

COVID-19 OUTBREAK OPERATIONAL UPDATE #16

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AFRICA REGION
OPERATIONAL TIME FRAME: 31 JAN - 31 MAR 2021

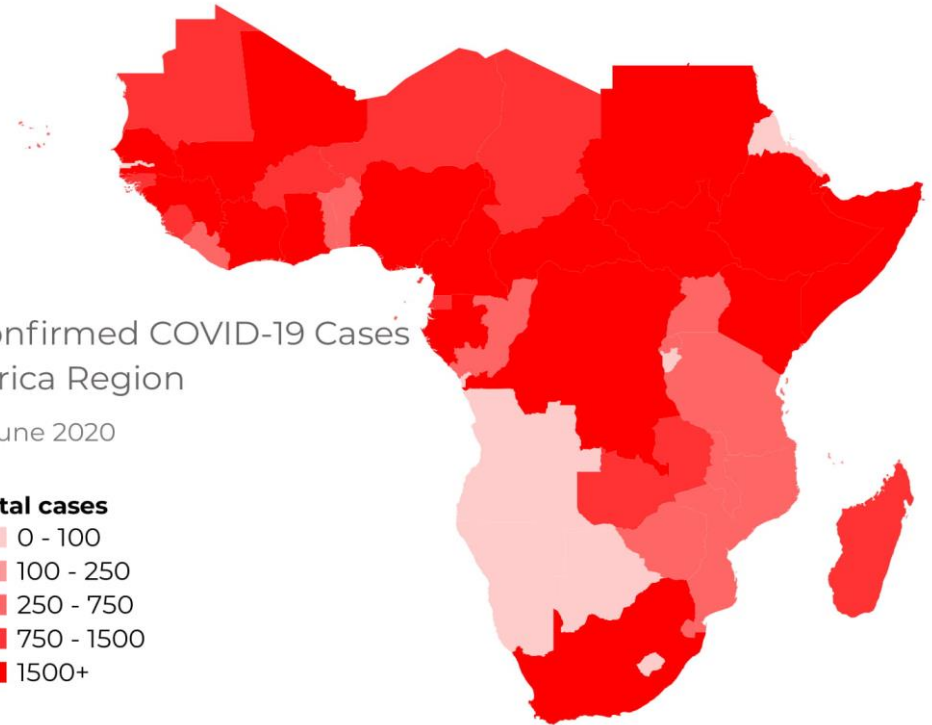
Operations Update

140,491 total confirmed cases in Sub-Saharan Africa
3,097 total confirmed deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa
as reported by WHO, 09 June 2020

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Africa Region

9 June 2020

Total cases
0 - 100
100 - 250
250 - 750
750 - 1500
1500+



Africa

Regional Update

Second Funding Round: To date, 47 projects have been launched across Africa with 45 plans received thus far under the second funding round-96% of target. Of those plans received, 34 (72%) have been approved, with 23 (51%) requiring a secondary review for quality control. Under the Appeal, 41 NS have received funding, valuing CHF 2.5m, however, CHF 15m has been formally obligated through approved projects and budgets and CHF 10m through signed e-contracts.

Africa Partner's Call: On 3 June, the Africa Region held a Partner's call to promote the Africa COVID-19 strategy beneath the revised Global EA. The call was attended by 23 partners with presentations by the Regional Director and Africa COVID-19 team.

Anticipated challenge of working advance reconciliations: Given the scale and varied contexts that the response will be implemented in, there is an expectation that the clearance of working advances and transfer of additional funding tranches across 47 NS will pose a continuous challenge to implementation. To streamline this process, the IM team has automated narrative reporting using the data provided through the monthly Kobo form, which will reduce the reporting requirements for NS' and provide a baseline for donor reporting. Similarly, a guidance will be released in the coming week to project managers on financial follow-up with NS', however, continued effort is required to explore how to lighten this process while remaining accountable and operating under a strong frame of risk management.

Technical workshop: Following the first and second funding rounds, the Africa COVID-19 team will host a workshop with various sectoral colleagues in the coming week to identify lessons learnt from this process and codify proposals for improvements to future rounds as well as our systems more broadly. The report will be shared with the IFRC structures and other Regions to complement similar initiatives taking place across the Federation.

Movement Coordination: The Regional Directors of IFRC and ICRC are engaged in weekly coordination calls. The Regional Director and Head of CCSTs are conducting online meetings with National Societies' leaders in all six sub-regions to ensure coherence, relevance and coordination of COVID-19 response. Besides, partner NSs (British RC, Danish RC, Finish RC and Norwegian RC) present in Kenya are also invited to IFRC's regional COVID-19 response cell calls held every week. Similarly, IFRC's leadership in inter-agency coordination is evidenced through our ongoing co-leadership of RCCE technical working groups. Africa Disaster Management Advisory Group (ADMAG) members have regularly been kept informed about operational developments.

External coordination: IFRC continues to play an active role in external coordination. It is actively engaged with RCCE interagency technical working group meetings for East and Southern Africa as co-lead together with UNICEF. Also, IFRC is co-leading the community feedback sub-working group for West and Central Africa together with MSF. The Head of Health and Care Unit participated in WHO's partners' meeting held on 2 June. Similarly, Head of DCPRR represented IFRC to OCHA led Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team (RHPT) meeting held on 3 June. Key discussions were on COVID-19 response related thematic matters on Supply Chain & Markets, the role of cash, other underfunded humanitarian response and duty of care.

Health

The regional office was engaged in the following activities.

- Planning work to organise an online ToT on ECV/RCCE training package scheduled for the week of 2 to 5 June for health and CEA personnel in Africa. Twenty-eight (28) health and CEA personnel across the region have registered for the online ToT. The interactive zoom ToT will include participants drawn from IFRC, PNS and NS working in the region.
- Technical review of 30 NS funding proposals on the health and wash components for round 2 allocation under the Appeal.
- Participation in the UN Technical meetings on lab, PoE and Surveillance and Africa level calls with WHO.
- Supported the CCSTs focal points in collating the reports requested.
- Updating the Global Weekly Operations Update- guidance on the narrative information prepared and shared with PMER.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

The CEA team continues to be engaged in discussions and activities to strengthen RCCE for COVID-19. Engagements undertaken in the last week are:

Community feedback collection

- 34 National Societies are systematically collecting and analyzing community feedback related to COVID-19. Communities' concerns, questions, suggestions and rumours are documented to inform social mobilization activities as well as operational decisions.

- Coaching on management, coding and analysis of community feedback data with CEA cluster colleagues, African National Societies, as well as the data management intern of the CP3 program, is ongoing. Support on the coding of community feedback data is now also provided by to volunteers of the remote support team of the Austrian Red Cross.
- The ninth feedback report ([ENG](#), [FR](#)) covering feedback collected by 12 African National Societies was published. Unfortunately mistrust is still the most common feedback we are hearing - mainly about the pandemic being used making money, for political purposes or is not real because there are no sick people in the media.
- The ninth #AskDrBen report ([ENG](#)) addressing the most common rumours and questions was published. The French version will from now on be published as 'Ask Dr Aissa', featuring Dr Aissa, the IFRC health coordinator for West and Central Africa ([FR](#)).
- A new #AskDrBen [video](#) has been posted on [@IFRCAfrica](#) answering the question about how COVID-19 spreads, as well as an #AskDr Aissa [video](#) addressing the rumour that COVID-19 is man-made and spread intentionally in Africa.

Internal and inter-agency coordination

- Internal and external coordination is ongoing, with regular calls with the Africa CEA team and the global CEA team. IFRC is also co-leading the RCCE interagency technical working group for East and Southern Africa with UNICEF, leading the sub-working group on community feedback for East and Southern Africa as well as co-leading the community feedback sub-working group for West and Central Africa together with MSF.
- The fourth round of inter-agency community feedback trends from partners in East and Southern Africa as well as the second round of trends shared by partners in West and Central Africa are being discussed and recommendations developed.
- The team is supporting the ICRC with the organization of the Africa Together virtual music concert, which will take place on 4 and 5 June 2020.

Capacity enhancement

- National Societies are continuously supported to enhance the capacity of their staff and volunteers in Risk communication and community engagement. There is regular contact and discussion between CEA focal points of the NS and those of the CCST or other CEA focal points supporting the NS to discuss challenges and provide guidance and support. So far 41 National Societies have conducted at least basic training for staff and volunteers on RCCE for COVID-19.
- This week, 28 IFRC, PNS and NS participants are taking part in the first ECV and RCCE online training of trainers' course. The training is conducted on the messaging platform zoom and has many interactive elements such as group work in separate chat rooms, online polls and the use of mentimeter¹. Participants will then be able to roll out the combined training either face to face or online.

Protection Gender and Inclusion

The unit was engaged in the following activities.

- Meeting with Somali and DRC NS on SGBV prevention and response in COVID -19 response.
- Work plan and activities in place with support from the IFRC PGI team to ensure proper implementation of SGBV prevention and response.
- South Africa - UNDP, IFRC southern Africa and South Africa Red Cross Society have rolled out a survey to assess citizens experiences of and perceptions of social protection during the COVID-19 response. The process is led by UNDP and IFRC staff. Analysis from the survey will provide scenarios for use in national, post-crisis adjustment plans focusing on short, medium and long term.
- Cote d'Ivoire Red cross transcribed in braille the sensitization messages for COVID-19 to reach out to the blind. They are also in the process of translating all messages to sign language for ease of communication to persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities are no longer left behind in the COVID-19 response as they are now able to access information easily.

National Society Development

The unit was engaged in the following activities.

- Worked closely with PRD Region and GVA in the global platform discussing the new digital fundraising solution and in strengthening Financial sustainability across the NS. Out of the six NS who had expressed interest, Kenya Red cross, Cote d'Ivoire and Malawi have already participated in the feasibility study and responded to the questionnaire of the initiative with regards to enrolment process with the ongoing conversation on possible value add.
- PRD Region, GVA and NSD Region observed the need to engage the cluster Heads in the processes of the initiative with a follow-up webinar organized for NS in the coming week of 11 June with the following proposed agenda:
 - What the digital fundraising solution is

¹ Mentimeter is an easy-to-use presentation software that allows you to interact with your audience using real-time voting

- Short and longer-term plans for rollout of the platform
- The process and steps taken so far, and the status
- Any questions and next steps
- The third-party service provider and IFRC secretariat have finalized on due diligence and the MOU awaiting sign off.
- Participated in the NSD Regional monthly and weekly coordination meeting. Action plans coming out of the meetings were:
 - Clusters and sector units work towards enhancing information sharing and reporting
 - Resource and strengthen sector units, IM and Youth & volunteer
 - Develop standard guidelines checklist to guide NS in their COVID 19 response plans and beyond

Communications






On Wednesday 20 May, the communications unit issued this press release: [East Africa: Red Cross raises the alarm over a “triple menace” of floods, COVID-19 and locusts](#). The team also shared related audio-visual content via, IFRC’s platform “Newsroom”: [East Africa: Red Cross raises the alarm over a “triple menace” of floods, COVID- 19 and locusts](#). The main goal was to position the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement as a key player in the response to an increasing number of overlapping crises in the region. **With over 500 media and social media mentions** by key global media outlets, the media engagement was very successful, resulting in one the highest levels of media coverage of IFRC’s response to COVID-19, locusts, and flooding, since the beginning of the year, in Africa.

The media highlights from the Press release were as follows:











- At least **500 media and social media mentions** about our press release: [East Africa: Red Cross raises the alarm over a “triple menace” of floods, COVID-19 and locusts](#)
- Most media outlets used the term **“triple threat”** and **“triple menace”** in the titles of their stories.
- Most media articles directly quote our press release and Dr Simon Missiri
- The press release was picked up by the US news wire service [Associated Press](#) - (AP).
- The AP story was republished by several major outlets including the [Washington Post](#), [The New York Times](#), [CBC](#), [ABC](#)
- There was also coverage from key outlets such as [The Guardian](#), [BBC World Service](#) (14’45”), [China Daily](#), [Fox News](#), [Daily Mail](#), and [The Independent](#).

The specific activities conducted by NSs in the COVID-19 response is as listed below.

Health:

- | | |
|---|---|
|  | 17 Screening and contact tracing |
|  | 15 Psychosocial Support |
|  | 7 Clinical, paramedical, or homecare services |
|  | 7 Emergency social services for quarantined individuals |
|  | 7 Cash/livelihood support |

Risk Communications & Community Engagement (RCCE):

	44 Risk communication activities (e.g., household visits, PA system etc)
	34 Use of social media for providing information and receiving feedback
	31 Distribution and use of IEC materials
	29 Interactive radio shows
	11 Community feedback mechanism
	16 Production and use of videos on COVID-19
	16 Use of radio jingles
	3 TV Shows
	11 Community led solution
	4 SMS messages on COVID-19

National Society Updates

Angola Red Cross

The Angolan Red Cross has mobilized and trained 3,673 volunteers, with the participation of nurses and doctors from the Ministry of Health. Its focus has been on building a strong network of volunteers' by mapping the location of volunteers, creating groups of volunteers in communities and training of trainers to further train volunteers. Volunteers have been conducting various COVID-19 related activities in key public areas. The NS has reached 105,150 people through volunteer activities targeted at informal markets, supermarkets, taxi ranks, warehouses, ATMs and house to house visits. Additionally, they have reached 25,000,000 listeners and viewers through national radio programmes and national and public TV programmes related to COVID-19 in several languages. A total of 385 community engagement sessions were held in informal markets. A total of 1,180 people were reached in institutional and home quarantine at provincial level. A total of 448 calls were made under the Restoring Family Links program.

Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross (BERCS)

Eswatini's first COVID-19 case was reported on 14 March 2020 after which the infection spread to all four regions of the country. Manzini is the worst hit, followed by the Hhohho, Lubombo and Shiselweni regions. By 21 May, 33 health workers were confirmed to have COVID-19. In response, the country established a National Disaster Task Force in which the BERCS is represented by its Secretary General. Each region has a multisectoral team responsible for the response to the epidemic. Weekly update meetings by all stakeholders are mandatory. Technical teams are also in place and the Ministry of Health is key lead. Fifty-four (54) National Society staff & 260 volunteers are being trained on COVID-19 Epidemic Control for Volunteers and RCCE activities. Both staff and volunteers will be involved in awareness campaigns, including house-to-house disseminating information, registering all households visited, demonstrating handwashing, and referring those showing flu-like symptoms to emergency teams. BERCS staff and volunteers have received face masks following the government announcement that all citizens must wear a face mask. In all the three BERCS-run clinics, health staff have been given Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). & COVID-19 screening equipment. RCCE messages aired on radio and TV during peak hours & before the morning & evening news. The NS will provide cash/livelihoods support to restore the income of vulnerable households affected by COVID-19.

Botswana Red Cross Society

The society activated 4,272 volunteers for the response. A total of 541 volunteers across the country were trained on COVID-19 preparedness and the safe use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). To date, over 292 volunteers have been deployed to over

36 localities in Botswana. Response interventions have included assisting the government's relief food distribution process, risk communications and community engagement (RCCE), health promotion, enabling prevention protocols and infection control in rural areas. The society has also resumed other activities to run alongside COVID-19 response interventions, including its drought response and First Aid training services.

The NS is providing temporary shelter to assist decongest households. They have therefore issued a total of 42 family tents and have decongested 56 families since the beginning of COVID-19 response. Two health facilities were also assisted with a tarpaulin shelter and family tent, both were used for temperature checks and registration of the public accessing the facility. In terms of Infection prevention and control (IPC) and WASH (community) 306 reusable face masks and 151 sanitisers were issued to staff, students, parents and guardians of the BRCS centres, Tlamelong Rehabilitation Centre, Sefhare and Tshimologo Simulation Centres.

COVID-19 information dissemination and health promotion were conducted through the distribution of Information Education Communication (IEC) material to Botswana Bible Association in Gaborone, households, a school, kgotla (traditional meeting place) and a clinic in Tsetseng. Distributed materials estimated to reach over 1000 people. COVID-19 information was also disseminated to focus groups in vernacular to communities in Tsetseng. BRCS volunteers and staff also conducted handwashing demonstrations in the same area.

Risk Communication, Health and Hygiene Promotion interventions were done through 214 social distancing stickers placed at the Office of the President, Ministry of Health and Wellness offices, offices in Gaborone, the kgotla (traditional meeting place) and health facilities. Five volunteers in Kazungula were engaged to assist with temperature checks and registration of the public visiting at the District Commissioner's office and the clinic, a protocol introduced by the government to ensure traceability in the event that there are infections.

Infection Prevention Control and WASH (Community) were done in Tsetseng village where they were provided with two 10,000 litres water tanks to increase the number of existing tanks. These are envisaged to reduce congestion at water points. Over 500 people in the community stand to benefit from this intervention.

Livelihoods, cash support and Food aid was provided through P467,000.00 (Approximately CHF 37,650)² worth of food support to migrants. Thus far, 934 households have been reached across seven districts; Central, Kgatleng, Kgalagadi, Kweneng, North West, Ghanzi and Lobatse Town Council. Besides, 56 Students from BRCS centres, Tlamelong Rehabilitation and Tshimologong Simulation Centre, received vouchers for food and hygiene packages. In terms of the NS readiness, two NS staff attended Epidemic Control and RCCE Training of Trainers training between 2 and 5 June 2020.

Cameroon Red Cross Society

The NS weekly conducted interactive radio shows through the topic "*tous contre le COVID-19*" in partnership with 4 radio stations. A total of 30 volunteers are involved in the radio programs, reaching out to more than 2 million people in the Douala and Yaounde cities. A total of 281 community feedbacks were collected through community mobilizers, radio shows social media, Whatsapp platforms and focus group discussions and was shared with IFRC in support to the production of IFRC regional community feedback report. These feedbacks were collected in Yaoundé and Douala. Seven Focus Group Discussions and 10 interviews targeting community leaders and community groups were conducted by 16 volunteers in Yaounde as means to deliver health education messages on COVID-19 to communities to encourage proper hygiene practices and inform on preventive measures against COVID-19. Seventy-three (73) people participated in these community discussions. Communities from 58 overcrowded and vulnerable neighbourhoods in Yaoundé are encouraged to adopt safe hygiene practices and distancing measures to prevent COVID-19. Twenty (20) volunteers who have been equipped with megaphones use motorbikes to encourage vulnerable communities in targeted areas of the Yaoundé city. A total of 18,550 people were reached with health education messages on COVID-19. New audio spots have been produced and translated into some local languages to address stigma against people with the disease and their families, the spreading of rumours / false information through social networks, the rejection of health workers and the importance of observing restriction measures around COVID-19. Social media communication is conducted through Twitter, Facebook and volunteers/ staff Whatsapp platforms to provide correct and updated information on COVID-19 to targeted audiences and Red Cross staff and volunteers.

Central African Republic Red Cross Society

Construction by the IFRC of three (3) isolation shelters at the Sino-Central African Friendship Hospital and the Bangui General Hospital to support services for the management of COVID-19 cases. A total of 1,000 additional alternative masks were manufactured for staff and volunteers. Awareness-raising activities were done in the neighbourhoods through mobile caravans and handwashing kits in nine Local Red cross Committees and resumption of activities in the 7th sub-division (suspended for security reasons on 2 May 2020). In total, 15 motorized caravans and 320 volunteers were mobilized, 47 handwashing kits, 21,000

²<https://www1.oanda.com/currency/converter/>

litres of water, 60 megaphones used and 190,000 people were reached. Training sessions for 131 community leaders (93 men and 38 women) organized in the 10 local committees with the technical support of the French Red Cross and financial support from the Netherlands RC.

The Comoros Red Crescent

The NS carried out production and distribution of 1,000 face masks through volunteers. Community sessions on the use of masks and chlorinated water in 29 communities were done where 15,195 people were reached. The NS also supported disinfection of public sites with the local authorities (more than 17,000 m²). Training of 414 volunteers, community health workers of the Ministry of Health and members of the community management committees on the community monitoring. Donation to the Ministry of Health of PPE (chirurgical masks, body bags, gloves, head cover(charlotte), googles, shoe cover, Gowns (Combi Poly pro-M), hydro-alcoholic solution, Sprayer, FFP2. In terms of RCCE a total of three TV broadcasts to promote preventive measures, epidemic symptoms, dead body management were done where 170,100 people were reached. Epidemic information was shared through the National Society Facebook page as well as the Ministry of Health Facebook page.

Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo

A briefing on CEA for 250 volunteers was done in Kinshasa. A total of 120 volunteers conducted community discussions and household visits to raise awareness on COVID-19 and encourage safe hygiene and compliance to barrier measures. Almost 40,000 people were reached in Kananga with messages around COVID-19 to improve on their knowledge of the outbreak and encourage safe health behaviour. A total of 75 volunteers and care providers (60 volunteers and 15 care providers) from Kinshasa were trained in IPC by the French Red Cross. The same training was provided in Goma and Bukavu targeting community members and traditional healers.

Gabonese Red Cross Society

The NS conducted door-to-door sensitization in Woleu-Ntem where a total of 2,517 people were reached disaggregated as 1,280 women and, 1,237 men. The NS also carried out sensitizations in public places in the Ogooué-Lolo where approximately 1500 people were reached with health education messages on COVID-19. Six volunteers received psychological support and a psychological evaluation was carried out on three staff members. The NS did a follow-up of contact cases where 30 cases were followed up, 120 follow-up calls of online contacts made. A team of five volunteers are involved in radio shows on basic knowledge on COVID-19 in partnership with "Radio Emergence". The NS is supporting a campaign launched by the local government to provide food assistance to vulnerable communities in the outskirts of Libreville. Vouchers and food kits are being distributed to targeted families.

Lesotho Red Cross

LRCS currently support in disseminating of information on COVID-19 using various media platforms, public gathering (restricted) and distribution of IEC material. This includes advocating for social distancing in public areas such as markets, shopping complex, gatherings, etc., through the social distancing campaigns held by volunteers in 10 divisions. More than 20 supermarkets are complying to social distancing and information disseminated on COVID-19 and hygiene promotion shared to 30,000 people.

Prevention of COVID-19 is linked to good hygiene practices, thus LRCS initiatives also include community education on proper handwashing practices and construction of tippy-taps in public areas. To date, through LRCS volunteers support, 196 tippy-taps have been constructed and information on proper handwashing shared to 30,000 people.

With support from MoH LRCS participates in contact tracing and COVID-19 screening in hot spots (borders/point of entry). To address the food insecurity because of COVID-19, LRCS has established a feeding programme (soup kitchen) to support vulnerable homeless people living in various places within the country. To date, LRCS has provided meals to 100 homeless people, this includes children and adults.

Malagasy Red Cross Society

The NS deployed mobile clinics composed of 2 tents, 15 foldable beds, 1 ambulance, 2,000 FFP3 masks, 480 blouses, 100 and 500ml hydroalcoholic to support the Ministry of Health activities in the new epicentre region of Atsinanana. The NS also Installed 314 handwashing points in 9 districts of Antananarivo and Antalaha, particularly at markets and schools. Disinfection activities were done to 11 high risky sites of Antalaha such as churches, boats, and administrative offices. A training of trainers for 161 volunteers on COVID-19 and PSS was done. Donation of medicines and other materials to three hospitals was also done and handover of 5,000 masks to Hospitals and 4,000 to the Ministry of Health. In terms of RCCE activities, a total of 185 volunteers supported on community sensitization reaching 83,557 people through home visits, focus group discussions, mass sensitization, leaflets, posters, audio spot broadcasting, banners, and video. Community sensitization was also done through social media messages like [#stayathome](#). The NS Facebook page is <http://facebook.com/croixrougemalagasy/>. Cash transfers were done to 1,148 families. The Malagasy RC hotline number (034 30 811 12) was established and communicated to the community to request information about COVID-19.

Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS)

As an auxiliary to the government, the MRCS developed a complementary COVID-19 response plan, with the overall objective of strengthening the National Society's preparedness and response as well as supporting the Ministry of Health in preventing further spread of the disease. It aims to contribute to control mechanisms by specifically focusing on risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities. Activities have a nationwide focus, but with specific emphasis on affected areas to limit further spreading. A total of 261 MRCS Staff, 950 Volunteers, 322 stakeholders were oriented on COVID-19 and in turn, reached 319,941 people in 58,171 households with COVID-19 prevention messages. The NS also provided prisons with soaps for 4,000 inmates, those coming through police custody and those on remand. A total of 164 calls and 101 Wi-Fi connections made under the Restoring Family Links programme. The NS reached over 41,310 people in 82 crowded places (markets, malls, banks, roadblocks & mobile markets). Audio vans have also been used, while big-screen cinemas targeted roadside open markets. Finally, 3,705 people were reached with PGI (protection, gender & inclusion) messages during sensitization meetings, handwashing campaigns and door to door activities. Shortfalls in funding have resulted in 10 out of 29 districts missing out on COVID-19 activities.

Mauritius Red Cross Society

The NS provided psychological support to the population from affected areas through 40 volunteers, 10 staff, 15 doctors and psychologists. Two ambulances were offered for services for reference to the health centres or hospitals. The NS supported in administering medical services to elderly people and facilitating access to medicines for people who cannot join the medical centre. Sensitizations were carried out via the NS Facebook page <http://facebook.com/croixrougedemaurence/>, banners fixed at the main supermarkets in the capital and on many billboards across the country to respect health guidelines.

Mozambique Red Cross Society

The NS has trained 1,400 volunteers and community members who actively play a crucial role in disseminating information on COVID-19 prevention and control measures in the country's most remote communities. In close partnership with the Ministry of Health and other partners, the NS has been intensifying its advocacy work in promoting health and hygiene in public spaces, systematically collecting rumours to produce its national report of community feedbacks and training public agents to respond to psychological first aid and SGBV in the context of COVID-19. The NS has supported in creating 4,479 handwashing points across the country. They have also distributed protective materials for workers (gloves, masks, gel/alcohol) and essential items (kitchen sets, tarpaulins, blankets, hygiene materials etc) to over 1,600 families (8,000 individuals) forced to flee armed violence in Cabo Delgado. They have published 11,000 folding IEC leaflets and 10,000 IEC leaflets. Personal hygiene kits have been distributed to 23 Cabo Delgado provincial prisons reaching 2,062 detainees. They have also conducted 842 psycho-social sessions across the country. The NS has rehabilitated and constructed two COVID-19 treatment centres (wards & sanitation facilities) for 200 patients and donated beds, hygiene & cleaning items for the centres.

Namibia Red Cross Society

Currently, the activities being carried out in the regions include public awareness-raising, hygiene promotion, risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), media relations, provision of food baskets to vulnerable people and the distribution of IEC materials in strategic areas. The identified areas targeted with risk communication include informal settlements (door to door), markets and border posts. Schools, churches, terminals and taxi ranks are still closed so are not yet targeted. The NS has trained, activated and deployed 220 Community base Volunteers in 10 out of a total of 14 Regions to carry out the COVID-19 response activities.

Furthermore, as the impact of COVID-19 is being felt on the economic level due to the loss of employment, more and more families are having less and less to eat. Especially vulnerable families are at the receiving end; therefore, the NS has included an element of livelihood support to these households. The NS aims to support 500 households with food baskets for five months as part of its response to the pandemic. Finally, the response plan also aims to keep staff, volunteers and interns safe. The NS has 210 volunteers trained with the help of Namibia's Ministry of Health. 100 volunteers deployed to Khomas region, as the epicentre and the rest in 9 out of the 14 regions. Volunteers provided health education in communities, with a focus on WASH (constructing tippy-taps, demonstrating handwashing). Volunteers assisted officials with collecting information on those entering Namibia.

Seychelles Red Cross Society

A total of 500 "Kits for Kids", composed of hygienic items such as soaps, hand sanitizers, wipes, tissues were provided to representatives of foster homes and children benefitting from the Dedicated Fund and further packs were given out at a village. The beneficiary kids are the scholars from the vulnerable households and most affected by the crisis. This initiative is part of the National Society's efforts at preventing the spread of COVID-19, and according to the theme chosen this year (*I give with joy, and joy is my reward*) calling on each one to extend a helping hand to the needy. A one-day Psychological First Aid Training for school counsellors, senior staff from the Ministry of Education at the School of Institute & Teacher Education was conducted. Ten volunteers are still active at the National Red Cross headquarters helping the Electoral Commission regarding the business continuity plan and are part of the emergency response committee at the Ministry of Health. The report on health screening in

schools and evaluation/assessment on the services it is delivering, safety & hygiene levels at schools and preparation is being finalized.

South African Red Cross Society

In support of the government efforts to stop the spread of the virus, SARCS is running various activities across the country, including public awareness-raising, hygiene promotion, risk communication for behaviour change, media relations, screening and contact tracing, provision of meals to vulnerable groups and distribution of IEC materials at strategic places, including schools, taxi ranks, bus terminals, churches, malls and informal settlements. SARCS has also added clinics, temporary shelters for the homeless and social grants pay points to the list since lockdown.

The National Society is still on the ground in all nine provinces ensuring that the efforts of curbing the spread of the virus are being done. The volunteers now have intensified their efforts in public education, by distributing key messages that are being translated into local languages. The messages are on preventative measures and hygiene promotions. This is done by distributing posters and pamphlets at hotspots areas such as taxi ranks, malls, streets, informal settlements, bus terminals, clinics and government premises. The volunteers are also working on risk communication and community engagement where misinformation, rumours and myths are being tackled by providing the right information. The inclusion of vulnerable groups such as people living with disabilities is being catered for so that they are not left out in these discussions. The IFRC supported SARCS with 3,380 myth-buster stickers for promoting social distancing and they were placed at malls across nine provinces, and 500 posters placed at strategic areas such as malls, clinics and 27 shelters for the homeless. The national society has developed and distributed 212,383 flyers and 1533 posters with key messages about COVID-19. Up to date, about 562,432 people have been reached so far with key messages developed to curb the spread of the virus emphasizing on hygiene promotions at household level, social distancing, and precautionary measures and tracking of myths, misinformation about the virus and rumours.

The National Society visibility has improved over the past months due to the media relations, coverage and good working relationships. Both print and electronic media house have been covering the work of volunteers in all Provinces through radio interviews, articles, press statements and TV coverage. About 46 million viewers and listeners have been reached with key messages on COVID 19 preventative measures, signs and symptoms.

With the increase of cases across the country, the National Society now upscale its efforts in supporting the Department of Health (DOH) on contact Tracing screening and testing. The Contact tracing, door-door screening and testing will be expanded in all provinces looking at the increase of the cases. More volunteers will be trained through the support of DOH. So far, seven provinces are doing contact tracing, screening and testing and they have reached about 456, 082 people on screening, 29,976 people on contact tracing and 5,056 people with testing.

The NS is also supporting the DOH at the call centres in the three provinces Free State (15 volunteers), Western Cape (6 volunteers), and Gauteng province (2 volunteers). The roles and responsibilities of volunteers are,

- Data capturing
- Online screening
- Referrals (Those screened) and
- Food parcels.

With the lockdown being moved to level 3, the National Society continues to provide hot meals in all 9 provinces. Currently, the National Society is conducting an assessment to find out if people are still affected and if there is still a need to support communities with Hot meals. Some provinces have indicated that from their findings there is still a need to support as the lockdown has affected the livelihoods of communities and some people have lost their jobs. The volunteers have reached 266,764 people with hot meals and the target groups are homeless, orphans and vulnerable children, disabled and elderly and the migrants.

SARCS is continuing to support communities with food parcels in all 9 Provinces, targeting communities at informal settlements who were severely affected by the lockdown. Currently, those who were doing informal jobs or working in the informal sectors have been seriously affected by the lockdown. The National Society distributed 16,266 food parcels.

With the promotion of hygiene at household level, SARCS has distributed 1,747 hygiene packs, 133 buckets and 614 soaps to identified vulnerable people. SARCS has responded to winter conditions and volunteers have distributed 3,708 blankets and 88 mattresses to vulnerable people in shelters.

The National Society has engaged 2,150 volunteers across all 9 provinces. As numbers of cases are increasing and the needs are evolving, more volunteers will be mobilized to be able to reach more vulnerable communities.

SARCS volunteers and staff are provided with PSS from appointed PSS experts. This is done to support volunteers who are overwhelmed and distressed due to the environment they are operating in.

Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS)

To align with the Ministry of Health's (MoH) response plan, the National Society has been part of the coordination meetings organised by the MoH and Disaster Mitigation and Management Unit (DMMU). Initially, the response concentrated on awareness-raising activities and community engagement around the country with most activities centred on Lusaka and the Copperbelt provinces, the epicentres of the pandemic. The pandemic has now spread to three other provinces - Central, North-Western and Muchinga provinces. ZRCS is, therefore, scaling up response efforts to cover 18 districts from the initial 13 priority ones as well as beefing up staff numbers to support this increase. Twenty-six (26) volunteers in 13 priority districts have been trained as Trainers of Trainers on COVID-19 and community mobilization. Currently, there is an ongoing behaviour change message dissemination on COVID-19 in 13 priority districts. Messages are shared through mobile public address systems (safe community mobilisation) in collaboration with MoH and the Zambia News and Information Services. The NS supports the MoH in targeted quarantine centres with handwashing stations, soaps and hand sanitizers. Talks are ongoing to support MoH in contact tracing, surveillance & screening. Information was also disseminated using the Public Address System to 2,536,374 people in outlying districts and 1,662,705 people in the capital Lusaka. Finally, the NS made 551 calls and 203 Wi-Fi connections under the Restoring Family Links program. To cater to the hearing impaired, ZRCS has developed Information Education and Communication material in sign language in keeping with the Red Cross principle of inclusion.



Zimbabwe Red Cross Society

The continued ban on the informal sector has increased the vulnerability of the majority who rely on this sector, 60% of whom are women. Lack of adequate social protection programmes to cushion the vulnerable in urban centres remains a concern. In rural areas programmes have continued providing food assistance to the food insecure.

Demand for risks communication remains very high as safe practices remain very low in both rural and urban populations. People continue to queue for scarce basic commodities such as mealie-meal, sugar and fuel, sometimes disregarding social distancing. The NS has trained 400 RCCE focal points and 600 staff and volunteers on RCCE. Food has been provided to 231,646 people in 8 districts. They have also broadcasted 35 sessions of radio jingles produced by the celebrated musician and ZRCS humanitarian ambassador. They have supported in screening 2,000 people at ZRCS clinic, all ZRCS offices and food security operations. Finally, they have distributed 4 tents to 3 isolation centres.