



Annual Programme Report 2020

MFA Programme grant 2018–2021

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Annual Report 2020

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Yhteenveto

Vuosi 2020 oli kolmas toteutusvuosi Suomen Punaisen Ristin (SPR) kehitysyhteistyöohjelman nelivuotisesta rahoituskautesta (2018–2021). Ohjelma sai vuoden 2019 lisähakuerroksella 2,3 miljoonaa euroa lisää rahoitusta vuosille 2020–2021. Rahoitus kohdennettiin ohjelmatyön kehittämiseen erityisesti 1) seksuaali- ja lisääntymisterveyden 2) sukupuolten välinen tasa-arvon 3) vammaisinkluusion ja 4) ilmastonmuutoksen vaikutusten huomioimisen edistämiseen kohdemaissa. Myönnetyn lisärahoituksen myötä nämä teemat nousivat ohjelmatyön keskiöön Ulkoministeriön painopistealueiden mukaisesti. Lisäksi aiemmin leikkausten kohteeksi joutunut Punaisen Ristin ja Puolikuiden yhdistysten kehittäminen paikallisina avustustoimijoina nostettiin ohjelman toiseksi pää tavoitteeksi yhteisöjen kriisi- ja katastrofikestävyuden vahvistamisen ohella. Muutosten sisältöä ohjasi alkuperäisen ohjelmakauden (2016–2019) painopistealueista ja ohjelman toteutuksen onnistumisesta tehty ulkoinen arviointi (Liite 7).

Vuonna 2020 SPR:n kansainvälisen avustustoiminnan kokonaisvolyymi oli 39,5 miljoonaa euroa, josta kehitysyhteistyöhön käytettiin edellisvuotta hieman vähemmän eli noin 31,6 %. UM-SPR-rahoitteisen ohjelman osuus kehitysyhteistyöstä oli 8,3 miljoonaa euroa eli noin 67 %. Ohjelmaa toteutettiin 9 maassa Afrikassa (Etelä-Sudanissa, Etiopiassa, Burundissa, Keniassa, Malawissa, Nigerissä, Sierra Leonessa, Somaliassa ja Zimbabwessa) ja 3 maassa Aasiassa (Afganistanissa, Myanmarissa ja Nepalissa). Ohjelman aktiviteeteista 66 % kohdentui Afrikkaan ja 25 % Aasiaan. Koronaepidemian muututtua alkuvuodesta 2020 globaaliksi pandemiaksi, ohjelmasta kanavoitiin 2,0 miljoonaa euroa käyttötarkoituksen muutoksilla COVID-19 työhön Aasiassa ja Afrikassa. Pandemia ei vähentänyt vaan lisäsi Punaisen Ristin ja Punaisen Puolikuiden työtä eri ohjelmamaissa, joissa terveys- ja valmiusohjelmien sisältöä muutettiin pikavauhtia torjumaan epidemian leviämistä koronatietouden ja hyvän hygieniakäyttäytymisen lisäämiseen ja vesi- ja sanitaatio-olosuhteiden parantamiseen tähtäävien toimien kautta. Ohjelma tavoitti vuonna 2020 yli 1,2 miljoonaa hyödynsaajaa, mikä oli yli 200'000 ihmistä enemmän kuin vuonna 2019. Kehitysyhteistyöohjelmien riskienhallinnassa korostui vapaaehtoisten ja työntekijöiden terveysturvallisuuden takaaminen, muun toiminnan jatkuvuuden varmistaminen ja pandemian pitkittyessä myös ihmisten psykososiaalisen ja taloudellisen selviämisen tukeminen. Koronatilanne ja niihin liittyvät rajoitukset olivat hyvin erilaisia eri maissa, esimerkiksi Afrikassa muut ohjelmat edistyivät hyvin läpi vuoden pienempien tartuntalukujen ja lievempien liikkumisrajoitusten takia kuin Aasiassa.

Humanitaarisen avun tarve ei myöskään laantunut pandemian edessä. Levoton poliittinen tilanne vaati Punaisen Ristin ja Punaisen Puolikuun yhdistysten humanitaarista apua Somaliassa, Nigerissä ja Etelä-Sudanissa, jossa jälkimmäisessä vastattiin myös laajamittaisten tulvien aiheuttamiin vahinkoihin. Etiopiassa Tigrayn osavaltiossa kytenyt konflikti eskaloitui suoriksi sotilaallisiksi yhteenotoiksi, joissa Etiopian Punainen Risti antoi ensiapua ja avusti maan sisäisiä pakolaisia. Myanmarissa marraskuun vaalit lisäsivät aseellista väkivaltaa ja Afganistanissa turvallisuustilanne heikkeni Yhdysvaltojen ilmoitettua vetäytymisaikeistaan. Poliittinen epävakaus verotti maiden kansallisten yhdistysten, Afganistanin Punaisen Puolikuun ja Myanmarin Punaisen Ristin kykyä keskittyä perusohjelmien toteuttamiseen. Zimbabwessa jo ennen koronaa vallinnut taloudellinen ahdinko lisäsi poliittista levottomuutta, mikä vaikeutti suunnitellut ohjelmatyön toteuttamista yhdessä Zimbabwen Punaiseen Ristiin kohdistuneisiin varainkäytön epäselvyyksien kanssa.

Temaattisten tavoitteiden saavuttamisen osalta ohjelma otti kuitenkin aimo harppauksen eteenpäin ylittämällä tulostavoitteensa mm. naisten ja tyttöjen seksuaali- ja lisääntymisterveysoikeuksien vahvistamisessa sekä erityisesti vesi- ja sanitaatiotyössä, jossa kuukautishygienian edistäminen, koronan ja muiden tartuntatautien ennaltaehkäisy sekä vammaisinkluusio eteni useassa maassa. Nigerissä SPR:n aloitteesta alle 5-vuotiaiden lapsien ja vammaisten henkilöiden ottaminen yhteisöperustaisen terveysohjelman erityisen huomion kohteeksi aiheutti suuria muutoksia paikallisen henkilökunnan asenteissa sekä ohjelman tavoittavuudessa. Muuten COVID-19 pandemian aiheuttamat matkustusrajoitukset siirsivät Abiloksen ja SPR:n suunnitteleman vammaisinkluusion edistämiseen liittyvää yhteistyötä useissa maissa. SPR hyödynsi kuitenkin Abiloksen osaamista tarjoamalla Punaisen Ristin ja Punaisen Puolikuun kansainvälisen liiton alla toimivaan globaaliin koronaoperaatioon Abiloksen vammaisinkluusiotukea käyttötarkoituksen muutoksen mahdollistamilla varoilla. Matkustusrajoitusten aikana myös ilmastoviisat ohjelmatyö eteni koko liikkeessä globaalien ilmastotyöryhmien ja kenttäoppien keräämisen kautta. Ohjelmatuella toteutettiin 12 maa- ja aluekohtaista *Climate, Livelihoods and Health* – arviointia, joiden avulla tuettiin kansallisten yhdistysten kykyä tukea toiminnassaan omien maidensa ilmastositoumuksia (*Nationally Determined Contributions*).

1. Programme progress in 2020

1.1. Implementation overview

The year 2020 was the third implementation year of the FRC's Development Cooperation Programme (Programme) funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA). The Programme delivered assistance to 12 countries in Africa and Asia, namely to Afghanistan, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan and Zimbabwe, reaching 1,213,806 beneficiaries, out of whom 51% women, in 315 communities.

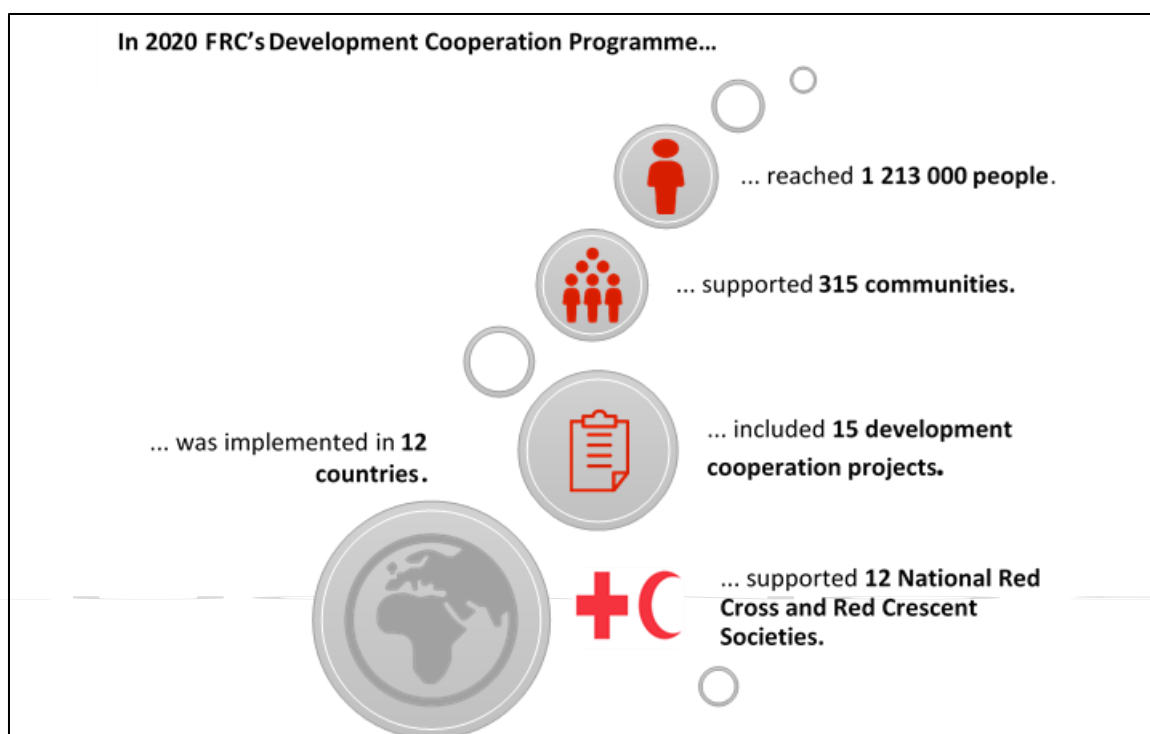


Figure 1. Overview of Programme scope in 2020

In 2020, the Programme was implemented through 15 country-level development cooperation projects. Despite the spread of a previously unknown coronavirus evolving to a global COVID-19 pandemic, the Finnish Red Cross (FRC) together with its partners were able to adapt many of the planned programme activities to continue supporting vulnerable communities and the COVID-19 related efforts of the partner Red Cross Red Crescent societies. In fact, the number of people reached during the reporting year grew in comparison with the previous year and exceeded the set target for 2020. The incorporation of the COVID-19 prevention activities into the existing work plans increased the population coverage of activities in several country programmes, such as Burundi, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Zimbabwe. In general terms, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and related containment measures hit harder those projects which were in their initial stages, whereas country projects in steady implementation phases were able to adapt their work plans better to the effects of COVID-19.

Africa continued to be the largest target region for the Programme in terms of number of partner National Societies, number of implemented projects and the funding allocated to the region. In 2020, the share of Africa in Programme expenditure remained at the same level as in the previous year, with 66% of the Programme funding allocated to the region and 25% to Asia. Consequently, the highest number of people (66% of all people targeted) reached through Programme activities were located in Africa.

The Programme's largest community support programmes exceeding the volume of 500,000 euros were run in Africa by the Somali Red Crescent Society, the South Sudan Red Cross and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society. The largest community support programme in Asia was the Afghan Red Crescent Society's Community-based health programme.

The COVID-19 pandemic confirmed that a key added value of the Finnish Red Cross as a humanitarian and development nexus actor lies in its ability to work together and through the network of the National Red Cross Red Crescent societies in protracted conflicts or crises with a combination of development and humanitarian aid. Enabled by the fast MFA crisis modifier procedures, the FRC was amongst the first partners able to support its

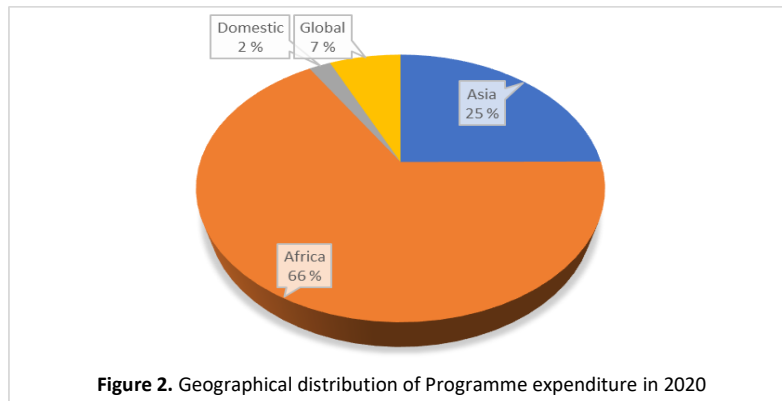


Figure 2. Geographical distribution of Programme expenditure in 2020

Programme partners to change their working modalities as well as staff and volunteer reserves to assist their authorities in their efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus and deliver assistance and support to those affected. Around EUR 2,0 million of the Programme funding was reallocated to support the COVID-19 related humanitarian response in FRC's Programme partner countries.

While response to the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak dominated humanitarian aid in 2020, other humanitarian needs continued to grow in Ethiopia, Niger, Somalia and South Sudan, all receiving both MFA development and humanitarian funding through the Finnish Red Cross. In addition, the FRC supported the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) global COVID-19 appeal, concentrating on supporting National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies in the prevention of and response to COVID-19 with financial and material aid as well as with technical expertise through delegates. Within the health sector, the focus was on epidemic prevention, detection and response, risk communication and community engagement as well as on water, sanitation and hygiene. In addition, the FRC together with the Norwegian Red Cross supported the COVID-19 care centre in Yemen with human resources, material support as well as funding. The facility, led by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and set up in the city of Aden, provided treatment and care to patients with moderate COVID-19 disease, contributing to supporting clinical readiness and access to health care as well as safeguarding the already stretched public healthcare system of Yemen.

Partner Red Cross Societies continued to address both development and humanitarian needs

FRC's Programme continued to focus on countries and contexts where significant development and humanitarian needs exist and where partner Red Cross Red Crescent Societies work in complex, often insecure, and unstable environments. With the exception of Kenya and Zimbabwe, the target countries of the FRC Programme are among the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and many of them are regarded as countries in at least a 'warning' phase of state fragility. They also belong to the topmost at-risk countries of climate change.

Besides the additional uncertainty brought by COVID-19, the overall operational environment in many of FRC's target countries remained highly volatile, diverting National Societies' resources from longer-term programming and implementation due to their engagement in emergency response.

In Africa, conflict situations in Somalia and South Sudan, and the continued rise of insurgencies in Niger, were of serious concern. In Niger, growing insecurity reduced access to vulnerable populations but response led by the Red Cross Society of Niger still continued, empowering local people to take action and become programme volunteers. In South Sudan, severe flooding affecting half of the country in 2020 challenged the implementation of the long-term programmes. The security situation in Ethiopia worsened due to communal violence, accentuated by environmental factors, and was further aggravated by the conflict in Tigray region. At the initial stage of the conflict, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society was one of the few organisations with access to the conflict area and able to provide humanitarian assistance to the Tigray conflict victims. Presidential elections were held in Burundi, and although the feared large-scale violence was avoided, related assaults were widespread and led to some temporary delays in the implementation of planned activities. The state of socio-economic collapse in Zimbabwe – compounded by the deep food security crisis – caused social unrest and resulted in a generally slowed pace of implementation and led to adjustments in the implementation plans.

In Asia, programme work was reshaped by the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 was a serious concern especially in Afghanistan where in many cases it was feared to exacerbate the already complex existing humanitarian and development needs. In Afghanistan, insecurity continued to grow, and the intensification of the conflict, combined with a surge in sectarian violence, led to high numbers of war-wounded and civilian casualties in 2020. Also in Myanmar, armed conflict and other situations of violence continued to affect the communities. The national election process, which started in September and culminated in the election in November, required careful monitoring. Despite these challenges and constraints faced, the Afghan Red Crescent Society and Myanmar Red Cross Society were able to adapt their operational modalities to the challenging circumstances in their countries as well as to the COVID-19 pandemic and also managed to continue to implement the planned long term-programme activities while safeguarding affected people, volunteers and staff from COVID-19.

Beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and other contextual issues, in Nepal institutional challenges at the level of governance and senior management resulted in delays in the implementation of project activities. However, in 2020 the National Society started to show concrete signs of a deep institutional transformation process that aims to re-establish the organisation from its core and to modernise its management and operational culture. Institutional integrity challenges also affected programme implementation in Zimbabwe, posing a risk to the stability of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society and its work. While local Red Cross branches continued to remain operational at community level, measures were implemented to more closely monitor financial management and compliance with existing policies and procedures at the national organisational level.

The COVID-19 pandemic also affected the civic space, especially in the Africa region. As there was discontent over the governmental response related to e.g. national lockdowns or procurement corruption, or even total refusal of the existence of the virus in the countries, the pandemic was seen as a threat to many establishments. The International Centre for Non-profit Law identified 149 new measures (laws, orders, decrees) by governments responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in 46 African countries south of the Sahara. While some of these can be seen as necessary to control the pandemic, others aimed specifically at stifling critics, imposing surveillance and restricting the role of civil society and resulted e.g. in prosecuting journalists and citizen reporters and protesters. Ethiopia witnessed both improving conditions for civic space as well as deteriorating ones.

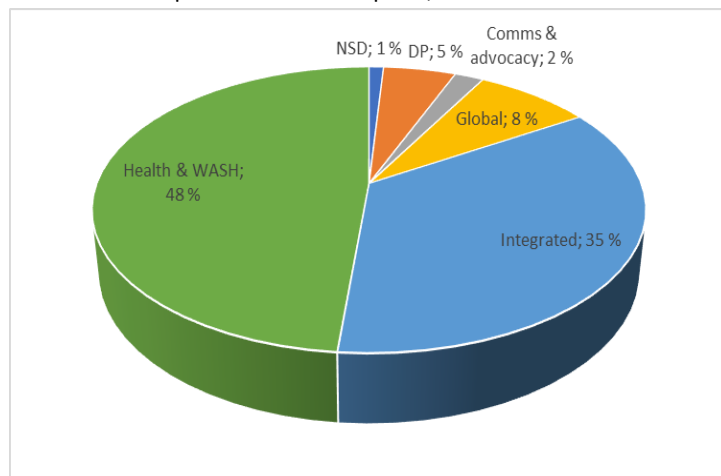


Figure 3. Thematic distribution of Programme expenditure in 2020

1.2. COVID-19 response

National Societies in the front line in responding to COVID-19 locally

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the first months of 2020, it became evident that National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies were uniquely positioned to respond to the local needs of those affected by COVID-19 in their countries and needed support for their domestic response. The IFRC launched the first global emergency appeal in January 2020 to mobilise support and global assistance to National Societies. The global IFRC response has also been coordinated with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to leverage the complementarity of all members of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

Utilising the possibility provided by the MFA Programme funding instrument to redirect funds from development cooperation to humanitarian measures, the FRC requested permission to support its partner National Societies' efforts in assisting the health authorities in containing and preventing the spread of COVID-19 in altogether 12 countries, namely in **Afghanistan, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan** and **Zimbabwe**, and **regionally in the Sahel** area either bilaterally or through the IFRC global appeal.

In total, EUR 2.0 million of Programme funding was allocated to COVID-19 response in 2020. With this contribution, FRC's partners were able to reach millions of people in 2020 with risk communication, infection prevention and control, psychosocial support and livelihood support activities. For instance, around 8,000,000 people were reached through COVID-19 response activities implemented by the **Sahel Cluster** Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Mauritania). The Myanmar Red Cross Society reached 3,100,000 people with their COVID-19 response operation to which the FRC also contributed, and in Afghanistan 154,485 people and in Nepal 131,235 people were reached through the National Societies' COVID-19 operations. With support from the Finnish Red Cross, a total of 426,249 people were reached in **Niger**. These figures illustrate the extensive reach the Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies were able to maintain despite the COVID-19 restrictions.

The COVID-19 response has primarily consisted of local measures implemented by National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies based on their domestic response plans, but at the same time the response has been global, showing the strength and added value of the IFRC's network of member National Societies, joining the forces and bringing together the global expertise and resources in order to strengthen the reach and capacities of the Red Cross in addressing the divergent health and socio-economic needs created by the pandemic.

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) as well as health and hygiene promotion activities have been the typical activities carried out by the majority of FRC's partner National Societies and their volunteers. In some countries, volunteers also assisted in screening, case detection and referral of suspected cases. For instance, the **Afghan** Red Crescent Society mobilised a network of over 6,400 volunteers to conduct risk communication, awareness raising, health education, hygiene promotion, screening, case detection and referral of suspected cases. In **Myanmar**, the National Society focused its efforts on risk communication, community engagement, psychosocial support, and in supporting the Ministry of Health and Sports in the setup of isolation and containment measures. In **Nepal**, contact tracing, risk communication and community engagement were among the main priorities undertaken by the Nepal Red Cross Society in support of the Ministry of Health and Population and the Humanitarian Country Team.

To support infection prevention and control, the National Red Cross Societies in **Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sierra Leone, South Sudan** and **Zimbabwe** to mention a few, installed handwashing stations and distributed soap and other hygiene materials to communities, and volunteers demonstrated proper handwashing procedures and advocated for social distancing in the communities. In addition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities and efforts to promote behaviour change towards better hygiene and sanitation were scaled up in ongoing development projects in communities where prevention of COVID-19 was relevant.

In **Afghanistan**, the health facilities and mobile clinics run by the National Society were allocated to support the authorities' efforts to reach the least accessible communities across the country. In Somalia, a risk management plan was developed by the Somali Red Crescent Society to ensure the continuation of the Integrated Health Care Programme (IHCP) in a COVID-19 risk reduced manner. In addition, risk communication and community engagement were built into the community health component, specifically engaging Community Health Committees and Community Mobilisers. Also in Nepal, the National Society continued to provide essential health services such as blood transfusion, ambulance transportation, and services in the Red Cross Eye Care Hospital as per their COVID-19 business continuity plan.

Some of the FRC-supported National Societies have also responded in a wide range of ways, with food aid, cash assistance to help meet basic needs, and support which protects livelihoods in their countries. In Ethiopia, food aid was distributed to the most vulnerable communities, and in **Malawi**, Multi-Purpose Cash Transfers for basic livelihood support were distributed to alleviate the shock suffered by families due to public health and social measures adopted to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The existence of long-term programmes and established networks of volunteers and staff were key factors enabling the quick diversion to activities prioritised in COVID-19 response. Through the existing projects, Red Cross branches, community volunteers and other local units were able to gain continued access to communities. These groups also facilitated the early identification of vulnerabilities that exposed communities to the secondary impacts of COVID-19, such as early marriage and school drop-outs. For instance in Malawi, the long-term and interlinked structures and networks developed in the long-term community resilience programme allowed local authorities, community leaders and government agencies to flag these risks and respond with risk communication and psychosocial and family support in a holistic way, achieving unexpected success during the pandemic. In **Sierra Leone**, the COVID-19 response benefited from the National Society's experience and learning from the Ebola outbreak (2014–2015) in addressing the

secondary impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak, such as increase in teenage pregnancies and sexual and gender-based violence due to the closure of schools, restriction on movement and degradation of the health system. Volunteers were trained in adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights, equipping the youth volunteers with adequate knowledge and skills to sensitise their peers especially on the negative effect of adolescent pregnancy and their sexual and reproductive rights.

2. Thematic progress

The Programme's theory of change is guided by the idea that the *resilience of individuals, households, communities, cities and countries is strengthened when their abilities of anticipating, reducing the impact of, coping with, and recovering from the effects of adversity are built at different, interconnected levels*. The Red Cross resilience approach goes beyond preventing and/or reducing risks for shock-driven crises. Slow-onset disasters, climate-related crises and crises caused by structural factors – such as poverty, inequality and the lack of basic services – are also taken into account. Addressing the root causes of conflict and vulnerability has a better chance of reducing the impact of cyclical or recurrent shocks and stresses, and supporting peace, which is essential for development to be sustainable.

In line with the Programme objective “to **build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other shocks and disasters**”, the FRC's contribution to its partners' community resilience programmes in 2020 continued to focus on improving people's access to health, water and sanitation and on reducing disaster risks with an increasing emphasis on the impacts of climate change in drought-affected areas.

The renewal of the IFRC strategy and the **Learning oriented Programme Evaluation 2016–2018** conducted in 2019 led to an identification of a series of Programme development needs, which were reflected in the annual plan for 2020 and in the renewed Programme Result Matrix. The way crises and disasters are expected to evolve in the future, accelerated by changes in climate, led to refocusing the Programme directions in disaster preparedness and risk reduction, health, climate resilience, National Society development as well as in gender and disability.

2.1. Health

Increased focus on mother and child and sexual and reproductive health

In 2020, the FRC continued to support the health work aimed at ensuring that all people have safe and equitable access to affordable, quality health care, water and sanitation. A prominent shift, however, in the programming was made in *making sexual and reproductive health, with particular attention to adolescent pregnancies, gender-based violence and other gendered health inequalities, a specific health focus* in the coming years.

In 2020:
209,280 people were reached with sexual and reproductive health information and community-based services.
62% of these people reached were women.

In Africa, the FRC supported its partner Red Cross Red Crescent societies' integrated health programmes with special attention to mother and child health; water, sanitation and hygiene; and livelihoods. Maternal and child health issues were addressed through child malnutrition and sickness screening and referral, promotion of correct infant and young children feeding practices, and community sensitisation and awareness raising resulting in improved knowledge on maternal

and child health. Improving the sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls of reproductive age is the main objective for instance of the new project in **Kenya**, which started in 2020 and was included into the Programme as part of the extension funding received. The work got well underway in 2020 with trained volunteers being able to start health promotion on maternal and newborn child health and violence prevention issues at community level. Similarly in **Sierra Leone**, the FRC together with its partner are increasingly focusing on sexual and reproductive health, and especially in adolescent SRH. In **Malawi**, access to health information and services, including sexual and reproductive health, was improved through support to outreach clinic services and mobilising community health volunteers to disseminate positive health-related practices and behaviour on key topics, including SRH, HIV/AIDS and family planning in target communities. As a result of successful advocacy by the Malawi Red Cross Society, some clinics in Chikwawa and Mangochi have also expanded to include family planning, youth friendly health and other basic health services.

Also in **Asia**, the FRC-supported health projects continued improving health conditions in rural communities in **Myanmar** and **Afghanistan**, with a particular focus on the rights of women and girls to access essential and safe health services. In Afghanistan, the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) continued its work in promoting sexual and reproductive health, mother and child health, and improving knowledge on infant nutrition. This was accomplished through community-based approaches led by trained ARCS volunteers, community health committees and traditional leaders. As before, grandmothers played an essential role in the progress achieved in 2020. In Myanmar, the continuation of the Community Health Resilience project in Loilen, Shan State, strengthened local village development committees as the basis for community engagement and health promotion. New volunteers were recruited and trained. Further, based on previous successful experiences, mothers' clubs were established in these communities. Together with these committees and with the assistance of local health facilities, community members received training in mother and child health before COVID-19 restrictions were implemented.

Besides conducting community-based health activities, partner National Societies were also filling gaps in existing health care systems. The Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS), the second largest provider of primary health care services throughout **Somalia**, continued to run static and mobile clinics across the country, with seven static clinics and six mobile clinics in Somaliland being supported by the FRC. In **Kenya**, healthcare workers received training on Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care to support improved service provision at the health facilities, and on Clinical Management of Rape to provide survivor-centred urgent medical care and psychosocial support to rape survivors. Also in **Niger**, the FRC-supported integrated Community Case Management (iCCM) programme in Diffa continued to support task shifting and community-based surveillance conducted by trained volunteers. Health workers have assessed that community sensitisation has contributed positively to the increased use of health facilities, especially attendance to antenatal consultations as well as the number of institutional deliveries.

Facilitating access to safe water and basic sanitation, complemented by the promotion of improved hygiene and sanitation practices, is an important integrated component in many FRC-supported health interventions. In 2020, support to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) became an even more critical issue in target communities as the availability of safe water sources, hygiene infrastructure and community WASH were identified as critical factors also in the prevention and control of COVID-19 and local COVID-19 responses.

In 2020:

61,611 people gained access to basic and safely managed drinking water supply, and **39,772** people gained access to basic and safely managed sanitation services.

In 2020, access to WASH infrastructure was improved through the construction of drinking water systems and ECOSAN latrines in schools in **Burundi**. In **Afghanistan**, considerable progress was achieved in improving access to safe water sources, increasing access to handwashing facilities, and in improving gender-sensitive hygiene and sanitation practices/facilities in schools. With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions towards the end of 2020 in **Myanmar**, the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) focused on WASH interventions, including the implementation of a comprehensive water needs assessment and the continuation of the construction of improved WASH facilities in schools and target communities. Also in **South Sudan**, the rehabilitation of community latrines and water sources continued to serve the most vulnerable households, including people with disabilities.

In 2020:

738 people were trained in first aid.

First aid is an important standard activity in all FRC-supported projects as first aid skills increase the capacity of communities to act as first responders and can be life-saving in cases when help is not readily available. While first aid trainings were among the activities that suffered the most due to COVID-19 related restrictions, there were countries, such as **Ethiopia**, South Sudan and Myanmar, where the National Societies were able to continue training new community volunteers with first aid skills and equipment also in 2020.

Achievements in health programme development

With the thematic health programme development support in 2020, the FRC aimed at increasing women's and girls' access to *sexual and reproductive health information and services* as part of their sexual and reproductive health rights. This was planned to be advanced by promoting tools and planning processes where SRH issues are addressed, such as behaviour barriers analysis, and ensuring that existing tools are used in community-based health programmes

supported by the FRC. Regarding this objective, no progress was made in 2020 as COVID-19 prevented the field testing of the new tools and the organisation of the planned regional workshops aimed at rolling out these tools in Africa.

Promotion of the *climate and health initiatives* in the Asia Pacific region – the other focus area in health programme development in 2020 – made progress despite the adaptations and alterations made to the original scope and design of the aimed programme development plan. However, the development of the climate health framework for Asia Pacific, the development and roll-out of the eCBHFA Climate change module as well as the adaptation of the IFRC Heatwaves Guide for Cities in four National Societies had to be postponed due to disruptions caused by COVID-19.

The first ever *country assessments on Climate, Livelihoods and Health* were undertaken in eight countries in Asia, namely in **Afghanistan, Fiji, the Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Timor-Leste** and three countries in Africa, namely in **Ethiopia, Kenya and Malawi**. In Asia, the emphasis of these country climate risk assessments was on how climate change disproportionately impacts the health and livelihoods of women, girls, the elderly and the disabled. The assessments were undertaken in collaboration with the IFRC Disaster, Climate and Crisis (DCC) department and the **Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC)**. They were initially planned to be conducted through in-country technical assessments, peer-to-peer support, and participation in international conferences and workshops but due to COVID-19, the assessments had to be done virtually through key informant interviews via Skype and a virtual workshop with over 50 participants to discuss and agree upon the final documents. In Africa, the climate health assessments in Ethiopia, Kenya and Malawi were conducted together with the UN, Academia and Red Cross National Societies' experts. City-level assessments were conducted in Kenya and Malawi.

All National Societies in countries where the assessments were conducted benefited from the climate, health and livelihoods analysis from a technical perspective. For example in Asia Pacific, this was the first time the IFRC supported National Societies to embark studies that assess climate impacts on both livelihoods and health, and their interlinkages. It was estimated that at least half of the 38 Asia Pacific National Societies would embark on climate change adaptation work in 2021–2025, and therefore would highly benefit from assessing climate change impacts in the country. As the assessments required participation of a variety of stakeholders, strategic alliances between the National Societies, government and key national climate actors were also created as part of the assessment process.

In Asia, the National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies' capacity in health and climate was also strengthened through the provision of two scholarships for staff from the Nepal Red Cross Society and Fiji Red Cross Society to participate in an online training on health and climate change with **Yale University**. Graduates from the course received unlimited access to Yale resources library and a certificate from the university. Trained staff members are expected to be resource people in developing the climate health concept further in the National Societies.

2.2 Climate-smart disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction

Community and national level climate risk assessments a key to enhance climate-smart programming

Climate resilience issues and climate change affect all countries that the FRC works in Africa and Asia, and strengthening climate resilience in programming was one of the key aims for the FRC in 2020. Enabled by the extension funding granted in early 2020, the FRC increased its efforts to ensure that all country programmes are *climate smart*. In disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction programming this means supporting communities to identify their future needs by promoting forecast-based 'early warning/early action' mechanisms aimed at mitigating impacts of disasters before they happen and investing in forecasts, early actions and improved technical solutions. At the level of Programme development, *enhancing climate resilience means better understanding of climate-induced risk and complex vulnerabilities in different sectors (food security, health, displacement, etc.) as well as the impact of different, intersectional inequalities on vulnerability*.

In 2020 the FRC both conducted national level climate risks assessments in its target countries as well as ensured that all new programmes conduct thorough community assessments that use the updated climate tools of the enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment (EVCA), like in **Sierra Leone**, or complemented EVCA assessments with additional climate change adaptation (CCA) assessments like in **Malawi** and the water source study in **Ethiopia**. COVID-19 restrictions limited the travelling of advisers and technical support staff and put a lot more pressure on the on-ground local and expatriate staff and experts. This also pushed the FRC to emphasise old and find new ways of remote methods of secondary data analysis, online key informant interviews and workshops and coworking with the teams on ground.

In 2020, the FRC commissioned a learning paper on “Interventions to improve food security in a changing climate in Southern Africa”. The paper, produced by the **Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC)** explored food security in the changing climate in **Southern Africa**. The report reviewed existing programmatic approaches and consulted a variety of experts to critically analyse options for improving household-level food security in the region – both under current weather-related stressors and expected future climatic conditions. It aimed to increase FRC’s institutional understanding of and learning on effective and relevant climate resilience programming by identifying tools, practices, and approaches that increase household/community food security and resilience to weather-related challenges such as drought. The regional focus was selected due to the number of FRC long-term development partners in the area but also due to many past and on-going humanitarian interventions in food insecurity. The report is coupled with country-level climate assessments, which are very useful for programme planning and implementation.

The *climate change adaptation focus* in 2020 was on ensuring that livelihoods and food security are safeguarded from impacts of climate change in target communities. The target countries for activities and learning opportunities for effective climate change adaptation were Malawi, Zimbabwe and Kenya. In **Kenya** the specific climate-smart agroforestry project faced heavy delays due to both the restrictions caused by COVID-19 and the overlapping operational priorities of the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) to respond to the pandemic. Initial trainings and a climate vulnerability and capacity assessment were conducted but most of the activities were moved to 2021. In other projects, the climate change adaptation activities were mainstreamed to resilience projects.

In 2020:

In **92%** of the projects, climate change risks were assessed and

in **42%** of the projects, planned activities were also adapted through climate-smart practices.

47,970 people were supported to adapt to climate change with climate-smart practices and technologies.

In **Zimbabwe**, the community resilience project started introducing the planting of drought-resistant sesame seeds to complement the previous ongoing activities, such as the keyhole gardens. In **Malawi**, the project procured fast growing bamboo and indigenous tree seedlings for districts to mobilise community members for tree planting, in order to address deforestation. In half of the 16 projects of the FRC Programme, climate change risk and adaptation plans were at least partially taken into account. In six projects, institutional climate smart practices/actions were implemented by partner National Societies to better adapt to climate change, and in seven projects people had improved their capacity to reduce, prepare for or adapt to climate change related risks. In 2020 in the 16 projects, a total of 47,970 people were supported to adapt to climate change with climate smart practices and technologies. Most of them were in **Niger** and **Burundi**. A total of 24,464 females and 23,506 males supported to adapt to climate change with climate smart practices, of whom 3,513 were people with disabilities.

In 2020:

30 early warning – early action mechanisms were established at community level.

70 community-level contingency or disaster preparedness plans were formulated.

Forecast-based financing (FbF) remained the key approach to early warning early action (EWEA) for example in Malawi and Zimbabwe. In addition to FbF, community early warning systems (EWS) are a key means of improving community-level preparedness for climate-induced disasters. In 2020, 30 community early warning systems were established: 20 in **Nepal** and 10 in **Niger**. The number of community contingency plans established in Niger, Nepal and **Malawi** was 70 altogether. In 2020, the FRC continued to institutionalise cooperation with the **Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI)**. A planning workshop was organised to identify the niche and added value project concept, joint advocacy messages were prepared and the planning for a more coherent approach for both linking FMI’s meteorological institutional

capacity building projects and Red Cross Red Crescent EWEA programmes as well as better utilising FMI experts in FRC’s projects on the ground was started.

Very challenging in 2020 was the advancing of linking National Society partners in their auxiliary role to national processes, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and National Adaptation Plans (NAP). The whole process for updating NDCs globally was delayed partly due to the postponement of the COP26 UN climate conference with a year and partly due to the obvious overlapping priorities for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. This kind of advocacy at country level requires a fair bit of legwork and meetings at local/national level as well as support from various technical experts. The FRC did manage, for example, to organise with the IFRC and the RCCC the first ever virtual African Climate Fellowship programme that targeted key African National Societies (ANS) to increase climate

change knowledge, share best practices with peers and equip the ANS staff with knowledge and confidence to start these national dialogues later.

The year 2020 was a year of a great momentum in terms of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's climate action. The Movement Climate Ambitions were launched, the **Climate Action Task Force** started its work, and numerous working groups from Green Response to climate and health started or expanded their work. Many Red Cross National Societies, including the Finnish Red Cross, made their own climate commitments, with the FRC committing to become climate neutral by 2030. Climate advocacy preparations for COP26 were postponed to be delivered in the meeting in Glasgow in 2021. In 2020 the key Red Cross milestones were the "Climate: Red" virtual summit and the launch of the World Disasters Report 2020 focusing on climate disasters, both also supported by the FRC. The FRC continued to work together with the MFA focal point in the two different working groups for **Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP)**. The FRC also joined the **German Red Cross** led initiative of the **Anticipation Hub**¹.

Achievements in thematic climate resilience programme development

In addition to streamlining climate resilience into country programmes, the FRC continued to support the enhancing of climate resilience programming at the Programme level also through a regional and global approach.

In order to advance the climate-smart disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness programming, the **African Fellowship programme** was planned as an intensive three-month virtual training programme and was co-created with a range of partners within the Movement. This course was designed to engage with staff and volunteers from National Societies in order to support them to explore how National Societies can get active around climate action while providing a sound basis for a variety of climate-related entry points. The programme had three main objectives to achieve: 1. Support African National Societies on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). 2. Demonstrate leadership on climate action. 3. Support the integration of DRR, CCA (including Eco-System and Nature-Based Solutions) and Climate information products and services into the work of their National Societies to enable risk-informed and climate-sensitive decision-making. Due to COVID-19 related restrictions, the **Africa** regional training for the *climate- and gender-sensitive enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments (EVCA)* was changed to online pre-training, to be followed with actual Training of Trainers in 2021. The main aim of the EVCA pre-training workshop was to provide the participants with the basic foundations and concepts of EVCA. The EVCA pre-training workshop reached a total of 21 participants (9 female and 12 male) from southern and western Africa National Societies, while the African Climate Fellowship reached 65 participants (20 females and 45 males) from all over Africa. In **Asia**, the first ever virtual EVCA training was organised for the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and its 13 Chapters. Climate change was comprehensively integrated into the training with the technical support of the Red Cross Climate Centre. 32 new participants from the PRC participated in the virtual EVCA training. The training was followed by virtual Training of Facilitators, bringing the total number of EVCA-trained PRC staff and volunteers to 53.

Thematic support was also allocated to support the *strengthening of legal and institutional preparedness* of the partner National societies. The Geneva-based **Disaster Law Programme** of the IFRC, funded by the FRC, completed two mapping exercises in Africa²: a mapping of the National Society role as auxiliary to their Government and a mapping of the *international disaster response law (IDRL)* frameworks in 12 African countries. The purpose of the auxiliary role mapping exercise was to identify, analyse, and consolidate the different roles and responsibilities given to the respective National Societies through national legislation, policies and agreements. The purpose of the IDRL mapping was to identify and analyse the legal and policy arrangements for international disaster response across these countries. These mappings provide a basis for National Societies' advocacy efforts for laws governing their auxiliary status and national Disaster Risk Management (DRM) laws to include key international disaster response related provisions.

In addition, the Disaster Law Programme conducted a research project on CCA – DRR coherence in Laws and Policies in Kenya. The research project, carried out by the Kenya Red Cross Society, is a complementary output to the ongoing global study on policy coherence, "Leave No One Behind: Developing Climate-Smart/Disaster Risk Management Laws that Protect People in Vulnerable Situations for a Comprehensive Implementation of the UN Agenda 2030". To support the COVID-19 operation within the region and with particular focus on securing legal facilities to ensure effective

¹ <https://www.anticipation-hub.org/>

² Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, South Africa, Lesotho, Nigeria, Liberia and Gabon

coordination and response, the Disaster Law Programme also mapped the current role of the 43 National Societies in the COVID-19 national response and the opportunities available to clarify and ease operations of the National Societies in terms of access and humanitarian space. As a result, advocacy packages including “Key messages on access” were prepared. In addition to research projects and mapping exercises, the Disaster Law Programme unit organised several advocacy sessions and webinars on Disaster Laws, which reached a total of 410 people in 2020.

An initial scoping phase of the new *National Societies for National Adaptation Plans* (NS4NAPS) programme was implemented with the Climate Centre in the technical lead role and supported by the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office Disaster, Climate and Crisis department. This included the design of a survey targeting Asia Pacific National Societies, preparation and organisation of a webinar, and development of an initial NS4NAPS programme document for further consultation. The activities were complemented by desk reviews and discussions with the **UNFCCC** and **Green Climate Fund**. Based on both the National Societies for National Adaptation Plans (NS4NAPS) survey and webinar, 15 Asia Pacific National Societies expressed their interest.

2.3. Protection, gender and inclusion

In the 2020 annual plan, the Finnish Red Cross placed a stronger emphasis on addressing gender and disability related inequalities and non-discrimination as key causes of vulnerability in its target countries. Gender equality, diversity and social inclusion were brought better in the forefront of the resilience activities. FRC’s focus was on ensuring that the impact of different, intersectional inequalities on people’s vulnerability is recognised better by our partner National Societies. This aim was enabled by the extension funding granted in early 2020 and facilitated by the advances in the policy framework for the Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) approaches and activities of the IFRC and the National Societies. The framework enables the FRC to work together with the IFRC and the National Societies in advancing a Movement-wide gender and inclusion agenda according to jointly defined goals and understanding.

In 2020, the FRC’s new Programme focus on the *rights of women and girls linked to access to health services* took a clearer form. It was analysed that some of the measures governments took to halt the spread of COVID-19 further increased the vulnerability of women and girls, which was reflected, for instance, in a higher incidence of domestic and gender-based violence as well as increase in teenage pregnancies and child marriages. **In Africa**, the FRC therefore enhanced the programme activities related to child protection and empowering of young girls, resulting for example in the cancellation of 54 child marriages in **Malawi**. Volunteers were trained on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), to then address especially adolescent SRHR in their communities and to facilitate the sensitisation of their peers. Also **in Asia**, the FRC stressed closer attention to promoting protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) aspects with its partner Red Cross societies, especially in the support to the COVID-19 operations.

The stronger participation of women in the planning and implementation of project activities was also prioritised in both **Afghanistan** and **Myanmar**, both under complicated socio-cultural contexts that limit the participation of women and girls in community activities and leadership positions. The formation/strengthening of grandmother and mothers’ clubs, the active recruitment of female volunteers, and the recruitment of women as members of local committees were among the actions taken by the FRC and its partners in 2020. Still, considerable barriers are to be broken to take advantage of a fully inclusive approach to community actions. The same corresponds to stronger inclusion of persons with disabilities in Myanmar and **Nepal**.

The efforts to improve disability inclusion in the Programme continued in 2020 through the establishment of links with local organisations working with persons with disabilities and the active engagement of these persons through direct and specific surveys. In **Niger** for example, the Niger Red Cross project staff and volunteers admitted to being surprised about the number of persons with disabilities in the project area, who had remained invisible, often hidden inside the houses, until they started to actively ask about and interact with them. Elements of disability inclusion began to take more importance also in the operational planning in the three partner countries in Asia. In that respect, progress was made in building closer cooperation with **Abilis Foundation** in both **Nepal** and **Myanmar**. This cooperation is expected to solidify in 2021, paving way for the new cooperation framework for 2022–2025.

In 2020:

In **52%** of the projects, planned activities were adapted to different vulnerabilities.

In **36%** of the projects, volunteer recruitment criteria reflect gender balance and diversity of the local population.

In **46%** of the projects, diverse community groups are represented in community committees.

Achievements in thematic protection, gender and inclusion programme development

In its 2020 plan the Finnish Red Cross identified three key outputs through which especially gender equality and disability inclusion would be advanced and supported in its Programme globally.

Output 1: *Gender and disability specific assessments* are completed in all programmes where local stakeholder consultations with women's and disabled people's organisations indicate specific vulnerabilities. EVCAs continued to be used as a good tool for detecting potential challenges in gender equality and inclusion related issues and the commitment to carry out gender and disability specific assessments when consultations and EVCAs indicate specific vulnerabilities that should be further assessed continues to in place. However, no gender and disability specific stand-alone assessments were carried out in 2020.

Output 2: *Local partnerships with disabled people's organisations*, supported by Abilis foundation, have started in three pilot countries. In 2020, the FRC continued to promote the principle of 'nothing about us without us' in its programme work with the National Societies especially through collaboration with Abilis Foundation. At local level the cooperation with local organisations of people with disabilities continued especially in **Nepal** (with Abilis Nepal), and **Malawi** (with an organisation called FEDOMA). In addition, in **Ethiopia** and in **Sierra Leone** the planning carried out in 2020 included aspects of building better linkages with Abilis.

In addition, the Finnish Red Cross supported a staff on loan to work as a disability inclusion officer with the IFRC. The disability inclusion officer gave several talks and webinars on disability inclusion and supported National Societies in their work on disability inclusion, and also linked the National Societies to local organisations of people with disabilities.

According to the officer there is a strong will to promote full disability inclusion in the IFRC and the work has started well: there are guidelines, information, some materials, question sets, and recorded webinars. Disability inclusion is mentioned in strategies and policy papers of the Movement more and more often. Permanent, full time staff would however be needed to bring the work to the next level. In addition, there is a need to build capacity on disability inclusion and continue linking the National Societies with local organisations of people with disabilities. In line with this thinking, the Finnish Red Cross decided to recruit a full-time staff member to work on gender equality and disability inclusion with its partner National Societies in Africa starting in 2021.

Output 3: *Ownership of PGI and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) issues* are promoted and scaled up through regional networks. In 2020, the FRC continued supporting the dissemination and use of the IFRC "Minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming" guidelines and contributed towards building up the global and regional Gender and Diversity technical structure within the Red Cross network. The planned face-to-face capacity building events did not take place due to COVID-19. During the year, the COVID-19 situation led to the acknowledgement of the need to develop different types of and more online learning opportunities for the National Societies. A series of webinars was organised, three of them focusing on gender equality, one on disability inclusion and one on community engagement and accountability linked to gender and inclusion needs.

Promoting community engagement and accountability

By actively promoting the international commitment and minimum standards of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), the Programme contributed to providing timely, relevant and actionable lifesaving and life-enhancing information to communities. In 2020 this was particularly relevant due to the pandemic. In **Sierra Leone** the inclusive and community-centred approach applied in the programme was groundbreaking in the history of the Sierra Leone Red Cross, and it highlights the strong focus the organisation is putting on community engagement and ownership. In **Niger** the awareness raising and dialogue with the communities helped to conduct prevention measures efficiently, while in **Malawi** the operation focused on mobilising and sensitising target communities on COVID-19 preparedness, including collecting and using community feedback to guide the response and addressing community concerns, fears, and rumours. In Asia, the FRC supported risk communication and community engagement activities of National Societies in **Afghanistan**, **Myanmar** and **Nepal**, and contributed to national response plans, in which the Red Cross played a key role through the mobilisation of volunteers for mass communication campaigns, repurposing of health facilities, and mobilisation of financial and technical resources for epidemic control.

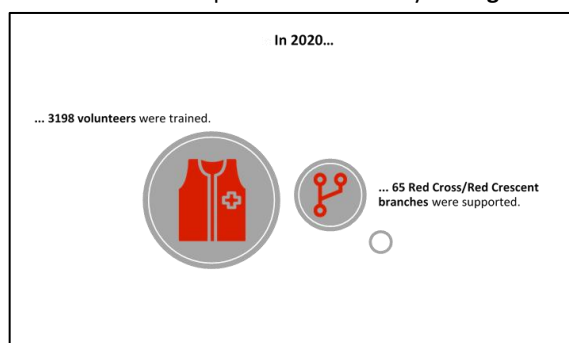
Funding was also provided for developing information management on community feedback mechanisms, mobile data collection, chatbot knowledge exchange for volunteers and for fresh guiding material on CEA to be used in programming.

2.4. Support for National Society Development

Strengthening partnering National Societies has always been a key Programme approach. All community-based programmes have included capacity building aspects, and the FRC has supported the strengthening of partners' organisational functions or contributed to more holistic change management processes. Effective National Society Development (NSD) support has been tailored to the priorities as identified by the National Society leadership. National Society Development was re-introduced as a thematic programme area in 2020. The FRC wants to align and improve its NSD support efforts so that *National Societies are better able to meet humanitarian needs independently, sustainably and inclusively*. NSD support aims to support the partners in their efforts to become organisations that consistently deliver, through volunteers and staff, relevant countrywide services to vulnerable people for as long as needed.

In 2020, the focus of FRC's NSD support was on *branch development* and *financial sustainability* to strengthen the capacities of the Red Cross Red Crescent branch network and their sustainable service delivery ability.

In 2020, the FRC supported its partner Red Cross Red Crescent Societies' *branches to grow stronger* to enable healthier and safer communities, reduce local vulnerabilities and foster a culture of acceptance and diversity. In **Afghanistan**, the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) has gained access, presence and acceptance to deliver both COVID-19 humanitarian response and long-term development through its local branches in areas where no other actors can go, facilitated by the ARCS community committees, formed by elderly people. In **Myanmar**, Red Cross volunteers took immediate action in COVID-19 affected townships for disinfecting activities. In **Somalia**, the FRC supported community engagement learning in branches to enable their volunteers to act as a referral link between the communities and clinics supported by Programme.



Also in **Ethiopia**, Ethiopian Red Cross branches and volunteers responded to the health needs of the female population and people who could not access health services. National Society development at local units was linked to community engagement, protection and inclusion and it offered opportunities through volunteering to participate in improving the social cohesion in society.

In terms of *financial sustainability* the work continued well in 2020. Efforts were made to support the National Societies in their financial sustainability strengthening in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the start of the pandemic, a working group was established at the IFRC to consider financial sustainability work during the pandemic. The working group identified five main areas to work on: core costs, financial management, action learning, mapping of financial sustainability support, and resource mobilisation.

The IFRC secretariat also created a Guidance and Toolkit for National Society Financial Sustainability document in response to COVID-19 and its economic impact. This guidance reminded National Societies that while attracting and managing resources are key elements for National Society financial sustainability, it goes hand-in-hand with an effective positioning (based on its core business and mandate) of the National Society, as well as sustainable business models and structures. Along with it, the organisation's ability to manage risks and opportunities are essential. The main areas during the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to financial sustainability were:

1. Analysing the economic situation and scoping for possible scenarios and impact
2. Understanding current financial sustainability situation and risk
3. Getting ready to scale up and scale down
4. Investing in emergency fundraising and new and diverse ways to generate income
5. Liaising with authorities, partners and donors
6. Supporting branches to enhance local action, partnership and fundraising

The FRC supported the development of the IFRC financial sustainability framework and worked out its own framework based on the IFRC approach. The financial sustainability study (2019) findings were incorporated in the FRC's organisational and financial sustainability framework. FRC's financial sustainability work will focus on supporting its partners in organisational level financial situation analysis, core cost calculation, core cost policy preparation and

building a financial sustainability road map by the committed National Society leadership. The objective of the support is to help the partners to develop their way of working for improved financial independence.

A financial sustainability delegate was recruited to start working with the pilot partners. The work started with the **Burundi** and **Zimbabwe** Red Cross Societies to support them in their financial accounting development.

Safer Access Framework (SAF) – facilitating Red Cross access to people in need

In 2020, the FRC launched a new partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to ensure a more systematic approach to branch development in Africa. The *Safer Access Framework* initiative aims at increasing National Societies' (NS) acceptance, security and access to people and communities in need to enable them to respond in insecure contexts in accordance with the Fundamental Principles and other Movement policies. Considering FRC's expertise in communication, Operational Communications (OpComs) support was identified as the main area for partnership with the ICRC in the SAF.

In 2020 a Concept Note on SAF partnership between the FRC and the ICRC was prepared, and tripartite partnership agreements were signed with **Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi** and **South Sudan**. Parallel to the agreement process, the FRC conducted a learning exercise on ICRC's SAF communications best practices in selected contexts. The exercise was carried out by using briefing materials and interviewing ICRC staff in the field. Understanding the dos and don'ts paved the way for developing tools and modalities for future support, such as communication trainings, within this initiative.

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, communications needs assessments were conducted via online interviews with National Society communication managers and officers. In **Malawi**, however, a needs assessment was organised as a hybrid (face-to-face and virtual) webinar in November 2020. Prior to the SAF webinar, the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) sent a survey to participating staff and volunteers in order to assess the gaps in skills, structures and tools, as well as knowledge on SAF. This hybrid model turned out to be very practical and effective: different in-country branches were able to connect without having to travel to the capital, and the ICRC and the FRC were able to follow the groups' presentations in real time. This model paved the way for future hybrid trainings and is definitely one of the successes of 2020.

In **Burundi**, the Burundi Red Cross (BRC) runs *Cafés d'Amitié, Friendship cafes*, which cater for the newly elected administrative, judicial and police authorities in the provinces. In 2020, cafes were organised in five locations (Cibitoke, Kirundo, Rutana, Ngozi, Muramvya), reaching 144 officials who became aware of the mandate and new operating mode of the BRC. According to the BRC, the cafes are a good venue to promote social cohesion in a politically charged environment and to contribute to the understanding of the neutral and impartial role of the BRC.

In **Ethiopia** and **South Sudan**, however, the initiative had a slower start. In Ethiopia, the unforeseen conflict in Tigray delayed the signing of agreements and development of the plan of action. Yet in 2020 the cooperation set-up was established, which will ensure a timely implementation of activities in 2021. In South Sudan, COVID-19 delayed the start of the activities due to travel restrictions and staff infections. Another bottleneck was the difficulty of engaging a local web developer, which hindered the implementation of other activities.

In general, the roles and cooperation structures between the parties in this pilot initiative were established in 2020. The role of the FRC SAF communications advisor was pivotal in coordinating the planning and implementation of the initiative. This initiative will continue in 2021 and expand into West Africa with a staff-on-loan position in the ICRC National Society Development hub in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

3. Country-level achievements

3.1. Annual report for country programmes in Asia (Annex 1.)

3.2. Annual report for country programmes in Africa (Annex 2.)

4. Achievements in Communication, Global education and Advocacy in 2020

4.1 Development communication

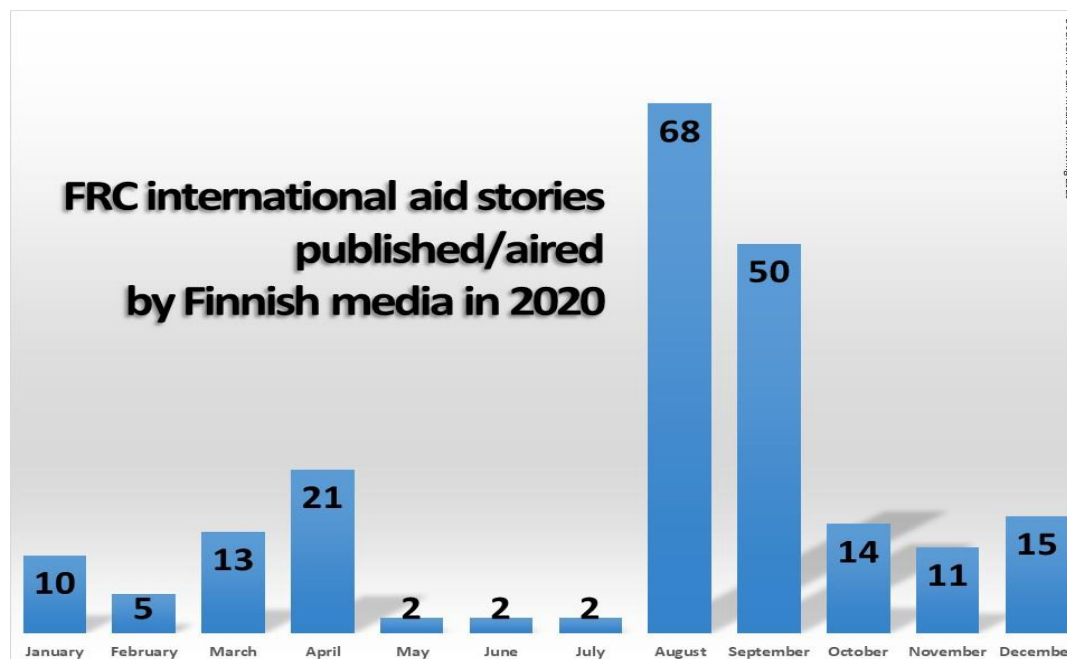


Figure 4. Visibility of FRC international aid related themes in the Finnish media in 2020

In 2020, the overall objective of the Finnish Red Cross development *communication, global education and advocacy* for development was to increase awareness, understanding and trust in development cooperation among the Finnish public.

In the beginning of the year, the Field Communication Unit (FCU) was deployed to produce high-quality audiovisual material from two FRC programme countries, Zimbabwe and Eswatini. While the mission focused on EU-funded actions, the material was widely disseminated through the Hunger Day campaign and the FRC digital platforms, featuring themes of FRC's development programme. Later in the year, the COVID-19 pandemic made the FRC change the communications plans for the year as international travel and communication content production from partner countries became impossible. Also, the planned visit to the IFRC Climate Centre in Geneva with young FRC climate advocates had to be postponed.

In 2020, FRC international communications concentrated on highlighting COVID-19 related aid activities in the FRC partner countries, work supported by the reallocated development cooperation funds of the MFA. A COVID-19 website was set up under the FRC website umbrella with a special section featuring international aid. Communications celebrated the role of local volunteers and National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies and explained how humanitarian aid benefited from long-term development programmes. Themes were featured, for example, through a series of social media posts, news articles and media releases (figure 5). The number of FRC website visitors rose by 66 percent from the previous year, partly explained by the interest in COVID-19 related themes. In 2020, a new, visually attractive and mobile-friendly FRC website was created, also featuring themes of development cooperation. The new website was launched in January 2021.

The FRC *Communication and Advocacy Plan on climate change* was designed and successfully implemented in cooperation with the FRC domestic departments. In 2020, the FRC continued highlighting the multiple effects climate change has on the lives of vulnerable people and advocating for the urgency of taking action in ensuring these vulnerabilities are reduced. Shared FRC key messages on climate change, focusing on global development, were designed and widely disseminated among the organisation's employees and volunteers. Key policy messages were delivered to decision-makers and stakeholders, and the importance and successes in climate resilient programming were widely communicated.

Themes related to *sexual and reproductive health, protection, gender and disability inclusion* were emphasised in communications by producing both informative and touching communications content. To introduce new concepts and to reach young audiences, a series of three explainer animation films were produced covering key themes: sexual and reproductive health, disability inclusion and climate change. The animations in Finnish and Swedish will be disseminated on FRC digital and global education platforms in 2021.

Increased awareness and knowledge of new target audiences about development cooperation was achieved for example by increasing the reach of our communications. As planned, strategic use of Instagram was strengthened to better engage with young audiences. The number of FRC Instagram publications and the number of followers both rose 32 percent from the previous year. On Instagram, the FRC was able to reach especially younger, 25 to 34 year-old audiences. Also, the number of LinkedIn followers grew 38 percent and the time audiences spent watching FRC videos on YouTube grew 98 percent from the previous year. Altogether, the overall reach of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn publications was 11,357,443 persons.

New audiences were effectively reached with a digital marketing campaign, whose goal was to raise awareness about the positive results of development cooperation. Climate change, menstrual hygiene and WASH activities were highlighted in the social media and YouTube campaign implemented in August 2020. The campaign got positive feedback on social media and the campaign video targeted audiences cost-effectively with a reach of 296,000 persons. The campaign also brought cost-effective traffic to the FRC website to read an article about development cooperation.

Novel formats were implemented for example by visualising information. Infographics were produced about the scope of FRC's international aid, and social media videos were created highlighting the outcomes of development cooperation with infographics. The videos received good visibility on the FRC social media platforms.

Cooperation with other development organisations took place, for example, through the FRC participation in the successful "Muutosvoimaa" campaign by **Fingo**, highlighting the positive impacts of development cooperation.

4.2 Global education and advocacy

The new web-based "one-stop-shop" Finnish Red Cross teaching material service was launched in January. It turned out to be a game changer in what can and will be done in global education. The Risk Zones global education material, published in Finnish, Swedish and English, is the largest part of the contents of the new service. Also, a special easy-read Finnish version of the Risk Zones material was produced and published in 2020. The easy-read version is aimed at pupils with challenges in their reading skills and pupils with Finnish as their second language.

In its global education plan for 2020 the FRC aimed at having 1,000 teachers registered as users of the teaching material service. The actual figure at 31.12.2020 was 2,108 registered users. User statistics for 2020 only cover the period from May to December. According to the statistics, during this seven-month period, including the summer months, a total of some 19,000 individuals accessed the FRC teaching material service, and of these 19,000, a total of some 9,000 used the Risk Zones global education material. One key figure from Risk Zones statistics is a 4.56% "Bounce Rate," meaning percentage of noticeably short visits. A figure of below 40% Bounce Rate is a marker for excellent contents for a website. Based on the 4.56% figure, users entering the Risk Zones material obviously enter with intent to stay, which is good news in terms of how valuable and useful the contents are.

Tervetuloa Punaisen Ristin oppimateriaalipalveluun!

Kaikki materiaalit ovat maksuttomia. Voit hakea materiaaleja kouluasteen, aihealueen tai teemaviikon mukaan. Opettajat Kirjautumalla palveluun oikeasta yläkulmasta saat käyttöösi kaikki opettajan sisällöt.

Vesemman yläkulman valikosta löydät muita hyödyllisiä koulu- ja oppilaitosyhteistyöhön liittyviä linkkejä.

Tilaa myös [opettajien uutiskirje](#) ja pysyt ajan tasalla uusimmista oppimateriaaleista ja ajankohtaisista tapahtumista.

Kouluaste: Näytä kaikki
 Aihealue: Globaalkasvatus
 Teeväiikot ja tapahtumat: Näytä kaikki

Riskien keskellä
 Globaalkasvatus

Riskien keskellä (selkoversio)
 Globaalkasvatus

Näiköpäivä 4.-6.-luokkalaisten
 Globaalkasvatus

Näiköpäivä yläkouluun ja toiselle asteelle
 Globaalkasvatus

If any, the COVID-19 pandemic had a positive effect on the usability of the Risk Zones teaching material. Whilst much of teaching was done in a distance mode, material such as the Risk Zones catered perfectly for the needs of the otherwise odd year of 2020.



The Risk Zones annual magazine was published in print and electronically in Finnish, Swedish and English. All traditional key channels, such as Helsinki World Village Festival, through which the printed version of this publication was planned to be distributed, were cancelled based on the COVID-19 pandemic. The electronic version of the magazine was linked to schools and the printed version was distributed to a wide variety of smaller audiences.

As to Advocacy communications, the global Strategy 2030 of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies raises the issue of climate change at the top of the list of global urgency. The connection between global development and climate change challenges will be at the core of the advocacy endeavor of the FRC. The FRC will spearhead its advocacy with the issue of climate change and development and aim its efforts both at the general public and core influencers of different stature.

Even if during the spring of 2020 most of the events where the FRC was invited to address the issue of climate change and development were cancelled, some were turned into virtual occasions. Later during the year, several actors organised virtual events and asked the FRC to join as an invited speaker explaining the connection between development and climate change. All in all, through some 40 virtual events the FRC was able to communicate its agenda to a total audience of some 1,000 plus participants.

5. Programme management and learning

5.1 Programme management challenges by the COVID-19

The learning-oriented Programme Evaluation 2016–2018 (2019) results, changes in the Movement policies and new IFRC Strategy 2030 informed the update of the Programme’s Theory of Change and Results Matrix in 2020. Apart from these updates, the FRC Programme performance measurement logic and methods remained the same and no other major development processes related to the Programme’s results-based management were implemented in 2020.

In recent years, the FRC has put effort into ensuring the collection of sex, age and disability disaggregated data in all supported programmes and activities, whether implemented in bilateral cooperation with partner National Societies or multilaterally with other partners through the IFRC. To uphold our principles, the numbers of people reached must be recorded and reported appropriately to ensure there is transparency and accountability to the affected people and to verify that we are not discriminating against, or denying services to, groups who need support.

In 2020, out of the 15 FRC-supported projects, 12 were able to collect and report reliable sex-disaggregated data and the reporting data provided by 11 projects were broken down by disability. However, it needs to be noted that the collected data is not yet representative of the actual work and reliable enough to be aggregated at the Programme level. Our cautious estimate is that approximately 4% of the people reached through the FRC Programme support in 2020 are persons with disability. However, more effort is needed to support our partners’ capacities to collect disaggregated data to get more reliable estimates. The FRC will therefore continue monitoring and reporting the number of projects making progress with reliable collection and reporting of disaggregated data.

The FRC measures programme **performance** at the outcome level through baselines and endlines conducted for each community-based project.

The FRC has defined a set of quantitative **indicators** which quantify development results annually and assist in monitoring whether the projects are on track with their annual objectives. Indicator data is collected from each FRC-supported project, and project outputs are **aggregated** at the Programme level.

In addition, the FRC’s results chain includes key performance indicators that measure progress related to **enabling actions** contributing to the Programme outcome delivery.

Aggregated Programme level results and progress in enabling actions are summarised in Annex 6 .

One of the challenges with the collection and reporting of especially disability-disaggregated data is that every National Society has its own definition of a disability and they use different methodologies of data collection. Some National Societies also find that disability, especially mental health disability, is a more sensitive topic to ask people about than their sex or age. Also having many different types of disability with no clear categories makes it more complicated to collect and record the disability data. In line with the IFRC recommendation, the FRC promotes the use of questions suggested by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. Although a lot of work has been done to make the questions easy to use, it requires time and effort to adopt them. The use of these sets of questions also needs to be supported by awareness raising and training of volunteers and staff.

COVID-19 and the constantly changing country contexts forced the FRC and its partners to monitor project status more closely and implement modified project and programme management to adapt the planned project activities and programme-level plans to the changing situations. National lockdowns and other COVID-19 restrictions set in different countries led to temporary suspension of individual projects or planned activities. Especially new projects planned to be kicked off during 2020 suffered the most from the mobility and gathering restrictions put in place in target countries, rendering particularly the organisation of initial workshops and trainings impossible. Community events and campaigns are typical examples of planned activities that were most often cancelled or postponed. While some partners, like the Kenya Red Cross, were able to transform the trainings and events onto virtual platforms and implement hybrid methods, in many countries the lack of access to digital devices or poor connections in communities hindered the introduction of remote community work modalities.

As the travel in both Africa and Asia regions was halted both within and between different countries, the capacity of the FRC to provide direct technical support and monitoring to the National Societies was temporarily reduced. Also baseline and endline processes or final evaluation processes were postponed in some countries, including Nepal, Myanmar and Ethiopia, as collecting survey data in target communities was not possible. At the country level, in already complex access contexts, like in Afghanistan, Myanmar and Niger, monitoring became even more complicated due to COVID-19.

To maintain regular connection and ensure the flow of information between the FRC, its partners and the target communities, remote follow-up and monitoring methods were set up quickly. These included mobile survey tools, regular online team meetings, and online approval processes. While many of FRC's partners were able to take considerable steps in coordinating their work virtually with their partners located abroad, the restrictions in mobility showed the digital divide within the countries and between different National Societies. Despite the good attempts and creative solutions found to ensure the minimum level of monitoring of activities, it is obvious that gaps need to be filled in the monitoring and evaluation functions in 2021.

5.2 Evaluations and learning in 2020

A learning-oriented Programme evaluation covering the Programme period **2016–2018** was finalised at the beginning of 2020. The evaluation looking at the progress achieved in the Programme quality and effectiveness standards in 2016-2018 as well as in 2019 was commissioned in the last quarter of 2019. The evaluation results were utilised to inform the annual planning for 2020 and resulted in changes to FRC's Programme's Theory of Change, focus areas as well as outcomes and indicators in order to maintain the long-term programming relevant and responsive to changes in the operational environment. The evaluation results have also informed the planning of the new Programme for 2022–2025.

Only *one final project evaluation and endline survey* was conducted in 2020 as three other external evaluations scheduled for 2020 – Ethiopia, Malawi and Nepal – were postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The evaluated Urban Disaster Risk and Resilience (UDRR) project was implemented with the **Myanmar** Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Hinthada Township, in Ayeyarwaddy region during the period from June 2016 to July 2020. COVID-19 heavily restricted the collection of data on the ground. However, focus group discussions and an endline survey with 192 people could be conducted while following the institutional safety and security policy of the MRCS for COVID-19.

The key learnings which will be applied in the new urban resilience programmes include:

- Further inclusion of people with disabilities and older people is needed together with increased gender sensitivity.

- More focus on the resilience of livelihoods and income is needed to address also the socio-economic vulnerabilities of the communities.
- School awareness sessions are successful when a child-friendly pedagogical approach and songs, poems, pictures and games are applied for improving risk reduction in the schools.
- Branch preparedness and capacity building and training of volunteers in emergencies and health have been useful. Volunteers could be deployed in the Rakhine operation for humanitarian response, were involved in public awareness activities and participated in township-level COVID-19 response and control work.
- The most significant case story told by the MRCS Branch was improving township level preparedness and response to COVID-19 in Hinthada township. In working with township disaster management committee members, Red Cross volunteers were active in readiness and able to provide timely support in 12 public COVID-19 quarantine centres. This work was managed together with local authorities and local civil society organisations.
- Female members from wards and villages receiving the trainings informed that trainings raised their confidence, which enabled them to seek disaster management committee membership, activities, part-taking in community decision-making and leadership. This engagement increased women's role in community preparedness and promoted gender equality among the community members.
- The sustainability model of the MRCS Branch needs to be reviewed in terms of retention of human capacity of volunteers and more sustained self-financing base.
- The establishment of the emergency control room to the Red Cross Branch office has facilitated the command and control of activities in the COVID-19 response.

The second phase of the Movement study on “Approaching NSD in Situations of Conflict and Protracted Crisis” was postponed. The purpose of the study is to jointly shape future efforts to better support the development and strengthening of National Societies during a situation of conflict, complex emergency, protracted crisis and in post-conflict settings to provide effective and efficient humanitarian assistance in such situations and after the emergency.

5.3. Risk management

Risk management is an integral part of the Finnish Red Cross performance management system embedded in operational and financial planning as well as monitoring and reporting procedures. Risk management in FRC International Operations and Programmes is defined as a continuous cycle of identification, assessment, analysis, monitoring and response to risks. Instead of avoiding risks they are potential opportunities to be managed systematically and consistently at all levels of management.

In 2020, risk management processes were performed at project, partner and Programme levels, supported by the risk information gathered in the FRC Project Information Management System (PIMS) as well as the Programme-level risk management plan 2018–2021, and processed in regular risk management meetings. In 2020, the FRC adopted a new risk policy and updated the FRC International Operations and Programmes risk management processes accordingly.

Due to unexpected nature, COVID-19 was not included in FRC risk scenario, although normal epidemics have been identified as risks in some countries. Preparedness for epidemics helped FRC to cope with COVID-19: we were able to mitigate some of the impacts of COVID-19, quickly reallocated activities and fought against the pandemic. Now the focus is shifted on business continuity planning at the programme level.

In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, the major challenges were the Tigray crisis escalating November, where FRC was prepared with updated Emergency Response Plans, and floods in South Sudan, where FRC was able to support IFRC Flood Emergency Operation from Disaster Relief Fund.

In South Sudan, FRC noticed misbehavior in procurement process: the findings were shared with SSRC and triggered an internal investigation. Based on the investigation FRC and SSRC have agreed about related reimbursement. FRC continued to operate with Zimbabwe Red Cross Society with increased number of local administrative personnel, stricter financial controls and modified processes, where FRC has taken over some financial key activities. IFRC Office of Internal Audits and Investigations has completed the investigation in Zimbabwe and the final report is expected to be available during August 2021. FRC and Nepal Red Cross Society are discussing how to settle the cost of misbehavior revealed in 2019.

FRC has renewed the partner assessment template and performed partner assessment in Nigeria and Myanmar. The assessment in Myanmar had to be modified and performed mostly remotely due to the pandemic.

The Programme Risk Monitoring Summary for 2020 in Annex 4 summarises the materialisation of some of the identified risks and their impact on the Programme implementation in 2020.

6. Finance and administration

6.1 Finance

The International Finance and Administration Unit continued to ensure financial and administrative scrutiny and lead the development of key finance and administrative processes in support of the Finnish Red Cross international programmes and operations. The COVID-19 pandemic created a need for active operational monitoring but also for careful finance administration and budget monitoring. Country-level projects were followed more closely and programme-level budget revisions and reallocations were made on a regular basis. In order to support its partners in responding to the COVID-19 situations, the FRC utilised the opportunity to repurpose Programme funding to humanitarian aid.

Travel restrictions caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic impacted the work of Regional Finance and Administration Delegates, who were not able to travel to all the planned locations. Instead, financial checks were conducted remotely. The external local audits were also impacted by the lockdowns of local communities.

In 2020, no major financial system changes were introduced. The focus was on ensuring the mainstreaming of the tools and systems developed during previous years and supporting their utilisation.

6.2 Human resourcing

COVID-19 also affected the work of Finnish Red Cross delegates, making it more demanding in comparison to previous years. In many countries the offices were closed and delegates moved to work from home. Some delegates also worked remotely from their home country. As such, it was observed that working remotely in good cooperation with partners was possible. However, it was also quite challenging – especially as people often worked from different time zones.

The insecurity and uncertainty related to the health situation affected the lives of FRC delegates and their families. Also, constantly changing regulations in different countries and airlines caused uncertainty and substantial administrative work. It was often difficult to get in or out of a country because of the changing regulations, limited flights available and many cancellations. The FRC International HR Unit continued to provide support to the delegates on missions in various mission-related matters.

As a standard, every FRC delegate had – and still has – a possibility for up to five personal discussions with a psychologist. Furthermore, the FRC organised additional psychosocial support for the delegates in the form of regular remote psychosocial group discussions. Many delegates participated in these discussions and gave positive feedback.

For East Africa, the FRC regional office was located in Kenya, the staff including a Regional Representative, a Regional Finance & Administration Delegate, a Regional Disaster Management Advisor, a Regional Health Advisor and a Country Delegate covering Kenya and South Sudan. Additionally, the FRC had a Country Delegate in Ethiopia and a Country Delegate and a Regional Finance and Administration Delegate in Burundi. For Southern and West Africa, the FRC regional office was located in Harare, Zimbabwe, with a Regional Representative, a Country Delegate and a Regional Finance & Administration Delegate. Additionally, a Health Delegate in the South Africa regional office was also supported as staff on loan for the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Furthermore, the FRC had a Regional Finance & Administration Delegate and a Regional Programme Support Delegate in Sierra Leone. Since September 2020, the FRC has had also a Programme Support Delegate in Niger.

In Asia, the FRC continued with the same set-up as in previous years: the bilateral programme team consisted of a Regional Representative and a Regional Finance Development Delegate, both based in Malaysia. Additionally, the FRC had a Regional Programme Support Delegate in Myanmar and a Regional Disaster Management Delegate in the Philippines. The Regional Disaster Management Delegate gave capacity building support to activities in the Philippines when necessary, and his salary was partly covered from the MFA framework. A Communications Delegate in Nepal, a Health Programme Manager in Myanmar and a Business Continuity Coordinator in Malaysia in the COVID-19 operation were also supported as staff on loan for the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

In Europe, a Disability Inclusion Officer for six months was supported for the IFRC's COVID-19 operation as staff on loan.

FRC's human resources in 2020 are summarised in the table below. With this global set-up, the FRC continued to promote cross-regional knowledge-sharing by sending regional delegates from one region to another. This was done in order to support specific operations or projects for which they possessed strong competence. Additionally, some short-term missions to support the overall programme work in Asia and Africa were covered from the MFA framework, for example in the case of the feasibility study of the programme in Myanmar.

Table 1. List of FRC regional and country delegates in 2020

Sub-region	Country	Delegate
Asia	Malaysia	Regional Representative for Asia and Pacific
		Business Continuity Coordinator (staff on loan for IFRC)
		Regional Finance Development Delegate
	Nepal	Communications Delegate (staff on loan for IFRC)
	Philippines	Regional Disaster Management Delegate (partly MFA-funded)
	Myanmar	Health Programme Manager (staff on loan for IFRC) Regional Programme Support Delegate
Southern and West Africa	South Africa	Health Delegate (staff on loan)
	Zimbabwe	Regional Finance & Administration Delegate
		Country Delegate
		Regional Representative
	Sierra Leone	Regional Programme Support Delegate
		Regional Finance & Administration Delegate
	Niger	Programme Support Delegate
East Africa	Kenya	Regional Representative for East and Central Africa
		Regional Finance & Administration Delegate
		Regional Disaster Management Advisor
		Country Delegate
		Regional Health Advisor
	Burundi	Country Delegate
		Regional Finance & Administration Delegate
	Ethiopia	Country Programme Coordinator (remotely)
		Country Delegate
Europe	Geneve	Disability Inclusion Officer (Staff on Loan for IFRC, remotely)

6.2 Financial reporting and cost-effectiveness

The original framework budget for 2020 was EUR 8,141,056, of which 69% MFA funding and 31% FRC's own funding. During the year, four requests for budget revisions were made. The final revised budget was EUR 8,279,034, which is EUR 137,978 higher than the original budget.

The total framework expenditure in 2020 was EUR 8,323,345, which is 44,311 higher than the revised budget and EUR 182,289 higher than the original budget. As a result, FRC's funding share increased to 33%, while MFA funding

remained at EUR 5,590,000. No MFA funds were carried over to the year 2021. The detailed financial report for 2020 is presented in Annex 5.

In 2020, the actual delegate costs in the regions totalled EUR 804,565, which was 24% less than the original delegate budget of EUR 1,062,450. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the capability of the FRC to send delegates abroad.

The FRC made four budget revision requests mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic: the largest reallocations were made to new COVID-19 projects such as the regional Sahel (EUR 481,150), Kenya (EUR 300,000) and Afghanistan (EUR 300,000). New COVID-19 projects in Myanmar, Malawi and Niger each received a reallocation of EUR 100,000. The funding to these came from budgets of delegates, global thematic programmes, Nepal, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Zimbabwe.

Ten percent of the total budget for the Programme have been reserved as administrative costs as per the terms of the contract. The administrative costs cover a portion of the costs of the International Operations and Programmes department of the FRC.

MFA development framework expenditure in 2020

Costs	Original Budget 2020	Actual 2020
A. Programme costs	6 014 300	6 530 721
B. Programme support	48 600	18 758
C. Delegates	1 062 450	804 565
D. Communication and advocacy	201 600	136 966
E. Administration	814 106	832 335
TOTAL COSTS	8 141 056	8 323 345
FUNDING	Per cent	EUR
Government funding	67%	5 590 000
FRC funding	33%	2 733 346
Interest income	0%	0
TOTAL FUNDING		8 323 345