



POLICY, STRATEGY AND KNOWLEDGE AFRICA REGION

PROGRESS REPORT 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMERY

IFRC's Policy Strategy and Knowledge department (PSK) was established in July 2015 to facilitate a seamless interchange between the organization's policy, strategy and knowledge functions. Following the global matrix management system, IFRC Africa regional office formed the PSK unit this year. (2017). One can define the PSK unit in Africa as the 'engine room' developing, implementing and monitoring strategies to build strong, sustainable National Societies in the region using evidence based knowledge and peer learning. It is important to ensure internal coherence through the effective and strategic coordination of IFRC's external policy agenda liaising closely with the PSK global team. Promoting a culture of research and innovation in Africa is critical to our forward march as a trusted and relevant humanitarian organization and, therefore, building strong NS and focusing on National Society development is key aspect of PSK work.

National Society Development falls under the PSK unit. PSK unit has two other components, coming under its wing. They are Information Management and Youth & Volunteering. Head of PSK manages the 3 focal points in the above areas. Working together in perfect harmony and with high team spirit, the PSK team has been able to achieve significant progress this year (2017). These successes are even more creditable considering that all positions were created anew and everything had to start from scratch.

National Society development is the prime responsibility of the leadership of the National Society. However, with the rapidly changing humanitarian landscape and the strengthening of cooperation and coordination amongst the Red Cross Red Crescent movement, the notion of shared leadership has conferred upon the movement partners, a greater role on National Society development.

It is in this light, that IFRC Africa Road Map recognizes the vital aspect of organizational development and capacity building. "The IFRC Africa will provide programmatic support to all National Societies and broker knowledge and innovation. It will prioritize the development of tools and guidance to enhance use of data, build and manage reputation risks, and support leadership and management development".

The following pages gives a more in-depth account of the achievements chalked up during 2017. It also gives a snap shot of PSK unit's value proposition for 2018.

PSK TEAM AFRICA

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PSK-NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT (NSD)

Highlights in 2017

Background

The National Society Development (NSD) position falls under Policy, Strategy and Knowledge department and this vital position has been vacant for many years with no dedicated staff at the Africa Regional Office to manage the NSD portfolio. Such an important position should not have been vacant for such a long time but that was the reality. However, the Regional Director for Africa advocated for this position and IFRC Geneva readily agreed to fill this void and finally in November 2016 this position was filled with support from the Capacity Building Fund.

The Regional Coordinator on NSD's reports directly to the Head of PSK in Africa. He works closely with the IFRC Geneva secretariat to ensure alignment to the global matrix management system.

As significant achievements, have been chalked up this year, it is extremely vital this position continues as an integral part of the PSK team to capitalize on the achievements so far made on strengthening /supporting NSD amongst African NS's.

Some NSD highlights 2017

Needs based, ad-hoc support on Organizational development, Leadership development, Financial development, Systems development and youth development was provided to 14 National Societies namely, Mauritius RCS, Zambia Red Cross, Namibia RC, Liberia NRCS, Nigeria RCS, Ghana RCS, South Sudan RCS, Lesotho RCS, Mozambique RC, Malawi RCS, Burundi RC, Comoros RC, Kenya RC and Tanzania RC Society for 2017 by the PSK team.

Development of Strategic Plan for Mauritius Red Cross Society-

On the request of the NS the PSK team supported the Mauritius Red Cross Society to develop a strategic plan for 2017-2020 after facilitating a 3-day participatory workshop for Governance and management with wide representation from all branches which ensured the voice of the branches were heard. This was most welcomed by the MRCS governance and senior management as this Indian Ocean Island's National Society has been somewhat neglected in the past by the IFRC. The process of developing a strategic plan not only helped the MRCS to take a 'reality check' of being a relevant and sustainable NS but will also provide direction to the NS till 2020.

Technical support to the Strategic Planning process in Zambia Red Cross Society-

PSK team technically supported the Zambia Red Cross in the workshop held to develop a strategic plan for the NS. At a time when the ZRCS is striving to rebuild its capacity at branch level, the strategic planning workshop helped them to re-vision and look at a 'new branch model' that is sustainable. PSK worked closely with the Netherlands RC in supporting the ZRCS strategic planning process.

Support to develop Namibian Red Cross Society's Road Map –

PSK team IFRC teaming up with ICRC's head of Cooperation Southern Africa, provided support to the Namibian RCS in developing a road map that is aligned to its draft NS Strategic Plan. This operational plan will guide the NRCS as it strives to recover from a financial crisis and re-build its brand name in the country.

Support to South Sudan RCS on the Core-Cost mechanism-

South Sudan being a 'pilot hub' for Strengthening Movement Cooperation and Collaboration (SMCC) PSK facilitated a crucial discussion amongst the Movement partners to come up with a 'core cost mechanism' to support the NS. As a result, the NS and PNS working in South Sudan have clarity in their core- cost support to SSRC. Additionally, specific NSD support is provided through the IFRC NSD delegate based in-country.

Leadership development Support to Nigerian Red Cross Society-

Upon a request from the President of NRCS, PSK team supported the Nigerian Red Cross governance and management to draw up a leadership development plan leading up to the AGM together with a Road Map towards excellence with key milestones and timelines. With a 'new look' senior management team, the NRCS Road Map with specific milestones guides the NRCS towards becoming a well-functioning National Society.

Finance development and PMER support to Nigeria Red Cross Society-

Building on the support extended to the NRCS on developing a Road Map with specific milestones the PSK team provided extended technical support to the NRCS by developing a Financial Management concept note which was endorsed by the NRCS leadership and presented to the British Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross in December 2017. PSK team continue to provide guidance to the NRCS in finance development efforts and on PMER which are identified as vital priorities for the NRCS in the road map.

Branch Development support to Adamawa state branch, Nigeria-

Adamawa state branch is leading the Complex food crisis emergency operation in North East Nigeria. A **branch development plan for Adamawa state** branch was also developed with the objective of making the *'Adamawa branch a centre for community resilience'*. A **Branch Governance induction** was also conducted for the first time in the Adamawa branch, which has been historically supported by the ICRC. The branch governance, comprising of eminent persons in the state of Adamawa welcomed the orientation. The orientation provided the branch governance much needed orientation of the Red Cross Movement that will help them to perform their roles in line with the principles of the Red Cross.

A **Volunteer training on "Fundamental principles in action"** was conducted for Volunteers currently engaged in the operations. This was also a pioneering initiative for the branch as vibrant discussions ensued regarding its applicability and challenges on the ground



especially in a complex setting. The Volunteers will be better equipped to handle any complex situations in the field as they engage in emergency operations upholding the fundamental principles.

Guidance and advice to the Malawi RCS on crisis management -

The PSK team's mission to the Malawi RC was to engage them on crisis management. Productive discussions and meetings with the Senior Leadership of the Malawi RC and the PNS community in Malawi led to the following results-

- Commitment on integrity and accountability signed by all board members.
- Board obligation and limitation to cement expectations from the board and management
- TOR and PoA for the Finance and Risk Management Committee- to help finance Committee members to become active and operational with its oversight role.

Support to Liberia NRCS in their efforts to re-establish after the crisis-

In line with LNRCS 'turn around' strategy the PSK team adopted a two-pronged approach in supporting systems development, especially on financial management systems, risk mapping and NS business plan whilst supporting the organizational development aspect especially in the Constitutional review process, OCAC, Strategic Plan and humanitarian needs assessment.

Support to the Tanzania RC on a range of National Society capacity building initiatives-

- **'Mini' Movement induction training for TRCS Governance –**

PSK team together with the ICRC facilitated a 'Mini' Movement induction course for TRCS Governance including branch governance. The PSK team also contributed to the branch planning workshop that followed.

- **BOCA Training of Facilitators (ToF) workshops conducted in Tanzania-**

In line with our emphasis on Branch development, PSK team conducted a BOCA Training of Facilitators (ToF) workshop for the Tanzania RCS technically and financially supported by the IFRC. The outcome was the creation of a National Pool of BOCA facilitators for the NS who will in turn conduct BOCA exercises in all their branches. The branch level BOCA exercise will give an opportunity for the branches to self-assess their capacities and come up with a branch development plan aimed at better service delivery to the community and branch sustainability.

- **Youth Policy and Volunteer development support to TRCS-**

The TRCS which had developed a draft Youth Policy requested for technical assistance of the PSK team to conduct a workshop to validate the Youth Policy. PSK team facilitated a 2- day



workshop for the youth of TRCS whilst providing guidance for youth and volunteering development especially in areas of Volunteer management and retention. The outcome envisaged is more vibrant youth engagement in programming and ensuring youth representation in governance structures brought about by the policy change.

HR development and Administrative management support to Burundi Red Cross Society-

Regional Office provided technical advice and guidance to the Burundi RCS to include HR and Administrative Management capacity strengthening through the IFRC- WFP Capacity strengthening initiative piloted in Burundi. It is noteworthy to mention that the need for HR development was identified by the BRCS through an OCAC exercise done in 2017 and this initiative was part of the NSD plan/OCAC follow up plan. The training on Administrative management at National Head Quarters and Branches will contribute to the overall HR systems development of the NS paving the way for efficient and effective service delivery.

Support to Kenyan Red cross to host International Youth Camp in Kenya-

Supported KRCS in hosting an International Youth Camp in which 40 Participants were from other countries from Africa and other Regions. Youth Commission members also attended and helped prop up awareness on IFRC tools for Youth Engagement which included, the role and Functions of Youth Commission, YES, Youth Policy.

Support to the Comoros Red Crescent in Logistics capacity building-

18 NS participants (11 male and 6 female) participated in a 7- day training that brought together managers and volunteers of the NS under capacity building on management of logistics procedures.

Main objective was to Strengthen the capacities of the Comoros Red Crescent National Headquarters and its Regional Committee to better cope in normal times and emergencies in terms of time and quality of response. Training centred around improved logistical management capacity according to the standards of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (both documentary and operational). The training will help build competent logistics capacity in this Indian Ocean Island National Society.

Support to Ghana Red Cross Society in multiple NSD initiatives-

- **Governance induction & orientation-**

PSK team facilitated a Governance orientation training for the newly elected Governance members following the AGM. PSK also made use of the opportunity to 'open doors' to the GRCS to forge possible strategic collaborations with government and other stakeholders. The theme was on ***"applying business models to deliver humanitarian services in Ghana. The role of the Red Crossers"***. The highlights were on board and management limitations and obligations, roles and responsibilities of the GRC leadership (management and board), risk management and issues related to accountability and good governance, discussions and



follow up with PAN African conference commitments of 2012 and 2017 which resulted to OCAC assessments held in 2017 which has become an integral part of its strategic plan.

- **BOCA Training of Facilitators (ToF) workshop conducted in Ghana-**

In line with our emphasis on Branch development, PSK team conducted a BOCA Training of Facilitators (ToF) workshop for the Ghana RCS technically and financially supported by the IFRC. The outcome was the creation of a National Pool of BOCA facilitators for the NS who will in turn conduct BOCA exercises in all their branches. The branch level BOCA exercise will give an opportunity for the branches to self-assess their capacities which is the first step in the process of branch development.

Support to Lesotho Red Cross Society-

A Joint mission with the Head of Cluster, Southern Africa was undertaken to Lesotho RC from the 5TH – 7TH JULY 2017 to discuss and agree on approaches to support the National Society Development Processes, as well as other programme areas. Agreement was reached on Change Management process, project implementation and time frames for implementation. It is expected through a mentoring and coaching process the new leadership both at management and governance will steer the NS towards a well-functioning NS.

Support to Mozambique RCS-

The governance orientation was jointly conducted with ICRC following the AGM of the Mozambique Red Cross which was held after several years. The facilitators walked the participants through the National Society change processes and the role of the Board in these transformations. Other topics dealt were on Integrity, good governance, role of the board in the management during financial difficulties, and role of the board in resource mobilization and sustainability. This orientation to the governance will equip them to discharge their duties and responsibilities diligently which will keep the NS in good stead.

Communications workshop for Franco-phone countries-

In many French speaking countries (and, by extension, French speaking RC National Societies) Internet use is still low, hampered by socio-economic factors, poor communications infrastructure, and even frequent power outages. To contribute to the bridging of these gaps, get closer to Francophone NS and help to improve their online and media visibility, IFRC Regional Communications Unit, with the support from PSK (Policy Strategy and Knowledge) Unit, organised a workshop for Francophone NS in West and Central Africa, *from 4 to 6 December 2017, in Ouagadougou—Burkina Faso.*

The workshop also aimed at strengthening the capacities of National Societies in terms of communications, with a view to equipping them with the requisite skills for amplifying their good work—thereby creating a more favourable environment for resource mobilization, and furthering their role as auxiliaries to the public authorities.

Ten communications focal points from the following eight NS attended the workshop:



Burkina Faso (three people: Communication Coordinator + two assistants), Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Cameroon and Gabon.

IFRC Senior Communications Officer for Sahel, IFRC Communications Officer for Central Africa, Head of Central Africa Cluster, Chief Editor of Ouest TV, IFRC X-Media Manager (Geneva) and IFRC Communications Manager for Africa Region oversaw the activities of the workshop.

Participants believed this workshop contributed to the bridging the gap between IFRC and the NS, and to the improvement of collaboration. Participants committed to the following actions:

Include a social media component in their communications plan, establishing strategic partnerships with specific media outlets, work more closely with NS senior management, and ask the latter to support their engagement/partnerships with the media, use media and social media to contribute to resource mobilisation, and to strengthen their role as auxiliaries to public authorities/governments by adopting robust communications strategies.

Boost to Youth and Volunteer development efforts in the Region-

One of the key objectives of establishing the position of the Youth and Volunteer Officer was to ensure African youth engagement that brings out the Voice of the African Youth at Global, Regional and Statutory meetings.

Establishment of an IFRC Africa Youth Network Forum during the GA in Turkey was a good beginning to engage and coordinate with other RCRC Youth Networks in other regions. Work is in progress to operationalise Sub Regional Youth Networks in Africa which has been dormant for several years.

A 2016 Volunteer Analysis Report on Africa region was produced using the FDRS system of the IFRC and ANS will be capacitated to enhance their **Volunteer Management Systems** which need strengthening.

YABC initiative across the Africa region will be scaled up to directly contribute and accelerate the achievement of IFRC Strategy 2020, Strategic Aim 3 *Promote social inclusion, and a culture of non-violence and peace.*

Volunteer Alliance(VA) dissemination on VA has been prioritised in the 2018 Operational Plans to enhance volunteer protection and empowerment through e learning.

Support to CLUSTERS-

PSK support to IFRC West Coast Cluster- PSK attended the SG's meeting of the West Coast cluster in Abuja and supported the West Coast cluster to formulate a plan of action for the cluster 'Far together' that will drive collective action for 2017/18.

PSK support to the IFRC Sahel Cluster- PSK participated and contributed financially to the hosting of the SG's meeting of the Sahel Cluster. Meeting with the Leadership of the NS's



from the Sahel cluster helped PSK to engage with several NS's regarding their needs and priorities on the NSD front.

PSK support to IFRC Southern Africa cluster- PSK provides technical oversight and direction to the NSD delegate based in Pretoria covering the NS's under the Southern African cluster.

Many of the above initiatives were supported in collaboration with the respective IFRC clusters, country offices and Movement Partners including relevant PNS and the ICRC.

Seed Grants for Capacity building of NS- In line with the IFRC regional office's thinking of 'getting closer to NS', a seed grants program up to 10,000 CHF was launched by the Africa region which is open to all 49 NS. It is intended to support NS to kick start capacity building efforts which they were hoping for but lacked the necessary funding. The Africa regional office received 35 project proposals which were reviewed by an independent panel and disbursements made. Implementation is currently underway.

Branches as 'centres of resilience'- The department developed a branch development concept note projecting branches as 'centres of resilience'. A similar concept note was tailor made with special focus on the food insecurity challenge facing the continent and migration. The department hopes to conduct 'pilot' projects in Nigeria, Tanzania, Botswana and Sudan.

Regional Movement Induction course-

The first regional Movement Induction Course in Africa for new NS leaders was held in Nairobi from 1-5 May 2017 for the English-speaking NS whilst the French version was held in Dakar from 8-13 May 2017. A total of 38 participants attended these 2 workshops jointly facilitated by IFRC/ICRC. Per the feedback received from participants it is high time to promote this concept and to have more regular regionalized courses.

OCAC process in Senegal, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Ghana, DRC and Swaziland-

Seven OCAC workshops were conducted for the above- named 7 ANS with the support of IFRC team in Geneva. This self- assessment of the NS will help them to develop a tailor made NSD plan of action aimed at achieving their objectives in their strategic plan. Africa region topped the number of OCAC exercises conducted this year amongst all regions which underlines the huge interest within the Africa region for OCAC.

OCAC pool of Facilitators for Africa region-

The first ever pool of OCAC facilitators (English) was formed for Africa, after a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in Abuja. The training was facilitated by Geneva PSK team. 11 facilitators were trained at the ToT who will be engaged in the OCAC facilitation for the Africa region next year. Another ToT in French will be conducted early next year to serve the francophone countries.

BOCA 'Training of Trainers' –

In line with our focus on branch development, the PSK department organized 2 BOCA 'Training of Trainers' in Tanzania and Ghana in 2017 whilst another training is planned in Niger early 2018. These pool of trained BOCA facilitators in their respective ANS will then roll out BOCA workshops in all branches in their respective NS's. We are hopeful to establish BOCA resource centre for Africa with the support of Movement partners that will spearhead BOCA initiatives in the region. We also hope



to establish a pool of BOCA super facilitators for the region next year on the same lines of the OCAC pool of facilitators.

'Shared Leadership Network' on NSD –

Pursuant to a decision at the Partnership meeting held in January 2017 with Movement partners, the PSK team launched the 'Shared leadership Network' for National Society Development in the African region. This virtual "Network" ensures a collective and well- coordinated approach to African National Society development (NSD) issues based on national society priorities and needs in consultation with the ANS. The shared leadership "Network" consist of ANS, IFRC, ICRC, Partner National Societies (PNS). It is an initiative led by ANS with coordination support from the PSK team. The current co-chairs (on a rotation basis) are the South African RCS and the Danish RC.

New model of capacity strengthening of National Societies in collaboration with WFP –

Outcomes of the 'grand bargain' viz a viz to invest in developing capacities of local actors is being piloted in 2 African countries, Burundi and Sudan. WFP seeks to move from transactional relationships where NSs work as mere 'implementing partners' for WFP; and to move towards more collaborative partnerships by strengthening capacities in NS's. Whilst the global initiative is led by the PSK team in Geneva, IFRC Regional PSK team supports the Burundi RCS and Sudanese RCS to ensure that NSD support is in alignment with the NS strategic plan and part of their overall NSD plans.

Africa Compendium –

The Africa Compendium brings together global and regional IFRC policies, strategies, frameworks, plans of action, guidelines, manuals and other useful reference materials. The department have ensured that each policy, pledge or document is relevant and recent – the majority have been endorsed in the past five years – and easy to find within the compendium. The department is exploring the possibility of having the material 'on line' for easy access to those NS looking for the relevant information.

Enhancing Integrity and follow up on proto types

Integrity dashboard-

Cluster heads were engaged on integrity issues using the IFRC seven types of Integrity issues to better understand the status of each. This has been compiled together with the clusters and to be used as monitoring tool by each cluster to prevent NSs from getting into serious integrity issues.

Two Proto-types to enhance Integrity –

NSs pledged to address this issue during the December 2016 Integrity workshop organized by the regional office at BOMA hotel. This was monitored; feedback received from most of the NSs indicated that they have progressed well.

Digital Divide Initiative –

The PSK department facilitated the implementation of the ICT health check in 4 ANS. It is an assessment of IT capacities in selected ANS supported by the Icelandic RC/ IFRC Geneva. The department hopes to provide follow-up support to the subject NS in the next phase to address gaps

in the IT system whilst discussions are underway with the Icelandic RC to implement phase 2 of the project.

Support to IFRC Clusters –

The PSK department supported the West Coast and Sahel clusters to hold their annual Cluster meeting of the National Societies within the region. In Abuja a plan of action for the cluster ‘Far together’ that drives collective action for 2017/18 was developed.

National Society Development Support to Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) – Empress Shoken Fund (ESF) –

This year also the ESF funds were made available to all NS. More than 35 National Societies applied for grants in 2017. Out of the 13 grants awarded to NS worldwide, from the Africa region 4 National Societies were awarded grants. Namely, Swaziland, Chad, Togo, and Guinea. The PSK department assisted IFRC Geneva with our recommendations.

Support to global launch of the RCRC Volunteering alliance –

The PSK department supported the global meeting to officially launch the implementation of the Volunteering Plan of Action (P.O.A) by formalising the Technical Team and agreeing on the global Volunteer Charter consultation process which was held in Nairobi, hosted by the Kenyan Red Cross. Experts from many NS and regions attended the event.

Research proposal in collaboration with University of York –

A joint bid by the University of York, United Kingdom and IFRC Regional Office for a research proposal was submitted for funding. The proposed research is to find cost effective solutions to varied WASH needs in refugee settings in Uganda and Tanzania. The proposal was supported by the Uganda Red Cross and Tanzania Red Cross who will be actively engaged if the bid is successful. This initiative will help build research capacities of the 2 ANS whilst finding solutions to WASH problems in refugee camps.



PSK- INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (IM) Highlights in 2017

Background

The Information Management position is a new position which started in February this year and is filled with a Staff-on-Loan delegate from the Netherlands Red Cross.

Some IM highlights in 2017

Operations Room

One of the key deliverables was the Africa Operations Room. An online information hub for the movement in Africa and external partners. The first version was launched early March 2017 and has been further developed during the year.

The Operations Room is linked with the GO platform which is being developed at the Geneva office. To raise awareness of the existence of the Operations Room, a digital newsletter is sent out on a bi-monthly basis.

Maps, maps, maps

During the year, many maps have been made to support the Disaster, Crisis, Prevention, Response and Recovery (DCPRR) department. Most appeals and DREF request have been submitted with a map indicating where the affected areas and our responses are.

Dashboards

Several dashboards have been developed for different departments of the Regional Office. These can be found on the Operations Room. Please you may visit the link: ifrc-africa.github.io/africa-portal

Resource Mapping

Together with PRD, a survey was done with our Partner National Societies regarding their involvement in projects and delegates in the Africa Region. The results of that has been published in a Resource Mapping dashboard. Based on the positive feedback this dashboard will be further developed, containing more information regarding the projects and delegates.

Pre-positioned Stock

Together with Logistics a first version of a pre-positioned stock dashboard has been developed. This will allow Disaster Managers (and other people) to quickly check the level of emergency stocks available in the various warehouses in the Africa Region.

Surge Dashboards

For the RDRT coordinator a dashboard has been created to show information around RDRT deployments in the Africa Region and training of RDRT delegates.

Food Crisis dashboard

One of the major operations in the Africa Region is the response to the food crisis. Using components of the GO platform, a dashboard has been created with specific pages for the country specific operations.

Branch Mapping

Africa region boasts of some 12,970 Red Cross and Red Crescent branches and local units all over Africa. To leverage more on this unique feature of the movement, department is working assiduously with Geneva counterparts to get a better picture of how our network link up with local communities. Via the Federation-wide databank and reporting system (FDRS), the department has information about our network on national level. Within the region a project was started to map the branches of the National Societies including information on volunteers and staff and linking this information to general population information and risk assessments. This will be an ongoing activity for the future, to keep this information up-to-date and expand the dataset based on concrete use-cases.

Mobile Data Collection

Accurate and more up-to-date data related to on-going responses is a must. Mobile Data Collection (MDC) tools using smartphones and tablets in the field is a very effective way to make this a reality. For the Africa Region, the department is promoting [Kobo Toolbox](#) as the default MDC tool. Several

National Societies are already using this tool and it is in alignment with the plans by the IM department in Geneva.

MDC is now being used for several response operations in Africa: population movement response in Uganda, food crisis response in Nigeria and South Sudan. Also, several trainings in the use of MDC with National Societies have been organized.

Partners

This year we have received in-kind support from MapAction (<https://mapaction.org/>), a UK non-profit mapping-for-emergencies organisation. This helped us start the earlier mentioned Branch Mapping. MapAction has indicated to be available for future projects, either at the regional office or in the field.

We facilitated a meeting with the Uganda Red Cross Society and the [YouthMappers](#) chapters in Uganda. YouthMappers is a volunteer organisation of student mappers with chapters on university campuses in various countries in Africa and beyond. YouthMappers could bring mapping and GIS expertise to the National Societies.



PSK- Youth and Volunteering (Y&V) Highlights in 2017

Background

The Youth and Volunteering Officer position falls under Policy, Strategy and Knowledge department and this vital position was filled in from July 2017 as staff on loan from Zimbabwe Red Cross Society. The head of PSK, Africa worked relentlessly with the Youth and Volunteer Officer to ensure that an appropriate Plan of Action for the period from July to December 2017 was developed and operationalised. One of the key objectives was to ensure youth engagement bringing out the Voice of the African Youth at Global, Regional and Statutory meetings.

The Youth and Volunteering Officer reports directly to the Head of PSK in Africa. He works closely with the IFRC Geneva secretariat to ensure alignment to the Youth Engagement Strategy and Volunteer Management system.

During this period, steady progress has been made in the Youth and Volunteering area and it is crucial that this position is maintained as an integral part of the PSK team in 2018 to build on the momentum gathered during this 6 months.

Some Youth & Volunteering highlights in 2017

Development of Second Half of 2017 Annual Plans

The plan mainly focused on: Youth Commission plan for 2017 which included Implementation of the 2017 Abidjan PAC Youth resolutions. Draft concept notes of the Youth Networks and hubs were developed and were shared and included in the 2018 operational plans.

Coordination



The Africa regional Office has been able to coordinate the participation of Youth from ANS in Global activities within and outside the movement. Through the participation of Africa youth in various meetings the African voice has been recognised as a positive contribution to international development agendas set out at various meetings that included,

- **UN Global Summit:** PSK Department facilitated participation of Kenya RC youth in a virtual conference of the UN Global summit in September. The meeting also had another participant from Asia Pacific and the IFRC Secretary General who also made a presentation on harnessing the Youth Dividend, in New York.

- **Whatfutures:**

An innovative game that sought to solicit input of young people on the future of the RCRC Movement and its work. The findings from the game will be used to inform the Agenda setting for Strategy 2030 during the GA in Turkey. The PSK department facilitated the participation of more than 12 ANS in this global initiative.

- **Global Innovation Accelerator (GIA):**

The meeting sought to raise awareness on IFRC's innovation journey among partners and explore new opportunities for collaboration to continue advancing the agenda. The African youth participating in GA, in conjunction with the PSK department, were keen to explore innovation that ensures African youth are more connected through regional and sub regional networks

- **Youth Policy Review:**

With the IFRC Youth Policy having been reviewed, ANS were also consulted in the Youth Policy review which is due for adoption during the 2017 GA after all feedback has been incorporated and concerns addressed. A total of 29 ANS completed the Youth Policy review done through a survey.

- **Youth and Volunteer Awards:**

The IFRC Africa Regional Office (ARO) encouraged and coordinated ANS to write up profiles for consideration for Volunteer awards during this year's GA. Nigeria Red Cross was selected as the co-recipient of the **2017 IFRC Volunteering Development Award** for the category: **"Use of Innovation in mobilising and managing volunteers"**.

- **Youth Engagement in General Assembly Turkey 2017:**

The department worked closely with our Geneva colleagues to ensure that a total of 34 Youth delegates will participate in this year's GA which will include the RCRC Youth Forum, GA Statutory meetings and the Council of Delegates meeting.

Volunteer Alliance(VA):

Dissemination about the call for NS to join the VA from the IFRC SG is continuing in partnership with Geneva. This will be escalated in 2018. A 2016 Volunteer Analysis Report was also produced using the FDRS system of the IFRC.

Capacity Building

- The Youth and Volunteering officer attended the Commonwealth Youth Ministers meeting in Uganda in which there were fruitful deliberations on how to efficiently and effectively mainstream Youth Development for Youth focused organisations.
- The ARO and PSK unit work closely with the humanitarian Education platform in Geneva to ensure that it is integrated with Youth Engagement.



Policy, Strategy & Knowledge (PSK) - Africa VALUE PROPOSITION 2018

Promote Shared Leadership on National Society Development among ANS and movement partners.

National Society Development is the primary responsibility of a National Society. However, the notion of Shared Leadership bestows a responsibility on Movement Partners to support National Societies in their quest to becoming well-functioning National Societies. The Shared Leadership Network launched by the PSK Africa will continue to support ANS on developing capacities in resource mobilization paving the way for sustainability.

Capacity building of National Societies

Building on the successes of the Seed grants programme, we will continue to support ANS towards capacity development. The new mechanism for capacity building, NSIM will also be pursued as a revolving fund mechanism to strengthen National Societies. In addition, we will continue to support in strategic planning, leadership development, governance inductions and the regional Movement induction courses.

Finance development including Risk management

To ensure accountability and transparency is to develop finance systems and procedures. PSK will support ANS to help develop finance management systems and provide advice and tools on risk management including enterprise risk management. (ERM).

Revamping Youth Networks and Volunteer development

Youth Networks will be revamped and given a new 'lease of life' with a robust youth program for the region. The department will support ANS to implement the 'YES' strategy and promote humanitarian education and Innovation among the African youth.

Promote organizational development tools such as OCAC and BOCA

With the creation of the OCAC pool of facilitators for the Africa region, the department will assist ANS willing to undertake OCAC self-assessment exercises. In a bid to help branch development, the department will promote the BOCA tool by building the capacities of NS to carry out BOCA exercises at branch level through training of trainers (ToT).

Improve 'up to date' data collection and making data accessible through the Operations room

The operations room will continue to drive the IFRC regional Office to become a more data driven organization. The department will develop the knowledge and capacity of ANS in effective data collection that will pave the way for informed decision making.



Youth Engagement Strategy (YES)

With the Youth Engagement Strategy (YES), the IFRC Africa Region seeks to harness the demographic dividend of youth by engaging them as beneficiaries, as volunteers and as leaders for the movement do more, do better and reach further in its humanitarian endeavours in the region. Youth as Agents of Behaviour Change (YABC) trainings will be prioritised to promote a culture of non-violence while also promoting mainstreaming of humanitarian education in emergencies.

Our sincere thanks go out to all those who supported us during 2017. We look forward to your unstinted support and cooperation in the next year and beyond as we continue our journey in accompanying all African National Societies to become strong and sustainable National Societies. To support PSK department, please pledge to PSK project number P60032/MAA00065.