Movement Response Plan Operations
  - CHF 14,570,510
1. Reaching the last mile in humanitarian response

Halting epidemic outbreaks

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Regional Office for Africa is committed to realize its ambitious plan to accompany 49 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in developing and delivering humanitarian and development assistance to vulnerable communities affected by disasters and crises. Whenever there was an emergency, we were there.

Epidemics are a constant threat to communities across the continent of Africa. Populations facing conflict or natural disasters are particularly at risk. From the plague in Madagascar to a measles response in Guinea and cholera/acute watery diarrhoea outbreaks in Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia – more than one-quarter of the operations in Africa have focused on epidemics.

At the core of both response and prevention are the dedicated Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers. Their role in the communities they live and work have proven to help halt epidemic outbreaks and prevent many more from happening in the future.

**Madagascar: Slowing the spread of plague through community engagement and case management**

In October, IFRC deployed a treatment centre to provide urgent care for hundreds of people in Madagascar who were infected with plague.

A full medical team was deployed along with a 50-bed treatment centre with the capacity to isolate and treat patients. The treatment centre utilized national health staff in addition to the international medical team, and significantly bolstered in-country capacity to respond to the outbreak.

In addition to case management, volunteers in the communities went house-to-house, ensuring hotspot areas received critical information on prevention and treatment of plague as well as collecting data for ongoing surveillance of the outbreak.

“The Malagasy Red Cross has been in 22 regions of the country, providing life-saving information, community-based surveillance, environmental sanitation and vector control and safe burials,” says Andoniaina Ratsimamanga, Secretary General of Malagasy Red Cross.

“This multi-targeted approach has been the only way to stop this outbreak.”
Somaliland: Community response to curb the cholera outbreak

In mid-2017, when a cholera outbreak in Somalia threatened to overwhelm local hospitals, health experts feared the worst. With crippling drought, malnutrition, and poverty already endemic, an outbreak of deadly diarrhoea seemed destined to paralyze the fragile state.

More than 77,133 cases and 1,159 deaths were reported in different parts of the country between January and September 2017.

But, despite the dire predictions, institutional paralysis was avoided. The collective response managed by governments, non-governmental organizations, and local communities, including the national Red Crescent Societies supported by the Red Cross movement, contained the disease. The Red Crescent treated more than 12,000 cases, 70 per cent of the total cases in Somaliland.

A 200-bed capacity cholera treatment centre was deployed in May 2017, with the support of Canadian Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross, along with two smaller cholera treatment units in hotspots in Somaliland.

Red Crescent volunteers became the frontline to preventing and treating cases. Through 43 oral rehydration points in both Somaliland and Puntland, volunteers became the first point of contact for patients, collecting data on the patient and categorizing the severity of cases. For acute cases, volunteers referred them to hospitals and clinics for antibiotics or IV treatment. The mild to moderate cases were treated by volunteers, through oral rehydration salts, zinc and soap.

Social mobilization activities also took place – volunteers reached out to about 84,000 people in vulnerable areas, providing critical information about preventing its spread.
Responding to unprecedented food insecurity

From the beginning of 2017, the African continent faced an unprecedented rise in food insecurity. Millions of people remain in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, particularly where consecutively poor rainfall, rising food prices and insecurity worsen the situation. At no other time in recent history did severe hunger and starvation loom so large. Many countries have faced emergency levels of food insecurity and this has had a devastating impact on millions whose livelihoods depend on their crops and livestock.

The IFRC launched a regional appeal in April 2017 to support and scale up actions in countries most affected by the food crisis. It aimed at not only urgent relief efforts but also promoting community-driven sustainable solutions to increase the resilience of crisis-affected people to cope with cyclical food insecurity. More than 100 people deployed to support operations across the continent, with particular attention on the most severe cases, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan.
Cash transfer programming across Africa help communities take charge of their own recovery

Cash-based interventions have increasingly become a fundamental component in response to food insecurity. Across Africa, cash transfer programming increases the purchasing power of families to invest in their farms and businesses, ultimately encouraging an increase in production and economic access to food. This also helps families to respond to their immediate needs during emergencies.

At least 15 countries utilized cash transfer as part of their response to food insecurity in 2017 through vouchers, direct cash and mobile money, reporting that it was a more efficient, timely and dignified way to support communities.

In Southern Africa, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe all adapted some form of cash-based intervention, the most common being the distribution of e-money over a mobile network. In many other parts of the continent, different cash modalities were used, including direct cash in Nigeria; vouchers in Sahel to support people’s access to food; mobile cash transfers in Kenya where more than 252,000 people were reached.

We have seen that by providing cash to the people we serve allows the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies to address the needs of the affected families in a holistic manner, purchase what is relevant and needed in their homes and meet other basic needs, including health care.

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Providing cash to the people we serve allows us to address the needs of the affected families in a holistic manner, purchase what is relevant and needed in their homes and meet other basic needs.

60 per cent of families reported they could afford enough meals per day compared to 20 per cent before the Kenya Red Cross cash transfer initiative began.

15 countries utilized cash-based interventions in 2017 in response to drought and food insecurity.
At the forefront of natural disasters

We strive to be a leading humanitarian organization during disasters, in post-disaster and in post-conflict relief and rehabilitation in Africa. Strengthening the capacity of National Societies is key to ensuring that both short-term and longer-term needs are addressed.

The IFRC Africa region has the highest number of DREFs globally, of which most of them are natural disasters. The allocated amount to the region has almost doubled compared to 2016.

In 2017, we focused on relief, emergency shelter and settlement, emergency health as well as water and sanitation. As people begin to get back on their feet and rebuild their lives, we also make sure to help them to strengthen their resilience to future hazards.

2.3 million people targeted through natural disaster operations.

25 operations responded to natural disasters, including floods, droughts, cyclones and storms.

Mudslides in Sierra Leone

Deadly torrential rain caused mudslides in Sierra Leone on 14 August 2017, resulting in heavy destruction and numerous fatalities in hillside towns of Freetown. The most severe mudslides occurred in the eastern part of Racecourse, in the outskirts of Regent and Lumley area of the Sierra Leone capital, killing over 1,000 people and leaving about 8,000 families in need of humanitarian assistance. Sierra Leone Red Cross volunteers were there to evacuate and to provide comfort and first aid immediately after the disaster. IFRC supported emergency operations targeting over 30,000 people affected by the disaster.
Rwanda floods

In September 2017, several districts in Rwanda experienced heavy rainfall associated with heavy storms, which resulted in destruction of houses and community farm lands. This was the second time during the year the country faced these kinds of disasters: in April-May there was a DREF intervention in the Eastern Province.

The September floods affected 5,850 people from 1,170 households, out of which 640 families lost their homes. The disaster caused three deaths and 24 people were injured. It was reported that approximately 1,024 hectares of mixed crops were destroyed, and household food stock were completely damaged.

In the beginning of October, IFRC launched a DREF to assist to the needs of the affected population with the provision of essential emergency relief, shelter items, cash transfers and hygiene promotion assistance, targeting a total number of 5,460 people (1,092 households).
Supporting communities in the migration crisis

Sub-Saharan Africa hosts more than 26 per cent of the world’s displaced population (UNHCR). The number has soared in recent years. An estimated 18 million people are of concern in Sub-Saharan Africa (UNHCR). Conflict is the main driver of displacement and movement of refugees in Africa. In the beginning of last year, there was almost 1.3 million South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries, half of them in Uganda, now the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa. Sudan is one of the main countries of asylum in the region. As of the end of 2016, there were nearly 800,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan, including 500,000 refugees from Eritrea and Somalia as well as 300,000 South Sudanese refugees. More than 2.6 million people have fled their homes as a result of violence in north-east Nigeria, affecting neighbouring Chad, Cameroon and Niger. The present context of the crisis indicate that some 223,000 people internally displaced are in need of assistance.

IFRC has a longstanding history of working with migrants. In 2017 we targeted 547,000 people affected by population movement through our operations across the continent. We were at the forefront, providing them life-saving and life-enhancing services such as first aid, access to health care and other essential services.

547,000 people targeted through population movement operations.

8 operations responded to population movement across Africa.
Uganda: Responding to the needs of thousands in world’s fastest growing refugee camp

Today, Uganda is home to 1.4 million refugees who have journeyed from neighbouring countries such as South Sudan and DRC. With the support of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Uganda Red Cross has been at the forefront, providing urgently-needed assistance to more than 216,000 refugees, providing clean and safe water, hygiene and sanitation facilities, prevention of disease outbreaks, distribution of non-food items and offering psycho-social support.

Red Cross continues to identify and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable people, including Faunta, 67, who arrived with the help of Red Cross volunteers in both South Sudan and Uganda, who carried her to and from the border.

“I want to thank Red Cross people. They make me forget what I went through,” Faunta says. “I can't walk, but they still value me. They also bring my necessities here. I will never forget that it is Red Cross people who rescued me.”

“We had to draw water from the Nile. My baby was always sick. Now, we are safe, we no longer fall sick. I am grateful that the Red Cross brought safe and clean water near us.”

- Beatrice Anyei, 26, South Sudan refugee in Uganda.
For the first time in two days, Along Kuan Kuan and her eight children will eat. Along is one of 30,000 people in this area who received an emergency household kit from the South Sudan Red Cross, with the support of IFRC and ICRC. Along has fled conflict to seek safety in Aweil East in hopes of a better life for her and her children.

“I rested well last night,” smiles Along, checking on her baby who is sleeping soundly on a soft blanket next to her. “We will eat well tonight.”
2. Improving our approach to humanitarian response

Responding as one Red Cross: Coordination in growing complex crises

Africa hosts some of the most complex crises in the world, which requires a unique international response that goes beyond the mandate and capacity of one single agency.

This year, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement implemented a new approach to emergency response coordination, creating two new mechanisms that consolidated plans and resources called the Movement Response Plan and the One International Appeal. At the beginning of 2017, IFRC, ICRC and Red Cross Movement partners came together to support two operations in Africa: South Sudan and Nigeria in responding to the critical needs of the most vulnerable.

“Each and every component – the South Sudan Red Cross, IFRC, ICRC and Red Cross Societies around the world – has a comparative advantage. If you put all of our resources and energy together, we will be able to address the key issues facing the communities here.”

- John Lobor, Secretary General for the South Sudan Red Cross.

30,000 people reached in South Sudan through emergency household items.

112,500 people reached in Nigeria through emergency cash transfers and water and sanitation activities.
Communities as agents of change

Communities are at the centre of what we do. Our work is driven by what communities most need. By maximizing our community-based approaches, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has helped vulnerable populations to speak out about the issues that affect them and influence decision making.

In 2017, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Africa took on new approaches to engaging communities that not only improved our own work, but also ensured the people we serve are in charge of their own response and recovery.

“Accountability to communities is everything. It helps us give people the best services we can.”

- Hakima Masud, county coordinator in Kilifi Kenya Red Cross.

As an organization, accountability to our communities means transparent communication, meaningful participation of the communities and ploughing back learnings deduced from community voices. In 2017, the Kenya Red Cross completed a successful pilot project that mainstreamed accountability to communities into their operations. This included scaling up information sharing with communities, giving them a greater voice in designing projects and listening to and using their feedback to improve services.

The research shows that the integration of accountability to communities has had a tremendous impact on the way the Kenya Red Cross works with the communities it serves, including:

1. Increased trust between Kenya Red Cross and communities
2. More effective and appropriate programmes
3. Greater community ownership and project sustainability

Accountability has become embedded in the Kenya Red Cross’ core values and throughout all its activities. With broad ownership by all staff, volunteers, and community members, it has helped ensure high levels of engagement by everyone.
How radios continue to be a force for change in rural communities across Africa

Even in the age of online media, radio has remained the medium that reaches the widest audience in Africa. This makes radio a critical tool for our work at the Red Cross and Red Crescent. It links us with the rural and remote families we serve by hosting open discussions, getting feedback and sharing life-saving information during disasters and humanitarian crises. Most importantly, radio assists us in bringing communities together and, using their diverse voices to enable them to define their own solutions together.

Radio brings critical health information to Nigeria’s north-east

For people in north-east Nigeria, radio is not only a source of entertainment and news but also an education tool. The Nigerian Red Cross began a weekly live radio show called “Tattuana Da Red Cross”, which means “Discuss with Red Cross”. The show invites personalities from different sectors to discuss topics ranging from hand washing and sanitation to HIV and AIDS and malaria.

The radio show continues to advocate on health and water and sanitation related issues, which has helped influence local government decision making.

Preparing communities for future disasters in Burundi

The Burundi Red Cross is also reaching out to communities across the country via radio using a bi-monthly radio show that helps communities respond to future disasters. The show – “La voix de la Croix-Rouge”, which translates as the “Voice of Red Cross” – encourages communities to not only understand the vulnerabilities and risks in their areas but also have a disaster and risk reduction plan of action.

“It is important for communities to be able to assess their vulnerabilities and capacity in order to know how best to respond,” says Jean Baptiste Niyungeko, coordinator of Emergency Operations at the Burundi Red Cross.

“This is what saves countless lives and builds communities’ resilience to future disasters.”
Forging new strategic partnerships

Cash transfer programming across Africa help communities take charge of their own recovery

Thousands of Zimbabweans now have access to affordable essential medical drugs thanks to a partnership between the Red Cross and mPharma in 2017. The partnership has been piloted in the Red Cross clinic in the country’s capital, Harare, where they are providing low-price medical drugs to patients. Plans are underway to expand to more Red Cross health clinics and community-based health facilities in Marondera, Mutare and Gweru. Affordable medication is one aspect of this budding partnership. Plans are well underway to improve drug inventory planning and digitize patient health records for easier access to care and pharmaceuticals in the future. mPharma currently operates in four African countries (Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ghana and Zambia), serving close to 20,000 patients each month across network of over 50 hospitals and clinics. mPharma aims to build a data intelligence and e-commerce layer to support the future of African healthcare.

“The cost of health treatment often puts a huge financial burden on families in Zimbabwe. Tragically, this prevents them from accessing the quality care they need. Our partnership with mPharma is helping change this reality.”

- Maxwell Phiri, Secretary General of the Zimbabwe Red Cross.

Photo: IFRC/Corrie Butler
“After doing my Form-E, I want to be a nurse because I want to help the lives of other people.”

After her father passed away and her mother left to find work, Karabo Ntisane had to become a parent to her two sisters at the age of 18. Lesotho Red Cross helped roof her house, gave her food and supported her with her school fees.

This programme continues through local corporate donations - relationships of which budded from an IFRC seed grant in late 2017.
3. Strengthening National Societies

Our impact in communities across Africa depends on the strength of Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies. Guiding and supporting the development of its member National Societies is therefore one of the IFRC’s fundamental tasks, and crucial to increasing and expanding Red Cross Red Crescent impact.

Seed grants kick-start local, sustainable solutions

The IFRC embarked on a pilot project in April 2017 that helped charter a new territory for National Societies. Complementary to the Capacity Building Fund and National Society Investment Alliance funding mechanisms, seed grants totalling 350,000 Swiss francs were given to 36 National Societies to kick-start initiatives that build their capacity.

Initiatives supported through seed grants included strategic planning and leadership development, revisions of National Society statutes, branch development, enhancing accountability standards, promoting social entrepreneurship and innovative fundraising, as well as strengthening youth and volunteer management systems.

Zimbabwe: Providing quality education to vulnerable youth

Jeff Matemera, age 17, sits in the newly-constructed laboratory at Red Cross High School thanks to an IFRC seed grant. This laboratory will enhance the learning experiences of the high school students and attract new prospective students. Zimbabwe Red Cross High School first opened its doors in 2015 to provide quality education to secondary students as well as vulnerable youth impacted by HIV and AIDS. The number of students enrolled has increased five times in just three years. Live-in dorms have also helped fund the operation of the school. This has put the school in a unique position to self-sustain its running costs, despite its lower-than-average school fees.

Africa topped the highest number of Organisational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) exercises conducted globally.
Africa Regional Office - Operations Room

The IFRC Africa Regional Office works in support of 49 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Through its Country Cluster Support Teams and Country Offices, it provides coordination, financial and technical support for disaster operations and longer-term resilience programmes throughout the region.

Africa Operations Room: an information hub for the Movement in Africa

Launched in 2017, the Africa Operations Room provides an online information hub for the Movement in Africa. Founded in March 2017, the Operations room is a one-stop shop data related information on the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement activities in the region. In it, the page provides links to the overview of current emergency operations, National Society profiles and support services including surge deployments, logistics and human resources.

Delivering humanitarian aid where it is needed most

IFRC’s support in humanitarian logistics ensures that local National Societies can rapidly deliver vital items for survival, including food, water and shelter where it is needed most. Through the IFRC Africa Regional office, we are supporting local response efforts across the continent.

73 operations supported with regional logistics.

517 megatons of supplies dispatched across Africa.

22 profiles trained in logistics through the Regional Disaster Response Team.
Building community resilience

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition that strengthening resilience to disasters is not only about disaster management but an essential component of all emergency and development programming. Communities with sustainable livelihoods, good levels of health care and access to a strong and accountable civil society are less susceptible to hazards and faster to recover. However, it is also important that these development gains are protected from disasters.

Communities can only be resilience if they are empowered and able to access what they need to improve their own lives. Ensuring that they are leading their own interventions with the adequate resources when needed, is essential.

The IFRC has made it a priority to ensure that resilience work is an integral part of its development work and that all its programmes are integrated in a mutually supportive way. In Southern Africa, a four-year initiative, launched in 2016, has helped support National Societies respond to cyclical droughts that affect millions of people. In four countries in West Africa, the Senegal River Basin Initiative has ensured communities are more resilient to disasters, including floods, food insecurity and waterborne diseases. The Climate Services Adaptation Programme in Africa, which ended in 2017, helped develop user-driven climate services for food security, health and disaster risk reduction in Malawi and Tanzania.

In November 2017, through the one billion coalition for resilience (1BC) initiative, 14 Africa National Societies, along with other humanitarian organizations from across Sub-Saharan Africa came to Nairobi to accelerate local action for better resilience. A review of existing initiatives under the 1BC framework showcased the need for placing the local communities at the center of all our work. This initiated the discussion of the formation of a 1BC advisory group to advocate for its broad and local adoption.
Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal: Building a network of resilient communities

Like many farmers, Bogo Sy, 65, visits her vegetable garden every morning. There, in the garden, vegetables, fruits and medicinal herbs grow. A water pump system installed – just a stone’s throw away from the Senegal river – makes it easy to water the plants.

It is a relief for Bogo Sy, who lives in Dagana, northern Senegal, and who, just a few years ago, used an old and rudimentary system to irrigate her vegetable garden and took hours to collect water.

“Sometimes, we had to reduce the number of meals at home due to failed crops following erratic rainfall,” says Bogo Sy.

Today, Bogo’s life has changed for the better, with the arrival of the Senegal River Basin Initiative (IRIS), a regional cross border initiative launched by the IFRC in 2014, to build the resilience of communities living along the Senegal river in Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.

Dagana, like many communities along the Senegal river, is exposed to an increased risk of disasters because of human activity and climate change: floods, ecosystem degradation, food insecurity and waterborne diseases, among others.

In the event rains are inadequate in Dagana, farmers can take advantage of the proximity of the river to water their crops. In the course of the project, Bogo Sy received a loan, which helped her buy seeds, fertilizer and an installation of a new water pump.

“I use part of the harvest to feed my family; sell the other part at the market, and the rest is used for subsequent farming.”

- Bogo Sy, 65, Senegal.

“I use part of the harvest to feed my family; sell the other part at the market, and the rest is used for subsequent farming.”

- Bogo Sy, 65, Senegal.
Maryan is pregnant with her 9th child and she cannot afford to buy even the basics such as milk for her children.

“Our is situation is very difficult. In the past year, we lost all our animals and through them we were able to have a life here.”

The Red Crescent in Somaliland, with the support of IFRC, is supporting 502,800 people through various interventions including health and nutrition, water and sanitation, food security and livelihoods as well as shelter.
4. Charting a way forward for humanitarian action

What will the future humanitarian context in Africa look like?

Analysis and discussions in various conferences and other forums in 2017 identified the following trends and priorities for humanitarian action:

1. Stronger investments in Africa’s National Societies to do business “differently”.
2. Enhance efforts aimed at building community resilience.
3. Localize aid.
4. Anticipate complex social, demographic and technological effects and its impact on the people we support.

Pan African Conference calls for investment in community resilience and localization of humanitarian aid

Leaders from the IFRC, National Societies and private sector gathered at the 9th Pan African Conference to discuss humanitarian challenges and solutions for the continent. African National Societies made the following five commitments over the next four years:

1. Strengthen our capacities in leadership, including governance and management, accountability and sustainability.
2. Develop and sustain diverse partnerships that facilitate cross border collaboration to strengthen evidence-based programming, such as building community resilience, support to migrants and early warning and risk reduction.
3. Reinforce our auxiliary role to public authorities at all levels, through strengthened relationships and constant dialogue.
4. Include a youth representative as a full board member, and ensure that young people are engaged in both the development and implementation of programmes and activities.
5. Strengthen peer support mechanisms, such as the Africa Governance Group (AGG) and regional networks.

Forecast-based financing to be mainstreamed in our work

Forecast-based financing assists early warning and action into Red Cross Red Crescent disaster management worldwide. Forecast-based financing has now been used operationally by the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement most recently in Togo where it was recognized in the ‘Edge of Government Award’ for its groundbreaking flood-prediction tool.
Enhancing operations through business intelligence

Over the last two years, the IFRC in Africa has developed a platform to generate and leverage business intelligence data for better, more efficient operations. Business intelligence is a technology-enhanced system that transforms data into analyses that can be used to make strategic and tactical decisions.

Business intelligence products such as dashboards and graphs have helped IFRC in the region map out operational progress such as financial expenditure, fundraising, human resource management, contracting and operational excellence. It has allowed leadership to make evidence-based decisions to overcome bottlenecks, gaps and inefficiencies in work processes.

Leveraging business intelligence has provided and will continue to provide greater anticipation of needs and enhanced timeliness, efficiency and effectiveness of IFRC’s response and service delivery in the region.

A new governing board

Meet Abdoul Azize Diallo – one of the four Vice-Presidents elected at the 21st General Assembly of the IFRC in November 2017.

As the President of Senegalese Red Cross Society since 2010, Abdoul Azize Diallo has dedicated more than thirty years of his professional career to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Diallo has held several positions, including as a member of the Association of French, Spanish and Portuguese-speaking African national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the IFRC governing board and Vice President of its Mediation Committee. He has held head of office positions in Chad, DRC, the Sahel Sub-Regional Office and Regional Delegation in Abidjan. Diallo was also a Cooperation Officer at ICRC.

Among the 20 National Societies who were elected as new members of the Governing Board of the IFRC, four come from the African region, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

“African Red Cross and Red Crescent societies have enormous potential - at their heart are the dedicated volunteers across the continent. We should put special emphasis on them through training, supervision and motivation.”

- Abdoul Azize Diallo, Vice-President for IFRC Africa.
“Our children were very sick because of the water from the wells. We went to the hospital a lot with them. Now that there is water from the pumps, our children are doing well. Diarrhoeal diseases have decreased,” says Tapé Huberte from the village of Gnambouasso, Côte d’Ivoire.

Nestle and IFRC partnered together to deliver clean drinking water, sanitation and hygiene promotion to 215,000 people in Côte d’Ivoire.
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