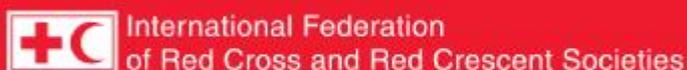


# Plan 2009-2010



## SAHEL

### Executive summary

The Sahel sub-region countries are among the poorest in the world. The impact of disasters in this region is magnified because populations are already vulnerable. Multiple natural hazards are prevalent, including health emergencies and epidemics, food insecurity, locust invasions, and desertification. The region is susceptible to floods that destroy crops and infrastructure, and concurrently experiences isolated cases of drought. Almost all the hazards are climate related.

The Sahel+ National Society<sup>1</sup> priorities are guided by the Federation's Global Agenda goals and the Framework for Action. In addition, specific National Society plans also take their roots from Strategy 2010, ARCHI 2010 and the Algiers Plan of Action<sup>2</sup>.

Efforts to support National Societies to deliver assistance to vulnerable persons face challenges in disaster management tasks that multiply due to new disaster patterns related to climate change/variability with the growing risks in large cities such as increasing violence, acute poverty, and urban migration and flooding in unusual areas due to uncontrolled urbanisation. These new challenges are known as urban disasters. National Societies are planning to integrate this new dimension in their ongoing programmes.

In 2009-2010, the Federation's West and Central Africa Zone (WCAZ) will focus on supporting the Sahel+ National Societies in disaster risk reduction including adaptation to climate change; early warning system development; preparation for, response to, and reporting on emergencies in a timely and appropriate manner. This will be done through supporting intervention initiatives at community level, and the creation of networks and partnerships to support disaster risk management including food security programmes and interventions based on the objectives of the Algiers Plan of Action.

With the ongoing support from the British Department for International Development (DfID), the Irish and Spanish Government, and the Swedish and Spanish Red Cross, the Federation will also continue to support National Societies in community based risk reduction activities. With regards to partnerships, the ongoing work with governments and inter-governmental bodies such Comité Inter-Etat pour la lutte contre la secheresse au Sahel (CILSS) and the African Centre for Meteorological Applications and Development (ACMAD) will be further pursued and strengthened especially as it relates to disaster management. The partnerships with the academic institutions such as Columbia University's IRI will be further strengthened to facilitate National Society work in risk reduction and food security.

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<sup>1</sup> Sahel+ refers to the following countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, as well as the following that for the purposes of this appeal are included in the Sahel+ programme: Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau.

<sup>2</sup> For further information on these initiatives, please go to [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

Based on the Algiers Plan of Action, the nine National societies will continue to scale-up their health and care activities by focusing on maternal and child health, malaria, water and sanitation, activities to reduce the risks, and respond to public health in emergencies. In terms of social mobilization, the Federation will also provide support to the National Societies in social mobilization during mass vaccination campaigns and the distribution of insecticide treated nets (ITN). As part of the global programme, the Zone will support the Mali Red Cross H2P preparedness as one of the pilot countries.

The support to the work of the National Societies aimed at reducing the vulnerability to HIV and AIDS through care, support and prevention activities will be further strengthened. Already three National Societies in the Sahel Sub region are part of the Global Alliance on HIV/AIDS.

Organisational development support to National Societies is aimed at strengthening their structures, both in terms of governance and management and to improve capacities in service delivery to the most vulnerable in support of the Federation new directions. The purpose of the organizational development function in the Global Agenda implementation process is to facilitate the scaling-up of activities by providing strategic support in the programmes formulation process, and to facilitate an integrated approach of all project components. Some of the key activities will include the support and guidance to National Societies in ensuring effective volunteer and financial management.

Through the funding provided by the Spanish Government, institutional support to the eight National Societies will be developed and improved with additional funding opportunities. This will include core costs support, structural development and Finance development. The aim of this OD support to National Societies is to ensure that they work towards improving their governance and management structure that would further enable them to qualify for support through the Intensified Capacity Building (ICB) initiative. The OD department will also continue to encourage and facilitate knowledge sharing for peer to peer support.

Migration will also be an important area of focus for the Zone given the challenges being experienced by the National Societies in dealing with humanitarian consequences of migration since the region is both a producer and a transit point for migrants to Europe. Migration also has some important political and social implications in both the producing and receiving States and civil societies. National Societies such as the Mauritanian, Senegalese and Mali Red Cross Societies are implementing projects and activities to assist the migrants. Movement partners such as the Spanish Red Cross and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) are providing spontaneous support which needs to be structured and coordinated. Other sister National Societies such as the Swedish and Norwegian Red Cross Societies have also expressed interest to work with the Zone to assist the National Societies of the region. In order to define a common Movement strategy based on the resolution of the last International Conference, the West and Central Africa Zone intends to carry out a study on migration (causes and definition of roles and responsibilities of the International Federation) to better understand the context, and to facilitate effective and more strategic support and advice to the National Societies in their work with migrants. Through partnerships, the unit will attract funding from Movement and non Movement partners and implement activities in cooperation with United Nations Agencies (UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, IOM, UNAIDS) and with other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to fight against all forms of violence, discrimination, exclusion and female genital mutilations (FGM).

**The total 2009-2010 budget is CHF 2,877,349 (USD 2,630,117 or EUR 1,832,706) (Click here to go directly to the attached summary budget of the plan)**

## Zonal context

The nine countries of the Sahel region are facing multiple development challenges. The Sahel region has the greatest prevalence of individuals with low-incomes, rates of out-of-school-children and highest food deficits in Africa. The region is not on track to achieve a single Millennium Development Goal, and is the only region in the world where malnutrition, an outcome of food insecurity, is not declining. The region has the highest under-five mortality rates in the world and being a semi-arid region, lies right on the meningitis belt.

The location of the Sahel sub-region between the Sahara desert and sub-Saharan countries exposes it to high risks of environmental change and migration. A rapid increase in the semi-urban population and uncontrolled urbanisation bring new challenges of urban disasters and violence with a potential for political disturbance. These urban populations are becoming poorer and have fewer coping mechanisms than those in rural areas.

Precarious weather and environmental conditions, added to consecutive food crises in most of the Sahel countries caused relatively high malnutrition rates among children under the age of five and children under one. In 2006 this rate reached 39 percent in Burkina Faso, 35 percent in Mauritania, 33 percent in Mali, and 15 percent in Niger. During the food crisis, the death rate among children under five (the prevalent group affected by malnutrition), was 191/100,000 in 2005<sup>3</sup>. The situation improved significantly since 2006, but only temporarily following a large-scale food security operation. Food insecurity is still looming over in these countries. Despite multiple initiatives and efforts, the malnutrition indicators have remained stable during the last decade. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change prediction of an average increase of 2-3 degrees centigrade in the earth's temperature for the coming years will have a significant impact on human life in Sahel.

In the region, the health situation is marked by the highest under-five mortality rates if the world, about 137 percent in the Gambia, 124 percent in Guinea Bissau and 136 percent in Senegal and infant mortality rates among the highest in Africa result of moderate or severe malnutrition, vitamin A deficiency, Acute Respiratory Infections, bad child nutrition and bad hygiene styles responsible for diarrhoeic diseases, including cholera. The safe water coverage is relatively good in this region about 75 percent, although there are still some pockets of widespread vulnerability due to the lack of access to adequate sanitation facilities (13 percent), (HDI, 2006), which is a very hard challenge and the main cause of diarrhoeal and other parasite-related diseases that affect children's nutritional status in Sahel countries. Epidemiological HIV situation is still a serious concern in the Sahel region. Malaria remains the major cause of child mortality and morbidity as in average less than 10 percent of children under five sleeps under bed nets in the Sahel countries (HDI, 2006).

This called for a programme-based approach with solutions in terms of reducing vulnerability, as opposed to an emergency response. This could be achieved through improving the access to safe water and better water and basic-sanitation services, hygiene and nutrition – targeted health education, malaria control, vaccination and improved livelihoods (especially for the women), as all these factors impact on child health, therefore on child nutritional status.

The HIV epidemiological situation is still mixed in Sahel countries. Although most of the Sahel+ countries are below 3 percent prevalence, the epidemic is concentrated in particular geographic areas in conflict or post conflict, women and other specific groups. In Senegal, the prevalence has stabilized around 1 percent; however, it is almost 20 percent among sex workers. The HIV prevalence rate among women between 15-49 years is twice as high as that of men of the same age bracket (1.9 versus 0.9 percent) according to statistics from UNAIDS. In Guinea Bissau, it becomes more widespread (4 percent) and more and more young people are paying a heavy toll in the epidemic. People living with HIV and their families bear the burden of the cost of care.<sup>4</sup>

## National Society priorities and current work with partners

The implementation of Integrated Management of Childhood illnesses (IMCI) is the result of collaboration between the International Federation of Red Cross Societies,, the Irish Government and

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<sup>3</sup> 2005 Human Development Index.

<sup>4</sup> Other sources:

- UNDP: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/nhdr/>
- Economist Intelligence Unit: <https://portal.eiu.com/sso/cas/login?service=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Eeiu%2Ecom%2Fsso%2Fcas%2Fclient&brand=&renew=true>
- WHO: <http://www.who.int/whosis/en/index.html>
- UNAIDS: <http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/HIVData/default.asp>

Japanese Red Cross. This programme is implemented in the three following countries: Gambia, Senegal and Mali. The Sahel HIV programme was funded by the Japanese Red Cross supported by the Swedish partner in the planning process for HIV Global Alliance.

In 2007, the Gambia measles campaign was supported by a consortium of donors like Norwegian Red Cross DOSH, World Health Organization (WHO), and UNICEF. The planning process in health and nutrition was supported by the Australian Red Cross in Niger, Swedish Red Cross in Mali, Burkina Faso and Mauritania. Community health projects in Guinea and Guinea Bissau were elaborated thanks to Irish funds. National society volunteers have completed field activities with technical support from the Federation and financial support from the Irish partners, Japanese, and Swedish Red Cross.

The Federation has been supported by the Finnish and Swedish communities, as well as DFID in its efforts to fight meningitis, in its activities in public health emergencies (PHE) and other epidemics, and also to be prepared for potential epidemics. Cholera epidemic in Senegal was supported by the International Federation of Red Cross through Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation and assistance from Colgate Palmolive, a private Company specialized in hygiene products. In Guinea Bissau, cholera operation was funded from the appeal as it helped achieve the appeal objectives.

Several partners worked together to implement malaria activities in Niger; Global Fund for Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), CDC Atlanta, Canadian Red Cross, World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, private sectors firms like Shell, national authorities MoH/PNL, community leaders and members. Through this project, the biggest one in Africa, an effective cooperation between the national society and the MoH has been developed.

Concerning regional health strategy, the process has been funded through the Sahel appeal mostly covered by the Irish Government.

Water and sanitation activities have been funded during this appeal process by the Irish Government, Qatari Red Crescent and the Japanese Red Cross. We would also mention the support of the Organizational Development (OD) programme which enables the planning and implementation of many joint health and Organizational Development (OD) activities in the national societies of Sahel.

As food security is considered as priority in the Sahel sub-region, several National Societies have developed and are implementing food security projects some of which are funded through the DFID partnership with the International Federation of Red Cross. Another five National Societies have also developed food security projects as part of the Africa food security initiative. Three countries, including Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal have been identified by the Zone as part of the partnership on DRR with the World Bank. Many National Societies have also expressed interest to be part of the Federation Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In terms of Preparedness for human pandemic (H2P), Mali has been identified as one of the pilot countries being supported through the partnership between the Federation and USAID. It's intended to add one or two more countries.

The main support to Sahel OD programme came from Danish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Irish government and DFID (British government) allocations for Sahel and Spanish government grant for institutional development. The team spirit and the cooperation with colleagues from other department specially the improving integration of organization development and health activities increased the financial basis of the programme as some activities under organizational development but related to health were supported through funding for health. This improved the impact of the Federation support to the Sahel national societies. The integration of health and organizational development activities provides a better framework for multilateral and bilateral partnership development. Effective institutional and finance development support have been provided to the National Societies with the funding opportunity from the Spanish Cooperation Agency facilitated by the Spanish Red Cross.

<b>Partners</b>	<b>Programmes</b>
Danish Red Cross	Health / OD (Mali and Guinea) CB & VOM
Swiss Red Cross	Health (Mali)

Swedish Red Cross	Sahel OD, CB / Health PHE, HIV
Irish Government	Sahel OD/Health MNCH / IMCI
Canadian Red Cross	Health/Malaria (Mali, Niger)
Icelandic Red Cross	OD/FD Gambia
Finnish Red Cross	Public Health Emergency
Norwegian Red Cross	Health Measles Campaign
Australian Red Cross (Community Health)	Community Health / Nutrition
Spanish Government / Spanish Red Cross	Sahel region IDWARC Project
Japanese Red Cross	(HIV programmes and MCH in Sahel Plus)
DFID	Health / Organizational Development/Disaster Management
UNICEF	Health IMCI
World Health Organization (WHO),	Health IMCI
WFP	Health /Nutrition
European Union	Disaster Management
Qatari Government	Health water and sanitation
ECHO	Health water and sanitation

Sahel+ National Societies 2009-2010 priorities will focus on community based health initiatives and first aid, including malaria, nutrition and integrated approach of health, Water and sanitation and HIV activities as well as health in emergencies actions.

Food security within the framework of Africa FS initiative will be one of the core National Societies programme in this sub-region. FS programme will be integrated into a global strategy of risk reduction and the development of the community capacities. The human pandemic influenza threat will be also a sub-regional priority with the development of National Societies' capacities on preparedness.

## Secretariat supported programmes in 2009-2010

### Disaster Management

This plan aims at fostering the extensive Red Cross/Red Crescent work that has been invested in the region, especially in reducing the risk of the most susceptible hazards by mobilising resources (CHF 1,545,989) for disaster management. Emphasis will be on support to National Societies in coordinating their annual programme planning, especially in disaster preparedness and risk reduction, which integrates health aspects including water and sanitation.

#### a) The purpose and components of the programme

The 2009-2010 plan will focus on: disaster risk reduction including adaptation to climate change; early warning system development; preparation for and response to emergencies in a timely and appropriate manner; the development of new food security intervention initiatives at the community level; organisational development efforts for stronger staff, volunteers and programmes and the creation of networks and partnerships to support disaster risk management programme development in a coordinated manner.

<b>Programme purpose</b>
Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters through the promotion of risk reduction strategies and disaster preparedness within the Red Cross national societies of the Sahel sub-region (West and Central Africa Zone).

**The budget of the disaster management programme is CHF 746,656 (US 682,500 or EUR 475,577).**

<b>Programme component 1: Improved self-reliance of individuals and communities to reduce their vulnerability to public health emergencies and disasters.</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> Improved Risk reduction and disaster preparedness within National Society that builds safer and resilient communities.
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) conducted in targeted National Societies.
<b>Component outcome 3:</b> Disaster mitigation project conducted in selected areas and documented.
<b>Component outcome 4:</b> Culture of risk reduction promoted in schools in the framework of “risk reduction begins at school”.
<b>Component outcome 5:</b> Well trained National Societies staff and Zonal consultants group in disaster risk reduction.

Participatory approaches used in Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) for better learning communities will allow targeted communities in the selected countries to learn about their own risks taking into account the climate change aspect and develop sustainable disaster risk reduction (DRR) projects. Projects on community-based disaster risk reduction will be developed for replication in other countries.

This component will also aim at targeting the vulnerable communities especially youth through awareness campaign on “risk reduction at schools” that will be documented. Hence, the disaster risk reduction (DRR) concept will be strengthened and cultivated by developing an appropriate DRR training for Disaster Management practitioners in National Societies. National Societies will use the synergy from the ISDR national platforms for promotion, advocacy and dissemination of the disaster risk reduction (DRR) concept and early warning systems (EWS) to be established at all levels for contingency planning through their effective participation.

Efforts will be invested to improve National Societies disaster management with the systematic promotion and use of the Well Prepared National Society tool to gauge the level of preparedness and identify gaps that will lead to developing proactive actions to address the identified gaps.

While the aim of the programme is to support National Societies (NS) especially from the Sahel region, it will focus on vulnerable communities to reducing their risks by improving their capacities and strengthening their preparedness for timely response during disasters. Planning processes will focus on the development of local capacities and collaboration with other humanitarian organisations and the government to better prepare for the risks communities are facing.

<b>Programme component 2 : Disaster Response including recovery</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> National societies have a contingency plan for the most recurrent hazards.
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> At least three trained Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members are deployed within a defined framework for assessment, immediate response and recovery.
<b>Component outcome 3:</b> National societies supported in response strategy based on National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) and branch disaster response teams (BDRT).
<b>Component outcome 4:</b> NFI are strategically pre-positioned closer to targeted beneficiaries in a coherent zonal logistic approach.

The Sahel sub-office will work closely with National Societies to improve disaster management response capacities for timely response, qualitative interventions and better beneficiary targeting. The Zone capacity – Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT) will be strengthened to support targeted National Societies to conduct response interventions in an appropriate and coordinated manner (quality shelters, safe water and security). NFI will be positioned strategically for efficient and cost effective response in collaboration with the regional logistics unit in Dubai.

National Societies will improve their response capacity by developing contingency plans and response plans to support existing mitigation initiatives. These plans will be practiced and refined through simulation exercises to address gaps and enable National Societies to be well prepared before disaster occurs.

**Programme component 3:** Reduce the risk of food insecurity and improve the living conditions of most vulnerable populations.

**Component outcome 1:** Food security project implemented at community level and beneficiaries as well as Red Cross/Red Crescent volunteers are trained to achieve project objectives.

**Component outcome 2:** Networks and communication systems are in place to provide farmers and pastoralists with relevant climate information.

**Component outcome 3:** Supported implementation of the Africa FS initiative for three Sahel selected National Societies.

**Component outcome 4:** Volunteers are trained in malnutrition surveillance and are able to orient concerned families to appropriate health centres.

The food security situation in the Sahel remains a priority for action in 2009/2010. Nearly 15 million people in Sahel countries are considered food insecure. Poor farmers with limited access to land, animals and/or seeds for cultivation are the most vulnerable. However, food insecurity is not limited to rural areas and food security and nutrition are increasing concerns in semi-urban areas.

The WCAZ will support the Africa Food Security initiative, but will also develop innovative approaches with small community level food security projects to help vulnerable groups supplement their daily meals and or their incomes. The range includes the distribution of early growing seeds, establishment of an irrigation dropping system, local cereal transformation, and other projects based on community livelihood experience and new technologies. WCAZ will focus on volunteers and communities communication networks to bring useful climate information – in partnership with Climate organisation like ACMAD, AGRHYMET and IRI - to vulnerable farmers to help them adapt to climate variability. Volunteers will also be trained to identify malnourished children and refer them to the closest health centre.

In the area of production, programmes aim to improve household food availability by increasing staple food quantities, livestock production, and improving storage facilities. By increasing the capacity of communities to locally produce food, they will be less reliant on food aid, and less vulnerable to climate variability and rising costs. Income generating programmes, including microfinance programmes, aim to improve household access to food by increasing non-farm income and savings.

**Programme component 4: Promotion of Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles and Values.**

**Component outcome 1:** Work of the Federation and national societies in their response to disasters and public health emergencies is highlighted.

The Disaster Management unit will promote the programmes and image of the International Federation and its member national societies in the Sahel sub-region through Disaster Management programming. Programmes will assist National Societies communicators, who will work in collaboration with Zone Office communications staff to promote Red Cross Red Crescent principles and values. They will perform advocacy and communication on major Disaster Management programmes, for greater program visibility and funding opportunities to increase programme reach.

#### **b) Profile of target beneficiaries**

Disaster management efforts will support the Sahel sub-region to build resilient communities with particular emphasis on flood-prone communities and populations facing chronic food insecurity due to drought or locust invasion.

Better recovery initiatives will be developed; during emergency relief operations targeted populations will be provided with quality support. In order to enhance the impact of Red Cross interventions, beneficiaries will consistently be involved in the implementation and monitoring of emergency and recovery programmes.

During the three month rainy season, communities are overwhelmed with floods that destroy crops and cause other losses that diminish livelihoods. Six Sahel National Societies (Gambia, Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger) will integrate climate change into their risk reduction

programmes. The Gambia, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Niger National Societies will be supported in the development of operational contingency plans. Plans will consider cross-border activities.

### **c) Potential risks and challenges**

The current increase in food prices may further affect communities whose food security is already vulnerable to climate change. Hence, National Societies priorities might differ from those of the communities and might not be concerned with the anticipated action of the Red Cross and Red Crescent leading to an additional challenge for community ownership of the initiative to address disasters.

Poor reporting from the National Societies will be a challenge as this is linked to inappropriate accountability especially on working advances on activities undertaken.

## **Health and Care**

The purpose of Sahel health programmes is to improve health, nutrition, and development of mother and child. It contributes to the second goal of the IFRC global agenda that aims at reducing the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and Public Health Emergencies (PHE). This International Federation of Red Cross Sahel programmes work in health and nutrition and aim to reduce infant mortality, under-five mortality and maternal mortality by increasing immunization coverage particularly on polio eradication, measles and neo-natal tetanus control as well as to promote malaria prevention and control. Malnutrition among children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women are considered as the consequences of worsening food and sanitation conditions. Interventions will be carried out as health sector initiatives (Global Agenda goal 2). Targeted areas concern the health package including vaccination, promotion of breastfeeding, prevention of malaria with the use of IT Nets, fighting against HIV-AIDS, promotion of best practices of nutrition and hygiene through health education.

Within the Sahel IMCI programme practical and adapted solutions are proposed to mothers and children under five who are among of the most vulnerable. The programme contributes to improving mother and child nutrition status in Sahel countries, but it mainly helps improve nutritional status of children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women. Another objective of the programme is to raise awareness about sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and female genital mutilation (FGM).

The aim of HIV/AIDS programme is to reduce HIV vulnerability and its impact in the community through the achievement of following approaches: peer education, IEC/BCC through social mobilisation, prevention of mother to child transmission (PMCT), individual protection and use of condoms. HIV programme also provides community-based and home care, livelihood and food to the most vulnerable.

The following proposed areas need to be strengthened:

- Capacity building components will need to address both at programme implementation (community) level and the National Societies management (commitment) level. This may mean a long-term programmatic framework in integrated community based health and first-aid with other areas identified by National Societies.
- Community participation in addressing the health priorities identified all through the programme cycle.
- Relevant training and community actions.
- Social mobilisation campaigns and long-term community based activities followed up by volunteers.
- Behavioural change and impact measurement in different specific community health intervention
- Scaling up good practice community based activities

### **a) The purpose and components of the programme**

<b>Programme purpose:</b>
Reduce the number of deaths, diseases, disaster impact and emergency public health services.

**The health and care programme budget is CHF 838,080 (USD 766,069 or EUR 533,808).**

## Programme component 1: Community based health and care programme.

### Water and Sanitation

**Component outcome:** The access of the vulnerable communities to safe water and basic sanitation has improved.

The purpose of the water and sanitation programme is to improve access to safe water and basic sanitation in line with the Federation's GWSI (Global Water and Sanitation Initiative) and the Diarrhoeal Disease Unit (DDU) which has been approved by the WCAZ. The Diarrhoeal Disease Unit (DDU) will be established in the Zone office. Access to safe water and sanitation will be achieved through the construction of facilities (wells or drills), or the rehabilitation of the existing facilities. This component includes a major aspect for community-based mobilization around the participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST). PHAST helps the communities to make their own needs assessment, to develop solutions, select their own technological options, to plan for the required resources and monitoring, which makes it key in terms of community involvement.

### Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH)

**Component Outcome 1:** Improved knowledge of proper nutrition and childhood immunization through increased national society Maternal Newborn and Child Health activities.

**Component Outcome 2:** Intensified involvement of national societies in promotion of proper nutrition and immunization services.

**Component Outcome 3:** Promoting antenatal attendance through women's groups.

**Component Outcome 4:** Income of members of women's groups has increased.

These programme components aim at:

- Improving knowledge among households receiving volunteers' visits, and Communities with Maternal Newborn and Child Health activities
- Preventing malnutrition, monitoring immunization status and access to drugs are part of Red Cross framework of promoting proper nutrition, immunization and uptake of available health services through community-based health programming
- Promoting antenatal attendance through women's groups
- Using women's groups as well organised groups to deliver best practices in terms of nutrition, community health, Maternal Newborn and Child Health activities and knowledge sharing. Through this programme, the socio economic status of women will be improved.

### Measles and Polio

**Component outcome 1:** National society involvement in social mobilisation during national initiatives to eradicate polio and reduce measles morbidity and mortality is ensured by the mobilisation of volunteers at community level

**Component outcome 2:** Red Cross distribution of ITNs in emergency situation is ensured

### Malaria

**Component outcome 1:** Red Cross volunteers' post mass distribution campaign activities on Hang Up and Keep Up are maintained.

### Programme component 2: HIV programme.

**Component outcome 1:** Further infections have been prevented for target people through peer education activities, information education communication/behavioural change communication among vulnerable groups, voluntary counselling & testing, and prevention of mother to child transmission.

**Component outcome 2:** HIV care, treatment and support have been expanded for the People living with HIV (PLWHIV) and orphan vulnerable children.

**Component outcome 3:** HIV stigma and discrimination have been reduced through advocacy activities, Information Education and Communication (IEC) programme and HIV workplace policy.

**Component outcome 4:** Red Cross capacities to deliver and sustain scaled-up HIV programme are strengthened.

The Federation Zone office for West and Central Africa has included HIV in its regional health and care strategy (2007-2010), and it is aligned with the WCAZ Global Alliance on HIV appeal. HIV infection and

its impact on the community is a challenge for the Federation and National Societies that requires a large-scale intervention. Within the five countries of the WCAZ, Guinea and Burkina Faso are part of the Global alliance on HIV.

<b>Programme component 3: Health in Emergencies.</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> Outbreak surveillance, disease prevention and epidemic preparedness have improved.
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> Red Cross effective response to epidemics has been improved.
<b>Component outcome 3:</b> Improve Humanitarian Pandemic Preparedness (H2P) in Mali as well as in other National Societies.

Community-based volunteers will be mobilized to monitor the diseases under epidemiological surveillance (cholera, measles, meningitis, yellow fever etc.). Climate change will be highly considered. The Sahel health team will work closely with the DM unit to address climate change issues.

Health crisis such as cholera or meningitis outbreaks are recurrent in the region. Other disasters that impact on health such as floods and population movements are often encountered. Sahel National Societies are actively involved in public health emergency (PHE) activities to increase their capacity in preventing and/or responding to health emergencies. The threat of avian influenza and a possible human influenza pandemic further adds to the need of increasing preparedness and response capacities.

By supporting the Mali pilot Humanitarian Pandemic Preparedness (H2P) project, the Sahel+ team will intensify its efforts to strengthen National Societies' capacities in PHE preparedness and response, including human influenza pandemic and will work to extend this pilot project to other National Societies.

#### **b) Profile of target beneficiaries**

This plan generally targets children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women. It contributes to improving the health and care services (Global Agenda Goal 2) for the vulnerable communities in the Sahel countries. This will be achieved through: improving the access to safe water and basic sanitation and hygiene promotion; improving the mothers' knowledge of best food styles and the prevention of the malnutrition-related diseases; improving the monitoring of malnutrition among children and the diseases under epidemiological surveillance; monitoring the immunization status of children and pregnant women and their access to essential products; building the capacity of the Red Cross societies to implement and monitor activities planned.

The activities will benefit some:

- 500,000 vulnerable people in Burkina.
- 90,000 in the Gambia.
- 20,000 in Guinea Bissau.
- 170,000 in Senegal.
- 300,000 in Niger.
- 170,000 in Mali.
- 120,000 in Mauritania.

#### **Target Populations**

<b>Outcomes /main activities</b>	<b>Number of beneficiaries</b>
<b>Water &amp; Sanitation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hygiene promotion</li> <li>• 100 Water facilities</li> <li>• Latrines (school and family)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 660,000</li> <li>• 150,000</li> <li>• 80,750</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved women knowledge and practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 199,400 children under 5</li> <li>• 61,900 pregnant women</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outbreak and malnutrition surveillance</li> </ul>	
<b>Red Cross Capacity building</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,349 PHAST facilitators;</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PHAST trainers' training</li> <li>• Training on project Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</li> <li>• Relief volunteer training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PHAST trainers</li> <li>• 2,650 RC staff</li> <li>• 5,400 RC volunteers</li> </ul>
<b>Burkina Faso Red Cross Society HIV Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40,200 youth aged 15-24</li> <li>• 2,600 pregnant women</li> <li>• 4,050 "Dolotières"</li> <li>• 2,700 female sex workers</li> <li>• 1,340 Persons Living with HIV</li> <li>• 300 Orphans Vulnerable Children (OVC)</li> <li>• 100 customary and religious leaders</li> </ul>
<b>Guinea Red Cross HIV programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,640 women</li> <li>• 1,440 pregnant women</li> <li>• 16,470 schooling youth between 15 and 24 years</li> <li>• 1,440 sex workers</li> <li>• 1,440 persons living with HIV</li> <li>• 600 Orphan Vulnerable Children of school age</li> <li>• 256 religious leaders</li> </ul>
<b>Gambian and Senegalese Red Cross community response on HIV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 300 sex workers</li> <li>• 500 Persons Living with HIV</li> <li>• 500 Orphan Vulnerable Children</li> <li>• 3,000 Refugees and families host</li> <li>• 100 Long distance Drivers</li> <li>• 650 religious and community leaders</li> </ul> <p>200 volunteers</p>
<b>Guinea Bissau Red Cross HIV Programme of</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20,000 schooling youth between 15 and 24 years</li> <li>• 7,000 women</li> <li>• 200 PLHIV and 1500 Orphan Vulnerable Children</li> <li>• 2,400 religious and community leaders</li> <li>• 100 volunteers</li> </ul>

## Organizational Development/Capacity Building

The overall organisational development (OD) activities match with Goal no. 3 of the Federation's Global Agenda with an emphasis on National Society and community capacity building. The objective of the organisational development programme is to improve the National Societies' capacities in service delivery to the most vulnerable populations in conformity with the Federation's new directions. The main challenge is to scale-up programmes for better impact.

The target group within the National Societies are the governance members, senior management, and the technical staff. The Federation organisational development team comprising the Zone organisational development coordinator, the finance development delegate and a proposed volunteers' management delegate, together with regionally available capacities from National Societies, will facilitate the processes of ensuring that the outcomes of each of the components are achieved.

The Zone organisational development coordinator will facilitate workshops for the Mali and Senegal National Societies for the revision of their statutes, and will provide orientation and guidelines on roles and responsibilities of governance and management.

The Finance development delegate will continue the process of reviewing progress made by the National Societies after the last evaluation of their financial management systems, providing technical

support and training on the use of financial procedures manuals and helping them improve their financial reporting.

The zone communication department will assist to enhance the visibility of National Societies' activities through the diffusion of quarterly magazines, brochures and documentaries.

The zone PMER department will provide technical support in the production of quality reports by the National Society reporting focal persons.

It is expected that with the recruitment of the volunteers' management delegate, clear guidelines on volunteer management will be developed in a collaborative effort with National Societies volunteer managers, and the application of such guidelines monitored within National Societies. The Zone organisational development department in collaboration with the Sahel+ health department will work with National Societies through training sessions on long-term health programmes development and implementation. The Zone organisational development department will also facilitate systematic creation of new partnerships between National Societies and Movement partners, and will provide technical support in the establishment of partnerships between National Societies and governments and other international partners.

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

**Programme purpose: To build the capacity of the local community, the civil society and the Red Cross/Red Crescent staff to address the most urgent vulnerabilities.**

The organisational development programme budget is CHF 1,292,613 (USD 1,181,547 or EUR 823,320).

**Programme component 1: Improving National Societies leadership capacities to develop and implement strategies to ensure good performance and accountability.**

**Component outcome 1:** Revised Statutes in compliance with the Federation guidelines for the Mali Red Cross and Senegalese Red Cross.

**Component outcome 2:** National Societies governance and management leaders at headquarters and branch level will have a better understanding of the different roles that governance and management play.

The organisational development department will provide facilitation support through a consultant to the Sahel sub-region in the process of revision of statutes with a focus on Mali and Senegal. It is expected that the legal advisor of both National Societies will benefit in terms of capacity building through this exercise.

The organisational development department will provide facilitation support using organisational development resource persons from the zone to the Sahel and the West Coast sub-regional offices in governance and management training. In the Sahel this training will be targeted at Mali and Senegal.

**Programme component 2: Ensuring a well functioning organization with sustainable systems, procedures and staff with desired level of managerial and technical competencies.**

**Component outcome 1:** Proper and effective financial procedures and guidelines are put in place in six National Societies in the Sahel sub-region (Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal).

**Component outcome 2:** Annual audit is conducted by an external auditor, and recommendations acted on by the Sahel sub-region National Societies (Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal).

The zone organisational development will provide hands-on support to six of the Sahel sub-region National Societies (Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal) in the development of financial and administrative procedures manuals. Training will be conducted on the procedures manual to ensure its application by the six National Societies.

**Programme component 3:** Developing a nation-wide coverage of grassroots units and services.

**Component outcome 1:** Red Cross local branches of five National Societies are strengthened in project planning through the implementation of long-term community health programmes.

The zone organisational development will facilitate experience sharing with regional representations on strategic planning, project planning, and best practices. The Gambia and Senegal National Societies will receive hands-on support in strategic planning and project planning for long-term programmes health programmes.

**Component outcome 2:** Volunteers' management systems are improved in the nine National Societies.

The Zone organisational development department will provide hands on support to the Sahel National Societies regarding volunteer policy and database development and annual reports on volunteering and human resources. On volunteer policy, the areas of standardization will be in mobilization of volunteers showing the difference between members and volunteers and working hours for volunteers.

Other aspects of volunteer policy will be in retention and motivation of volunteers, protection and security, synergy between the volunteer management unit and other technical departments and partners.

### **b) Profile of target beneficiaries**

The target beneficiaries of the organisational development programme are mainly drawn from the National Society governance and management structures. However the ultimate beneficiaries of the programme will be those targeted by the health and the disaster management programmes. The link between the organisational development programme and the impact on the beneficiaries can be established and measured through the systems and processes of the National Societies and the efficiency of their staff in delivering results on the programmes.

### **Planning**

The key target audience/beneficiaries are the national society technical staff and management of Burkina-Faso, Mali, Niger, Gambia, Mauritania, and Senegalese National Societies who worked out a four-year strategic plan in 2004 and will be working on reviewing and updating plans that will expire in 2008. The Mali, Niger, Mauritania and Burkina Faso National Societies' technical programme staff were supported in developing long term projects in the framework of the exit strategy of the Sahel food security operation. These new long term projects have become the framework of new partnerships between the four National Societies and their partners: the Danish, Swiss and Spanish Red Cross with Mali; the Irish Red Cross and Qatar Red Crescent with Niger and eventually Mauritania. This long-term programming will be part of the organisational development support plan for 2009-2010 health programmes.

### **Training on governance and management**

Governance and management staff of the Mali and Senegal Red Cross Societies will receive training on their respective roles and responsibilities.

### **Human Resources and restructuring process**

The main beneficiaries are the National Societies such as Mali Red Cross which has benefited from the support of Danish Red Cross through the Federation since mid-2008. Salary support has been provided to Niger and Mauritania National Societies for the positions of Secretary General (Mauritania) and Executive Secretary (Niger). In Niger, the Federation will support the recruitment of a new Executive Secretary. Within the framework of the Irish government organisational development allocation for Sahel, the Mauritanian Red Crescent will receive salary support for its Secretary General.

The Red Cross Society of Niger has recruited a volunteer and human resources management officer and a programme and partnership coordinator with the support of the Federation and this support is planned to continue in the 2009-2010 plan.

### **Visibility of National Societies' activities and image development**

The visibility of national societies will be increased through the diffusion of a quarterly magazine and other mass communication media.

### **National Societies finance management systems' development**

An evaluation of National Societies finance management system was begun in 2008 and will result in relevant recommendations for capacity building and regional guidelines for finance management in national societies. These guidelines will include minimum standards in human resources required for finance services, control tools to be used and reports to be published on a regular basis.

## **Role of the secretariat**

### **Disaster Management programmes**

The Zone disaster management team will work closely with National Societies to improve their disaster management response capacities for a timely response, with qualitative interventions and better beneficiary targeting through training of disaster response teams at the regional, national and branch levels, developing early warning systems and preparing and responding to emergencies in a timely and appropriate manner including the development of new food security intervention initiatives at the community level.

### **Health Programmes**

In order to implement its 2009-2010 plans, the Secretariat will support Sahel+ National Societies for more impact and activities volume. The Secretariat support will therefore focus on community based health programmes with an increased awareness through advocacy, communication and social mobilization. Through various National Societies' programmes, child mortality will be reduced, while maternal health will be improved through the expansion of mothers clubs in more communities. Malaria and communicable diseases such as polio and measles will be reduced and close to elimination through an increasing uptake of integrated immunization services during mass vaccination campaigns with Long Lasting Insecticides Treated Nets (LLITN) distribution and routine immunization services.

Community-based volunteers will be mobilized to monitor diseases under epidemiological surveillance (cholera, measles, meningitis, etc.), promote vaccination for pregnant women and children, and the use of insecticide-treated bed nets. Women's groups will be mobilized to help in the prevention of malnutrition related to diseases. The prevention will be done through a sensitization on food and hygiene methods, breastfeeding, and promoting the use of treated bed nets. The National Societies will implement water and sanitation programmes that will improve the access to safe water and sanitation services in targeted communities.

The Federation will support the National Societies in the prevention of further infections through peer education, community mobilization, information, education, and communication (IEC) for targeted vulnerable groups and promoting voluntary counselling and testing (VCT). It will also support National Societies in expanding care, treatment, and support (workplace programmes and prevention education) as well as reducing stigma and discrimination within a comprehensive home-based care programmes, including support for orphans and vulnerable children, nutrition and antiretroviral treatment.

During the 2009-2010 period, the Federation zone office will also strengthen National Societies' capacities in resource mobilization through local mechanisms. The Secretariat's role will be to provide technical support to National Societies in formulating proposals for the Coordinating Committee Mechanisms (CCMs).

### **Organisational development programmes**

The Federation organisational development support for 2008-2009 will continue with the following objectives:

- support for planning activities, review of the current strategic plans and long-term project development;
- support for salary, staff recruitment and organization;
- training on governance and management;

- support for volunteering management system;
- support for communication and visibility improvement;
- support for finance management systems' improvement; and
- coordination activities at sub-region level.

The Federation in its coordinating and supporting role to National Societies, and with the aim of improving its humanitarian action, will carry out a program to improve the financial and administrative systems of the selected National Societies. Hence the necessity to evaluate each of these National Societies' current situation. From the results and recommendations that will come out of this evaluation and in compliance with the international standards, the Federation shall work on helping each National Society to produce and publish a financial and administrative procedures manual appropriate to its needs.

#### **a) Technical programme support**

The Sahel health team comprises one regional health manager and a health HIV-AIDS officer supported by a zonal health coordinator working with zonal malaria and community health delegate and a zonal water and sanitation delegate. This team is based at the Zone Office and will support national societies in the implementation of the different programmes.

A zonal organisational development coordinator is coordinating organisational development activities in the 24 national societies (Sahel included) and is working in collaboration with a Finance Development Manager and an organisational development Assistant.

#### **b) Partnership development and coordination**

The relationship management coordinator responsibilities include resource mobilisation. The position is designed to work in close collaboration with Sahel programme coordinators. National societies will be supported in submitting applications to the CBF, ICB and other funding opportunities as well as organising partnership meetings.

#### **c) Representation and Advocacy**

Regular Sahel regional working group meetings will be held with the Federation's support. In these meetings, National Societies will express their expectations from the Zone office and Participating National Societies (PNS). They will also take the opportunity to discuss issues related to General Assemblies and other international events.

The Sahel+ office will strive to promote the Federation's visibility and National Societies' activities in service delivery to the most vulnerable people through television documentaries and the WCAZ quarterly magazine shared within the Red Cross Movement as well as with other partners.

The Federation presence in the field will be used for profile raising, strengthening partnership opportunities and promoting Federation's policies in order to create the basis for effective partnerships through the existing Federation's cooperation mechanisms, namely Cooperation Agreement Strategies (CAS) and Operational Alliances (OA).

The Federation's Secretariat will also develop and expand links with all stakeholders (local and international media, diplomatic missions, local authorities, NGOs, including intensified advocacy).

## **Promoting gender equity and diversity**

The Sahel+ programme will be implemented to ensure the active participation of women in decision making regarding their health status and that of their children. Improving the economic status of women will be key to their involvement in the decision-making process regarding health issues within their households and communities. In addition, analyzing the roles of men and women, especially during the PHAST process, will facilitate the integration of gender in the activities.

## Quality, accountability and learning

With the Federation's technical support in project management, the National Societies' strategic plans for 2009-2012 will be assessed and reviewed by the end of 2008. This process will be conducted mainly in Guinea-Bissau, Burkina-Faso, Mali, Niger, Mauritania, Gambia and Senegal.

The Senegal and Gambia Red Cross Societies have been supported in developing long-term community health projects with an integrated approach and will be responsible for the implementation. They will benefit from capacity building training on project monitoring and evaluation as well as narrative and financial reporting.

A monitoring and evaluation system will be emphasized in the 2009-2010 plan, with information and best practices shared between National Societies and the Secretariat and a planning appeal process that reflects National Societies and partners' priorities. The Secretariat will support National Societies to develop a monitoring plan with indicators that measure the progress of programs. The Sahel+ team will periodically evaluate National Society community health interventions to measure Red Cross contributions in improving the health status of vulnerable populations in Sahel countries.

The recent recruitment of a finance development delegate will boost the National Societies' finance development activities with the improvement of finance management systems and procedures. An annual audit will be conducted by an external auditor, and recommendations acted on by six Sahel+ National Societies (Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal).

In 2008-2009 some National Societies will also develop and formalise Cooperation Agreement Strategy/operational alliances for the implementation of programmes. This process will start with the Mali Red Cross where there are several partners committed to work with the National Society.

In Guinea the Federation is developing an operating model after the Federation representation closed in Conakry in December 2007. A new basis of cooperation should be set up between the Federation, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other partners in the field with a common understanding of the context in Guinea, common goals, approaches, and the financial management process.

### How we work

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".

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- 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

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