Preparedness for effective response

*Enhance Community-level engagement in Preparedness and Response Systems*

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Mozambique Profile

- **Area:** 799,390 Km²
- **Population:** 18.9 million
- **GDP (per capita):** 236.9 USD
- **Illiteracy rate (2002/2003):** 53.6%
- **Climate:** Subtropical to tropical (from south to north)
- **Capital:** Maputo
- **11 Provinces**
- **Main disasters:** floods, cyclones, drought and epidemics.
Mozambique Red Cross Profile

- Founded in 1981
- Internationally recognized in 1989, as member of the IFRC
- Recognized by the Mozambican Government as an institution of public utility
- 70,000 members, 5,000 volunteers and 250 staff members
- 11 Provincial Delegations and 110 district Branches
- Main Programs: Disaster Preparedness and Response, Health, WatSan and HIV/AIDS, Social and Youth, promotion of humanitarian values
Objectives and Priorities in the MRCS strategic Plan:

- Strengthen its structures from grass-root level to the top with emphasis on local bodies, in order to improve the impact of its interventions in the communities, especially in disaster preparedness and response;

- Support the development of the communities so as to reduce their vulnerability and enhance their capacity to cope with disasters through an integrated policy of disaster preparedness and response.
Target groups:

- Rural population in the poorest districts, especially in natural disaster-prone areas;
- Poor people in urban areas.
- Priority to women, children, elderly and disabled people.
Two combined concepts:

- **First:** short term and responsive actions that can be used when a disaster occurs (awareness, risk maps, response to EWS, evacuation plans, training for rescue operations, first aid, etc);
- **Second:** more long term and structural approach aiming at reducing vulnerability (a more developmental and holistic approach through the different programs).
General objective:

- To provide support to the communities in order to reduce their vulnerability and strengthen their capacity and mechanisms to cope with disasters.
Specific objectives:

- Reduce the vulnerability of the communities in disaster prone areas (health, poverty reduction, social programs, micro-projects);
- Increase knowledge and skills in disaster management;
- Consolidate local structures;
- Strengthen the disaster response capacity;
- Strengthen co-ordination at all levels.
Reduce the vulnerability of the communities in disaster prone areas

- Community Based Health Care
- Water and sanitation
- Poverty reduction (food security and micro projects, etc)
- Social programs (for specific target groups)
What has been done so far?

- Pilot phase in Inhambane and Zambézia provinces in 2001
- Beginning of the Implementation: January 2002
- First phase: some districts in Inhambane, Zambezia and Sofala.
- Extension to Maputo Province – Pilot for drought
- Extension to other provinces with basic DP activities
Activities:

- Prepare district/ community profiles
- PRA and baselines
- Finalize CBDP training curriculum
- Training of volunteers, CVM staff, and local structures
- Production of a Manual
- Creation of local committees on disaster management
The basic emergency kit:

Each Committee receives an emergency kit with:

- First aid kit
- Lanterns and flash-lights
- Radio
- Megaphones
- Rescue material (machete, spades, and pick-axes)
- Flags
- Stretchers
- Binoculars and other emergency items
Contingency stocks of MRCS:

- Emergency Family kits for 7,000 families distributed and pre-positioned in all provinces, including: tents, tarpaulins, buckets and jerry cans, soap, blankets, and kitchen sets.
MRCS Capacity:

- **Strengthen the District Commissions (110 in the country)**
- **Build district offices (integrated in different projects)**
- **Organizing data bases**
- **Improve the communication systems (radio, e-mail, etc)**
- **Strengthen the logistic capacity (at national and provincial level) (supported by American Red Cross)**
The local structures:

- A local committee is created with six members elected at community level;
- Clear definition of roles and responsibilities is crucial.
The role of the communities:

- All communities should identify in a participative manner the following:
  - Community emergency plan
  - Risk, Hazard and Vulnerability mapping
  - Escape routes
  - Local evacuation plans
  - Capacity and resources
  - Micro-projects
Members of the local committee

- Radio operator
- Member in charge of the EWS
- Member in charge of evacuation
- Member in charge of transport
- Member in charge of shelter
How the local committee is connected with the national structure (an example from Buzi District):
Communication and coordination

- The need for active participation of all actors involved, clear definition of roles and responsibilities and credibility of the people involved;
- Importance of knowledge of the local culture, traditions and language;
- Importance of the involvement of local leaders
Use of PRA tools

- Historic Profile
- Mapping
- Transect
- Seasonal calendar
- Problem tree and prioritisation
- GPS
Remote sensing and GPS recordings

Community-based Participatory Mapping
Transect Walk Mapping Risks, Hazards and Resources
Other CBDP components

- EWS awareness and education
- Water rescue training
- Simulation exercises
- Identification of micro-projects
- Advocacy
Early Warning Systems:

- Training of volunteers and local structures and communities;
- The use of flags and sound;
- The use of Radio in the training and the system;
Early Warning System through colours for Mozambique

- **BLUE**
- **YELLOW**
- **RED**
Use of sounds
Como Usar Rádio para Diminuir os Efeitos dos Ciclones e Cheias
The use of radios
Difficulties and challenges:

- The main problem is to motivate people for disaster preparedness. When people talk about their lives they talk about difficulties of making a livelihood or the lack of health care facilities.
- The integration between the various RC programs in addressing vulnerability reduction and contributing to disaster preparedness is still a challenge.
- Lack of an advocacy strategy and advocacy skills for the RC staff and volunteers to be more “the voice of the people”.
Other challenges:

- Identification of micro projects – more skills needed.
- The need for more clear indicators and KAPs to measure the impact within the communities.
- Reposition of emergency kits and contingency stocks when it is necessary and the high cost of logistic in a country with long distances, difficult access to certain areas and lack of transports.
- And finally the sustainability of the DP and DR interventions.
Thank you for your attention!

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