

GHANA RED CROSS SOCIETY CONSOLIDATED REPORT 2017



DATE OF REPORT: March 2018

PRESENTED BY: SECRETARY GENERAL

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

President, Management Committee, Central Council, Volunteers, Staff, Members of the National Society and Stakeholders, it is with great pleasure that I present to you the National Society report for 2017. This report gives an over view of where we currently stand as a National Society (NS) as against where we were during the last General Assembly.

The report further highlights the strategic directions and actions General Assembly, Council and Management Committee requested of Secretariat for implementation and how we have effected it to date, challenges we are currently facing and suggested recommendations for your approval on how to tackle them.

Additionally, the report is aligned to the Old Strategic plan 2011-2015, the new Strategic Plan 2016 -2020, Ghana's National Development Plan, the Federation Strategy 2020, the Addis Ababa Plan of Action 2012 and the Abidjan Plan of action 2017 to paint a picture of how well or otherwise we are on track as a National Society, a Movement partner and a government auxiliary.

Subsequently, the report is structured along the thematic areas of the National Society Strategic Plan 2016-2020. The National Society Strategic Plan 2016-2020 has two broad objectives;

- I. Enhanced Institutional and organizational development for efficient and effective service delivery and self-sustainability
- II. Scale up programs and projects for service delivery to the most vulnerable and affected individuals, households and communities to prevent and alleviate human suffering

The report therefore summarizes activities implemented under these thematic areas during the reporting period.

2.0 ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER BROAD OBJECTIVE ONE OF THE NS STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2020: (Enhanced Institutional and Organizational development)

Broad objective one of the NS Strategic plan 2016-2020 targets enhanced Institutional and organizational development of the NS as an entity. It seeks to make the NS strong with a firm foundation.

2.1 Specific Objective one: (Strengthened Organizational development)

Specific Objective one under this broad objective is to develop and diversify resources available to GRCS for sustainable delivery of services. It therefore focuses on the development of the Income Generation capacity of the NS. Activities carried out under this objective during the reporting period included the following;

I. Construction of Headquarters office complex with a commercial component

The ground floor has been completed for the National Society's 'Not for profit' and 'For Profit use' through hiring of the conference hall and resource training rooms. Dr. Kofi Adusei who represented the Minister for Health officially commissioned the headquarters complex in October. The facility has been advertised in the national dailies for private sector renting at a fee.



Old View: National
Headquarters - GRCS



Current View: Work in Progress –
National Headquarters, GRCS



Perspective View

ii. SMS Short Code for Public Subscription, Donations, Text Messaging and Income Generation

To diversify NS funding sources and boost our income as indicated in the strategic plan, Management entered into a negotiation with the Mobile phone authorities for acquisition of an SMS short code. Negotiations with the two largest Telecommunication companies in the country (MTN-Mobile and Vodaphone) has been completed. We have paid the Service charge involved and the National Society has been assigned an SMS short code. The Code is RC 3701 and SMS text messages has been blasted to members of the public to subscribe to Ghana Red Cross at a deductible fee from their units purchased. The blast was done this July 2017. Members who subscribe receive weekly First Aid, Health, Disaster, Emergency Response and other lifesaving skills Tips.

iii. Aqua Red

As was reported during the last General Assembly, the National Society entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Water Reference Center Ltd for the production and sale of mineral and sachet water (Aqua Red) to the public as a means of Income Generation. Unfortunately, Water Reference Center could not fulfil their obligations under the Memorandum of understanding. Subsequently, Management Committee has approved abolition of the partnership. A letter written by the Honorary Legal Advisor for abolition of the contract has been served on Aqua Red. The NS intends to start its own containerized and Sachet water production to serve as an additional source of Income generation. A business plan has been developed and management is working to mobilize the capital required.

iii. Structures Sustainability: Seed capital for Mothers Clubs and Regional Branches.

In November, Forty (40) Mothers Clubs in all our Operational Districts in the Upper East Region were each given seed capital to start income generation activities like groundnut paste making, basket weaving etc. The income is to support their programs and themselves. The Mothers club in Faa Kwesi and Adjalaja No1 & 2 (Atebubu Amantin district) and Braha Bekume and Offoase (Agona East district, Central Region) have also been supported with Gari Processing Machines and they are operational. The Adjalaja Mothers club won the best Agro processing award for the district during the 2016/2017 Farmers day celebration and was given a certificate and equipment's as prizes.



Mothers Clubs in Brong Ahafo Region & Gari Processing

Agro Processing Award won by Mothers Club in Brong Ahafo

Seed Capital presentation to Mothers Club in Upper east

Sale of Pea Nut Butter made by Mothers Club in Upper east

Through a negotiated support from Finish Red cross, the Central Regional Branch was also given a seed capital to upgrade its Guest house and also develop a conference center as a means of supporting their Income generation and self-sustainability actions to meet at least core costs.

The same negotiated funding support was provided to the Brong Ahafo Regional Branch to go into secretarial services provision to the public (photocopying etc,) and also undertake events management (Chairs, tables, canopies etc) for hiring to the general public during events as a commercial and income generating activity.

iv. Commercial First Aid Training& First Aid Services at events

The Headquarters First aid department trained staff of 570 corporate organizations during this period as part of the NS income generation strategy and initiatives. The Regional Branches also undertook some Commercial First Aid training as an Income generating Activity. In addition, the NS also provided first aid services for corporates and at National Events for a fee.

These details of these activities are in the individual departmental and regional branch reports attached to this report.



Commercial First Aid training for Corporates and Provision of First Aid Services at Events

v. Corporate membership

Eight (8) organizations paid their corporate membership fees for 2017. An additional twelve has been targeted for the coming year to bring corporate membership to at least twenty (20). These organizations pay annual corporate membership dues. This is also one of the means to help diversify our income source and base. Corporate Membership furthermore brings the corporate sector more closely to the National Society for a bigger and strengthened partnership.

vi. DRIVER AND VEHICLE LICENSING AUTHORITY (DVLA)

The Chief Executive Officer with whom we initiated discussions for resumption of the driver trainings in First Aid for driving license applicants for a fee is no longer at post. The Governing board who were also party to this discussion have exhausted their mandate. The board has been dissolved with the coming into office of a new National Government after the Ghana Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in December 2016. We therefore have to start the whole negotiating process for the driver license applicants training in first aid again. We have however had several meetings with the new Officials and they seem favorable to our program for the driver training. We have scheduled follow up meetings to discuss the finer details.

vi. Business units

The National Society has two optical centers in Sunyani and Wa respectively. Unfortunately, they have never been able to operate as profit generating units to support the NS with part of the profits made. Similarly, the National Society has Guesthouse facilities in Cape coast (central region) and Wa (Upper West region).

The recommendation is that Governance should approve and support the establishment of a Business development unit for the NS to control and manage all these facilities based on an approved business plan.

Conclusion and broad suggestions for Specific Objective one:

There exist opportunities and foundations for a financial independence take off by the National Society. Management supported by Governance should put together a motivated team to develop a strategy for financial sustainability. The team should take into consideration all the opportunities listed above and come up with clear strategies and road map on how to maximize the opportunities.

2.1 Specific Objective two: Strengthen Organizational development

2.2 Specific Objective three: Strengthen GRCS Core Cost funding, Managerial systems and procedures

The report (in terms of the above two objectives) examines the areas listed below and how the National Society performed:

- I. Institutional Development (Buildings and Office space, Equipment's, Tools and Vehicles)
- II. Structures (Branches and Chapters Development)
- III. Human Resources (Governance, Management, Staff and Volunteers development)
- IV. Systems (Financial, Software, Administration etc.)
- V. Policies & Procedures
- VI. Governance and Management capacities
- VII. Partnerships

i. Buildings and Office Space (Headquarters, Regional, Districts and Communities)

Headquarters

Office space is now available at the newly commissioned ground floor of the headquarters complex to enhance work. There is now space also for delegates, group work, meetings and workshops. All headquarters staff including delegates were previously working from six rooms. Of these six rooms, one each is allocated to the Secretary General and the Finance and administration manager respectively for strategic reasons. The office space deficit created serious staff congestion and was negatively affecting work output.

Regions Branches

Northern Regional Branch office in Tamale

With Swiss Red Cross funding support, a new office complex has been constructed and refurbished at where the old office was. The structure is complete for occupancy.



View of the New Northern regional Branch Office

Other Regional branch offices

The Upper East regional office is now refurbished with a negotiated Swiss Red Cross Support. The Central Regional Branch office is also refurbished with CBHFA project support. The Eastern regional Branch office will also be refurbished under the Ghana WASH Project supported by Nestle. Management is considering the construction of a new Regional Branch office for the Ashanti regional branch. The Lease or Land Title has been secured.

Vehicles

On March 04, 2017, Cross Country Vehicles were handed over to Greater Accra, Western, Ashanti and Eastern regional branches to enhance their operations at a ceremony the National headquarters.



Presentation of the Keys to the vehicles to the Regional Officers

Northern and Upper East have vehicles, which are in good condition. Brong Ahafo and Central region have vehicles but they are not in very good condition. Central Regional branch however has two ambulances. Currently, Upper West and Volta Regions have no vehicles. A plan to resource all branches with vehicle has been drawn for execution.

National Ware House

To ensure that the NS is able to stock pile relief items for rapid response during emergencies we have during this period also been able to put up a warehouse with the Japanese government support.



Handing over of the warehouse to Ghana Red Cross President by HE the Japanese Ambassador to Ghana

Tricycle Ambulances

With Swiss Red Cross support, Eleven (11) tricycle ambulances have been handed over to the Upper East Regional branch to support the New born, Maternal and Child health Program. This program is being implemented through our Mothers clubs. The first Tricycle Ambulance was handed over to the Region in 2016. The additional ten (10) of the tricycles ambulances were handed over to the Regional Branch in February 2017.

The Mothers clubs in partnership with the various Chip Compound management are managing the tricycles with overall supervision lying in the hands of the Ghana Health Service and the Red Cross regional branch management. The tricycle ambulance riders and the Mothers club members who will be accompanying them have been trained by the Ghana Health service.



We have also supplied District Organizers in Northern, Upper East, Western and Central and Brong Ahafo regions among others with motor cycles to facilitate their work.

Motor Cycles

Motor cycles were distributed by headquarters during this period to add to the existing ones in the field. The aim was to support and strengthen the implementation and monitoring of the various projects being carried out in the field. These motor bikes were procured with support from IFRC and our PNS (Swiss Red Cross). The Northern region for example has 18 motor bikes to support programs execution. Fourteen (14) out of this number was procured during the reporting period under the Vision First Program. Upper East regional branch has also supported with ten (10) motor bikes during this period under the Neo Natal, Maternal and child health program. The Eastern Regional branch has received during this period ten (10) Motor bikes procured under the Gh Wash facility supported by Nestle with Ashanti Regional branch receiving four (4). Western Region during this same reporting period has been supported with ten (10) motor bikes whilst the Brong Ahafo and Central region had two motor bikes each under the Community Based Health and first Aid (CBHFA) program support budget.

ii. Ghana Red Cross Operating Structures Strengthening: Branches and Chapters Development:

Red Cross Structures used for implementing programs have not been left out in terms of development and capacity building. These structures include School Links, Youth, Chapters and Mothers clubs. The structures development and capacity strengthening initiatives are usually carried out through re orientations and refresher trainings usually done through the regional branches. Physical facilities to ensure that these NS structure are able to perform are also not left. For example In Brong Ahafo, Central and Upper East regions, we have been able to put up simple structures to facilitate meetings, keeping of tools, equipment's and stationery by Mothers clubs and Red Cross members



Sample community structure for Red Cross Mother's Clubs and Chapter activities in Adjalaja in Brong

Some District Assemblies have also provided meeting places or offices for some of our community structures to operate from. The Regional Branches are being encouraged to strengthen existing Chapters and establish new ones.

Emergency Response Teams have been established right from the National to the Regional level. In most of the regions, Emergency response teams have been formed, trained and equipped right from the districts to the communities. The regions include, Central, Western, Brong Ahafo, Northern, Upper East, Volta and Greater Accra.

iii. Human Resource (Governance, Management, staff and Volunteers development and Management)

The full complement of Governance membership (Central Council, Management Committee and Regional Committees) to provide policy and guidance to secretariat are in place. Unfortunately, not all of them had orientation on election into office (Regional Committees). This has in some cases had straining effect on governance –management relationship. Management Committee has been able to hold its scheduled meetings during the reporting period. Decisions taken by governance has provided guidance for Secretariat operations and actions. Central Council Meetings have also been held at least three times in a year for briefing on NS activities, policy guidance and endorsement of otherwise of memoranda submitted.

A program-based organogram has been developed as part of the strategic plan 2016-2020 human resource needs fulfilment. A broad National Society and a departmental focused organogram for the various staffing compliments required has been developed for vacancy filing. Unfortunately, because of financial limitations we have not been able to fill the required positions. Some staff are therefore acting in multiple capacities.

Current Staffing at a glance

Headquarters	Position	No:
	Secretary General	1
	HEADS OF DEPARTMENT/ SENIOR OFFICERS	
	Finance & Administration Manager	1
	Resource Development Manager	0
	Communications & Marketing Manager	1
	DISASTER MANAGER	1
	HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COORDINATOR	1
	FIRST AID COORDINATOR	1
	YOUTH COORDINATOR	1
	MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICERS	5
	JUNIOR OFFICERS	8
	REGIONS	

REGIONAL MANAGERS	10
OFFICE ASSISTANTS	11
REGIONAL BASED PROJECT OFFICERS	4
TOTAL	45

Registered Volunteer staff captured in our data base and ready for deployment or supporting field activities currently stand at approximately sixty six thousand (66000).

Due to funding limitations, NS administration has not been able to implement a full staff and volunteer training and development plan. Trainings for staff and volunteers are currently dependent on programs that have dedicated budget lines for specific skills trainings for the project execution. The IFRC, ICRC and other PNs occasionally invite NS staff and Volunteers to skills enhancement trainings they are organizing.

Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) capacity and Deployment

In spite of funding limitations, we have been able to train and build staff and volunteer capacity to the extent that some of them are on the roster of IFRC as Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT) members. This year alone two of our staff have been on missions of not less than two months each to support disaster response programs of our other sister West Africa National Societies including Nigeria

Policies, Procedures, Regulations and Systems

The National Society currently has the following critical documents approved by General Assembly to help support the good governance and functioning of Board and Management. These are a reviewed Constitution, Youth Policy, Partnership policy, Conditions of Service and Financial Policy. The General Assembly held in Sunyani, Brong Ahafo region approved these strategic documents. The Current Strategic Plan 2016-2020 was approved by the General Assembly in Koforidua, Eastern region

iv. Salaries

Salaries remain one of our core cost challenges. It is often in arrears. This is because currently, the NS income stream for funding non-program budget items including salaries are inconsistent and limited. It is however hoped that when the resources diversification and mobilization plan is fully developed and implemented, this challenge will be addressed.

v. Statutory debts (Social Security)

Payment of Social Security contributions for staff is up to date (as at the time of this report).

vi. Audits

The Ghana Audit Service has completed the auditing of our books for 2016. An Audit Report Implementation Committee (ARIC) chaired by the Honorary Treasurer is guiding secretariat to implement the recommendations to ensure that the NS continues to stay above board in terms of financial malfeasance or fraud. Details of the audit are included in the financial report. The 2017 Audit is scheduled for April 2018 by our Auditors

vii. Work plans 2017 with budgets and 2017 Annual reports

These documents were developed and guided the NS operations and activities. All senior staff and regional managers met in Swedru (Central region) to develop it for management consideration and approval.

viii. Internet, Website and Social Media

Headquarters has internet connectivity so authorized staff have access to the official Wi-Fi / internet hotspot to do their work. The NS website is active. Furthermore, the National Society is also on other Social media platforms including twitter, and Facebook.

ix. Systems Policies and Procedures

Currently, the NS has in place System's, Policies and Procedures to cover or address operational issues. The System's, Policies and Procedures, guide our financial transactions, human resource management, procurements, reporting, missions and transport among others. The current financial policy, transport policy, partnership policy, Youth policy and condition of service were approved at the Sunyani AGM. Most of these are therefore over four years old and therefore needs reviewing or updating.

X. Movement collaborations and Partnerships Development

General Assembly, Pan African Congress and West Coast Meetings

The President, Secretary General, National Youth representative and National Youth Coordinator represented the NS at the Red Cross Movement General assembly in Antalya, Turkey in 2017. At that Assembly, we participated in the adoption of statutory documents presented, voted in the election of new officers and signed on to the one Billion coalition among others. We also had net workings and side meetings with other NSs and Movement partners.

The Vice President and the Secretary General also represented the NS at the Pan African Congress held in Abidjan (Cote d' Ivoire) in April 2017. The NS continue to participate in the West Coast meetings (a zonal meeting of West Africa National Societies) where we discuss strategies for mutual growth and development and take joint common positions on issues that relate to the Red Cross and the Africa sub region. Our partnerships and collaborations during this period with other NSs outside our sub region has expanded. We have collaborated with the Red Cross NSs of Switzerland, China, Japan, Iran, Turkey, and Germany among others for program/projects implementation.

To expand our services, ensure quality delivery and meet our other obligations in an increasingly complex humanitarian environment, the NS entered into other Non-Movement partnerships and collaborations at several levels guided by the seven (7) Red Cross Movement Fundamental Principles of Humanity, Independence, Neutrality, Universality, Unity, Volunteerism and Impartiality.

The United Nation agencies like UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, UNHCR for example collaborated with us to run programs. International Development Agencies like USAID have partnered us in programs through sub agency grants.

The US Center for Disease Control (CDC) is partnered the NS in August 2017 with an almost 200,000 USD support for our immunization program (social mobilization activities) in Greater Accra, Northern and Volta region. Other Non-Governmental organizations like Lions club, Ernest Peyer Memorial Foundation have collaborated with us to do relief work. In addition, Private sector business corporates like Nestle, Access Bank, Ecobank, Stanbic, Delta Airlines, Multi Media group, has partnered us to run projects or given us an on and off financial support for our humanitarian activities.

As a government auxiliary, we have collaborated with government through the Ministries, Departments or Agencies for program and projects execution. The Government organs we collaborated with during this period included Ministry Of Health (Ghana Health Service), Ministry of Education (Ghana Education Service) National Disaster management Organization (NADMO) just to mention a few.

Conclusions and Suggestions (Organizational Development)

It is very important to organize Orientations immediately after elections. Topics to be covered should include; Role Clarification for Governance and Management, Operating Policies, Procedures and Systems,

Furthermore, the NS is still not a self-sustainable organization able to meet its core cost and execute enhanced programs out of domestic funds generated. A conscious comprehensive domestic income generation strategy needs to be fully developed and executed by leadership as part of the deliverable objectives set up in the strategic plan 2016-2020.

BROAD OBJECTIVE TWO: (Scale up programs and projects)

The second broad objective of the NS Strategic Plan 2016-2020 aims at scaling up programs and projects of the NS. The scale up envisaged is in the area of quality of service delivery and an increase in the number of beneficiaries. It therefore addresses the issues of service effectiveness and efficiency.

3.1 Specific Objective one: Improve the health status of the vulnerable and affected communities

The Specific Objective one under this broad objective is to improve the health status of the vulnerable and affected communities by reducing morbidity and mortality arising from common diseases and health emergencies

In actualizing this objective, the NS during this period enhanced its capacity to respond rapidly to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) needs of the vulnerable communities. The NS also expanded and strengthened its activities in other Public Health Emergencies, Communicable and Non-communicable diseases.

a. WASH

i. GH-Wash (IFRC/Nestle supported Program in Ashanti and Eastern region)

Under an IFRC/Nestle supported program, the NS WASH program has now expanded to include Ashanti and Eastern Regions. In these two regions, alone fifty seven (57) boreholes are being drilled, forty seven (47) broken down ones being rehabilitated. One (1) small town water system was installed as at the end of 2017. Additionally fifty two (52) institutional toilets are under construction during this period. Three Thousand (3000) household were educated to put up household toilets under the Community Led Total Sanitation program (CLTS).

The program implementation strategy focuses on a balance between safe water provision, improved community sanitation, household latrines construction and promotion of personal hygiene (hand washing). Volunteer trainings and Baseline studies were all done and the required staff and volunteers needed for program execution recruited as part of the project implementation.

The Contract for drilling of the boreholes and provision of small town/community water systems for the 52 communities were awarded with technical support from IFRC and Community Water and Sanitation Agency. Some of the communities are currently enjoying the safe water. For example the Akooko small town water

system (Eastern region) was commissioned as part of the celebration of the World Red Cross day 2017. In all over seventy three thousand (73000) people will be reached with this support.



Drilling new Bore Holes and repairing existing but broken-down ones in the communities



Providing small town water systems: Akoko town in Eastern region



Promotion of Handwashing under our WASH Program

ii. Japanese Government WASH Support

Under this facility provided by the Japanese government, we have in place the hard ware (equipment) required to produce safe water to a whole community of about six thousand people for six months when its

water source is polluted or unsafe for consumption. Currently, Emergency Response Teams that can swiftly move equipment's to a vulnerable community, install and provide safe water within five hours exist.



The Emergency Response team for safe water provision simulating their skills in Agona Offoase village

iii. WASH as a component of Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA)

The Finish Red Cross originally supported this program. The intervention was carried out in the Central and Brong Ahafo regions. In all ninety two (92) household toilets were constructed and two bore holes drilled. Trained volunteers also consistently did community sensitization for a two-year period 2016-2017. The sensitization touched on how to make water safe for household consumption by using aqua tabs, boiling and filtration, building aprons around community wells, campaign against open defecation and community sanitation.

Volunteers in all the other regions were also engage in WASH activities as part of their routine Red Cross Community service. Special mention can be made of Greater Accra, Central and Ashanti regions during the cholera outbreaks where they did an intensive three-month campaign on safe water consumption, hand washing, community sanitation and campaign against open defecation.



Picture of some of the boreholes and household toilets constructed under the CBHFA project

iv. WASH and Ernest Peyer Memorial Foundation

Ernest Peyer Memorial Foundation also came on board to support our WASH programs. This project funding was initially for two years. It was extended for another year on expiry. This was due to the high performance by the volunteers as per the project indicators and the impact our services had made in the operating

community. The funding support has currently ended but volunteers are still carrying on with the project activities as part of their routine duties. This is because their capacity has been developed. The project location is Adasawase (Eastern region)

v. Community Sanitation

The National Society continued to play a major role in the National Sanitation campaigns. The Branches mobilize their volunteers to play a front role. This is in addition to the routine community clean ups that we spear head.



Volunteers in action during a clean-up exercise in Ho (Volta region) and Tamale (Northern region)

vi. Promotion of hand washing

The National Society still has promotion of hand washing as a key program. Volunteers across the regions and districts continue to put up hand washing posts during social and community events like national day celebrations (independence, republic, framers day etc), funerals, outdoorings just to name a few. Visits are also made to schools and institutions to encourage them to adopt that habit. The NS uses its school links to champion and promote this personal hygiene exercise in the schools.



Schools Program aimed at promoting hand washing

b. Public Health Emergencies (PHE)

i. Emergency Response Teams (ERTs)

We have trained National Emergency Response teams to respond to Public Health Emergencies as a support to the Ghana Health Service interventions. The training modules for the volunteers includes handling infectious diseases like Ebola and Cholera. This training has also been cascaded to the Regional level. In some cases, this training has been done even to the district level. Regions that have trained ERTs up to the district level include the Western and Northern regions.



Response to a Public Health Epidemic: Simulation exercise by the GRCS Emergency Response teams

ii. Cholera

During this particular reporting period, the country as usual had the annual cholera outbreaks. The NS played a significant role in combating the outbreak. GRCS was the lead organization in terms of community engagement and mobilization in dealing with the cholera outbreak in the Central region late last year and early this year. In Greater Accra, GRCS was the organization, which had the greatest number of human resources (Volunteers) directly deployed for community engagements and social mobilization for action.

Our Intervention applied the Sword and Shield approach. With this approach, we collaborated with the Health facilities through the Ghana Health Service and deployed trained volunteers to the various health centers. On confirmation of cases, the sword teams were swiftly dispatched to the victim's house and vicinity to fumigate it. After that, they sensitize the residents on the need to consistently maintain personal hygiene (hand washing), adopt proper sanitation practices, undertake regular clean up exercises including the household latrines or their places for defecation.

The Shield team following the action by the Sword team in the household of the victim are then deployed within at least a ten kilometers radius to do community sensitization about the outbreak. They also lead community members in undertaking measures to avoid contracting it. IFRC and Swiss Red Cross provided funding and technical support. A lesson learnt workshop was conducted during this period to guide future operations and deployments.

It is important to note that this team does not operate in isolation. They are closely tied to the Response teams of the Ghana Health Service.

A plan has been drawn to train and build the capacities of all the regions in the usage of this approach. Workshop sessions has been held with regional managers during this reporting period as a first step of introducing them to the concept. Intensive training of sword and shield teams in their regions will follow as the next step.



The Sword team in Action during the Cholera outbreak in Greater Accra

iii. Neo Natal Maternal and Child Health

The NS continues to implement this program across the country through its regional branches. The Mothers Clubs are at the forefront of the activities in the program. We have fortunately been able to secure program-funding support from Swiss Red Cross for the Upper East Regional intervention. For example in the Upper east region the program has been enhanced with the supply of eleven (11) try cycle ambulances to facilitate conveyance of pregnant women in labor to the health facilities for delivery as per their sensitization messages to pregnant women.

UNICEF is also supporting the Central, Ashanti and Eastern regions to also implement this program under the program title 'Communication for Development (C4D)'. Under this collaboration, Mothers Club members were supported with capacity building trainings to enhance their appreciation and understanding of the issues relating to Neo Natal, Maternal and Child health. The training also has modules for adolescent reproductive health. The trainings further included improving their communication skills so they can better

engage their peers. The Mothers Clubs were also supported with logistics including sensitization tool kits among others in addition to budgets for community engagement activities like drama.

The Mothers clubs in the other non-supported regions (in terms of project funds) also carry out this activity as part of their routine Mothers club work as already stated. The NS is currently engaging some corporates eg Nestle, the IFRC and other Movement partners to come on board and support with funding. This is because Neo Nata, Maternal and Child health in addition to adolescent reproductive health remains a critical area in the National health development agenda.



Social & Community mobilization on Neo Natal and Maternal Child health through Drama

iv. Malaria Control

Malaria control especially promoting the use of Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) by vulnerable populations like pregnant mothers and children continues to be part of the routine but intensive activities of the NS especially our mothers club during this reporting period. In recognition of this, the Malaria Control Unit of the Ghana Health Service has recognized Red Cross and subsequently, Ghana Red Cross has been made a member of the National Technical Committee for Malaria control.

GRCS and DELTA Airlines Malaria Control Campaign Cooperation

Based on our record of accomplishment of mobilizing the communities against malaria the National Society secured a one-year funding sponsorship for the Greater Accra and Upper East regions from Delta Airlines. Due to the success of the project execution, the support has been renewed and now even expanded to include Volta Region during the next funding cycle. Staff of Delta Airlines joined our Mothers club during some of their sensitization sessions on usage of the insecticide treated nets as part of their staff requirement to periodically engage in lifesaving voluntary activity. An example is the sensitization organized by the Nima - Maamobi Mothers club in the Greater Accra region

IFRC and PNs Support

The IFRC also supported us to carry out this intervention during this period. The support came through the Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) we applied for during the flood and flood related operations in the country. Insecticide treated nets are always distributed as part of the relief package. The supported communities are in addition to this educated on malaria prevention. Our volunteers also lead the communities in clearing chocked drains that breed mosquitoes.

The CBHFA program originally supported by Finish Red Cross also had Malaria control as a key intervention in the program deliverables. Mothers Clubs and Volunteers in the Central and Brong Ahafo regions were trained in ITN hang up among others. This is because they are required to sensitize and train their community members as part of their work.

Other Partners

Other Development organizations and corporates collaborated with us to carry out this intervention by providing logistical or funding support. They included Lions Clubs and our corporate members through the payment of their membership dues.



Mothers Club members: Community sensitization on Malaria control using Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs)

v. Immunization

The NS efforts using volunteers especially the Youth and Mothers Club to support National Immunization programs is well acclaimed by the Ghana Health Service. A greater part of the Social Mobilization for National immunization programs is done by GRCS. Our Volunteers are deployed and functional in almost all the difficult and hard to reach communities during this exercise.

Due to our record of accomplishment of effectively mobilizing the communities, the NS got a funding support of USD 200 000 to spearhead the 2017 Immunization second doze campaign which took off in August as a way of supporting GHS to meet its target. The World Health Organization has also declared its intention to provide additional funding by coming on board as a funding partner. This support goes primarily to our Immunization social mobilization immunization activities in the Greater Accra, Volta and Northern regions.

vi. Eye care

The eye health program of the NS is still ongoing. The Optical services run by GRCS in Wa and Sunyani are still functional. They have attended to 23,103 patients over the last two years (2016-2017). The National

Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) has given these two facilities accreditation. Delays in reimbursement is however making these two facilities face liquidity challenges.

The other eye health program is a partnership between Swiss Red Cross, Ghana Red Cross and Ghana Health Service. The intervention area is the Northern region. This project is also ongoing and the compact that was supposed to end in 2017 has been extended to 2020. A cumulative total of 690,605 individuals has been reached. Out of this number 253,659 has so far been reached with direct service provision. 436,946 people have also been reached with health promotion and disease prevention education. The volunteers escorted over 3,500 patients to the health facilities for eye surgery and stayed throughout with them in the facility. Schools were also specially targeted with this service. Details of these activities is captured in the Northern Regional Branch Report.



At the Theatre: Ghana Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and Ghana Health Service collaboration in eye health.



GRCS Volunteers supporting the Community outreach and surgery for eye health

Viii. Health sub com meeting

This subcommittee had become dormant for some time. It has however now been resuscitated. The subcommittee is to provide guidance and support to the Health department. The subcommittee is chaired by the Honorary Health advisor and has the National Health Coordinator as its Secretary. The maiden meeting was held in February 2017.

3.2 Specific Objective two (Strengthen Community resilience)

Specific Objective two under this broad objective (enhanced and scale up of NS programs) in the Strategic Plan 2016-2020 seeks to Strengthen Community resilience and institutional capacity to ensure disaster Risk reduction, response and impact mitigation. Programs and Activities carried out under this objective during the reporting period include the following.

I. Disaster Risk Reduction Activities

Emergency Response Teams

We have during this period supported the Regional branches to set up district and in some cases Community Emergency Response teams. In the Northern Region, for example we have established and equipped emergency response teams in all our operational districts. These trainings were done in collaboration with Ghana National Fire Service and NADMO.

The country abounds in water resources (Sea, rivers, lakes lagoons etc). Even though they are a rich natural resource, they pose a threat to the lives of patrons who use it as a means of transport, sports and means of livelihood through fishing etc. In collaboration with NADMO, we have again trained eleven (11) National Trainer of Trainers (ToTs) in swimming and rescue operations relating to drowning. The breakdown of the ToTs are Headquarters 1, Greater Accra 4, Central region 2, Brong Ahafo region 2 and Northern Region 2. Swiss Red Cross provided the funding. The ToTs will cascade downwards the trainings to the volunteers.



Emergency Response teams training on the Volta River in the Northern region

Framework for Community Led Disaster management

Supported by Swiss Red Cross, we have developed a framework for Community led disaster management for the Northern Region. The evidence based and well-researched scientific study has been presented to the Region. The objective of the framework is to aid implementation of DRR actions as specified in the community disaster plans developed.

It was presented to the Regional Minister at a ceremony where the member of Council of State representing the region presided. This was to ensure government and regional ownership. Representatives of all stakeholders were also present at the ceremony. These stakeholders were part of the processes that resulted in the development of the framework for disaster management for the region. The Framework looks at each

district, identifies the community hazards or risks, the causes, patterns, existing traditional ways of dealing with it, local resources available to deal with it, stakeholders and the role each has to play among others.

The development of a similar framework has been commissioned to support the planning and implementation of DRR programs in the upper east Region. It is envisaged that if the recommendations identified are implemented, the same yearly cyclical response by stakeholders to disasters in the region will be minimized.



Presentation Ceremony: Framework for Community Led Disaster Management in the Northern Region

Ghana Elections 2016 and After

Headquarters supported the Regional Branches to organize Peaceful Election parades and programs. Our volunteers also participated during the elections as part of the National Emergency Response team by running first Aid posts at identified flash points and the very dense electoral centers.



Election parade by Ghana Red cross Volunteers in the regions

ii. Relief Support, Provision of Shelter and Restoration of livelihoods

We continued to provide Relief support to disaster victims. For example during the Accra floods and flood related fire explosion, our volunteers were part of the rescue team. We also set up first aid posts and provided first aid to victims, supplied aqua tabs and provided mobile toilets in the most affected communities. We further supported 264 families who were greatly affected with Hygiene kits. We in addition supplied the beneficiaries with mats, Ghana Textile Prints (GTP) cloths, bed sheets, mosquito nets, blankets, buckets and jerry cans among others. The Hygiene kits had the following items in them (Washing soap, Bar soap, Guardian soap, Liquid soap, Towel, Pampers, Tooth paste , Baby diapers, Sanitary pads, washing powder among others. The IFRC, Swiss Red Cross and other organizations like Lions club partnered us to deliver these support.

In addition to the above, we collaborated with Multi Media. Multi Media launched an appeal for funds using their network to raise funds domestically to support victims through us. From the funds generated through this appeal, we were able to give seven hundred and thirty one Ghana Cedis (GHS731.00) each to 230 severely affected victims. This was to serve as a restoration of livelihood support. This is because they had lost their capital or items with which they were applying their trade or business prior to the floods. These monies were paid through SG SSB bank who had agreed to also partner our program and opened bank accounts for the selected victims with a promise to support them with extra funds as loans where applicable.



The NS during the Eastern floods also provided relief support to selected families affected. In addition, we constructed 26 two-room units with toilet, bath and kitchen free of charge to the most vulnerable families who had lost their shelter in the Asunafo district, which was among the worst hit.

iii. Climate change & Food security

Some of the regional branches supported activities relating to climate change and food security. Specific activities included tree planting, crop farming. This activity was prominent in Tepa (Ashanti region) and Abura Asebu Kwaoman Kesse in the Central region. Improved seedlings and grains for planting were also supplied to some farmers in the Upper east region.



Tree Planting and crop farming program by the branches

iv. Tracing and Restoration of family Links

This is also an activity carried out by the disaster department in collaboration with ICRC. It mainly involved tracing requests relating to the refugees who were in camps in the Western, Central and Brong Ahafo regions. The applicants wanted to trace and restore links with family members.

We also did tracing services based on request received from other National Societies who had received such request from their end and wanted our support to do tracing. We furthermore sent authenticated and confirmation of death etc messages (as a Red Cross Message) on behalf of relatives in Ghana to intended recipients. These recipients usually serve in the army of other countries (especially United States of America). We inform them through the American Red Cross to their employers of such occurrence so they can apply for permission and come down.

3.3 Specific Objective three (Ensure there is adequate knowledge in First Aid).

The Specific Objective three under this broad objective is to ensure there is adequate knowledge in First Aid skills and provide first aid services to residents in the country. Activities carried out under this objective during the reporting period included the following

I. First Aid Trainings and Services

Commercial and Community Based First aid training was an ongoing activity during this period. We have in all our operational communities trained our volunteers and community members in community based health and first aid. We have also initiated a program whereby we are training staff of our corporate members First Aid. This is in addition to the First aid training that we offer other corporate entities through our marketing department. For visibility, strengthening of partnership, we during this period trained select staff of office of the President of the Republic. We also trained select personnel of the Police Service First aid. We also trained the Ghana Revenue Authority staff among others.

On First Aid services delivery during event, we continued and provided that service during National and International day celebrations. These celebrations included Independence day, Republic day and Farmers day celebrations just to mention a few. With regards to corporates and churches, we provided First aid services to them during their fun games, durbars, keep fit walks, picnics and excursions among others. Beneficiaries included Multi Media group of companies, Ghana Gas co. Ltd, Tulow Oil, Gh. Ltd, the Catholic Church, International Central Gospel Church, Access Bank Gh. Ltd just to mention a few. We also continued to provide first aid services to the Ghana Premier League during football matches to both the players and spectators



First Aid Training for Community Members and Institutions

ii. Road Safety

Emergency Response and First Aid Post

This service is still functional. The pilot (Emergency Response and First Aid Post with ambulance service) is still operational on the Accra –Tema motorway. We are however having challenges with the engine of the ambulance and are appealing for corporate support to replace it. Central region is also now participating in this service using the two ambulances donated by Italian Red Cross



Under a World Bank facility through the National Road Safety Commission, ten (10) more First Aid posts are to be erected and equipped for operation and management by Ghana Red Cross. Tenders for the construction and supply of First Aid items required has been completed with Ghana Red Cross participating in the process.

Traffic Controls

Added to our Road Safety program is traffic control services (to protect pedestrians who are crossing roads). Our trained volunteers provide this service. The Western Regional branch is piloting this program in partnership with the MTTD of the Ghana Police Service. Based on the lessons learnt from this pilot, we may expand this activity to the other regions.



A Ghana Red Cross Volunteer directing traffic in Western region

3.4 Specific Objective four (Strengthen GRCS capacity in dissemination of Values and Principles)

Specific Objective four under this broad objective is to Strengthen GRCS capacity and role in dissemination of Values and Principles of the Red Cross movement and International Humanitarian Law.

Activities carried out under this objective during the reporting period included the following

i. Dissemination of Red Cross Principles and Values and International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

In partnership with the Ghana Armed Forces and other Security Agencies, we continued the training of the Security services in IHL as part of their training modules and on what Ghana Red Cross is doing in country. The National Society also did disseminations of the Red Cross Principles and Values through the Print and electronic media and workshops. Volunteers were also trained in Values and Principles dissemination. The support for carrying out this activity is provided by the ICRC.



Dissemination of International humanitarian Law to the Security services

3.5 Specific Objective Five: Strengthen communication and sharing of information for enhancing synergized organizational processes within GRCS and for external visibility and accountability

The Specific Objective five under this broad objective requires the NS management to strengthen communication and the sharing of information. This is to propel or enhance synergized organizational processes within GRCS and for external visibility and accountability. The Communication department is developing a communication and information management strategy that will ensure efficient and effective inter and intra communication flow since this is key to the success of the NS. The recommendation for achievement of this strategy will be implemented on submission and approval of the strategy.

To facilitate communication flow, Headquarters currently has telephone and complete internet accessibility. All the regional branches also have internet accessibility to facilitate communication among all the arms and structures of the NS. More however needs to be done to improve inter and intra departmental and NS communication for synergized output. Staff sometimes use personal phone to support delivery of official communication.

i. Communications and Visibility

The NS continues to have frequent Media programs (TV and Radio) using the Beneficiary Communication approach. We also had series of community durbars. Furthermore, we have had several discussion meetings with corporates, development agencies and government organizations either one on one or at stakeholder fora. Additionally, we have produced and marketed the Ghana Red Cross cloth as a means of visibility to the citizenry. We have also in some occasions shown presence at events where potential for accidents and subsequently vulnerability can occur to provide first aid services as a means of visibility. This action item (Communication and Visibility) however needs massive scale up in order to make the Ghana Red Cross a household name. The Communications and Marketing department is to include this point in the communications, visibility and information management strategy they are developing.

ii. World Red Cross Day Celebrations

The Ghana Red Cross Society has during this period also celebrated consistently at the National and Regional levels the World Red Cross day using the themes provided by the Movement and adopting sub themes to suit our situation. The 2017 National celebration was held in Akoko town in the Eastern region. The theme for the celebration was “Red Cross Everywhere for everyone. Did you know?” We used that period to outdoor a small town water system we have provided the Akoko community under an IFRC/Nestle facility.

3.6 Specific Objective Six. Stimulate initiatives for Youth, GRCS Mothers Clubs, Volunteers and Membership. Specific Objective six under this broad objective is to stimulate initiatives for GRCS Youth, Mothers Clubs, Volunteers and Membership for increased self-reliance. Some actions were carried out under this objective during the reporting period. They include the following:

YOUTH

i. Youth Representation in Governance and Management

Currently, a Youth elected by the Youth represents them at the Central Council and Management Committee. A National Youth coordinator (fully paid staff and senior management position) also represents them at the implementation arm (secretariat). This structure cascades to the Regional and district levels. This ensures that the youth who are the future of the NS has a greater say in the policy

development and execution of activities. A Capacity and Needs assessment meeting between Management, Youth representatives and Youth coordinators was held during this period to map the way forward for youth programs and its implementation.

ii. Youth sub Committee of Management Committee

This subcommittee is established though not functional to the level expected. This subcommittee provides guidance and support to the Youth section. Membership of this subcommittee includes representatives from other youth stakeholder organization. The sub- committee is chaired by the National Youth Representative and has the National Youth Coordinator as the Secretary.

iii. German Volunteers

To help build capacity of the youth through mentoring and sharing of experiences, the NS has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the German Red Cross. For the past three years, German Red Cross has been sending youths (for a year stay) to partner our youth in the execution of programs. Some of the program areas include School link programs, Health, and Social mobilization. This year's volunteers are deployed to Greater Accra, Central and the Volta Regional branches.

iv. Hand washing with Ananse Program as a strategy for Personal Hygiene Promotion

The Innovative 'hand washing with Ananse' program in the schools is ongoing. It is supported by IFRC and UNICEF. This concept has won a Global Award and Ghana is now part of the Global Innovators Forum formed by IFRC. Ghana represented by the Youth coordinator participated in the maiden meeting in Spain

v. Millennium Marathon

The NS signed an MoU with organizers of the Millennium Marathon run and for two consecutive years we were the lead partners. Even though the event did not yield us the financial benefits expected, it gave the NS enormous visibility through the international and national adverts and publicity associated with it. This international event has the government of Ghana and notable personalities like Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia and other international marathon runners associated with it. The GRCS Youth were at the front in terms of this program implementation. They lined the marathon routes in well branded GRCS Vests and Aprons to provide water, first aid and directions to the athletes among others. This service was well captured and reported on by both the local and international media.



GRCS Volunteers in a pose with the Marathon Flame during the launch at Movernpic Hotel, Accra.



Marathon Runner Haile Gebrselassie (center) in a pose with dignitaries during the launch



GRCS Volunteers providing services at the Marathon run

Vi. Youth Camp for teaching Red Cross Principles and Values and Skills development

National Youth camps has been held in Upper West and Ashanti Regions during this period. Regional youth Camps were also held by the regions. During these camps, Principles and Values and Skills development are taught in addition to the usual entertainment and team building sessions.



A scene at the 2017 Youth Camp

3.7 Specific Objective seven. Advocate for removal of barriers in policies and programs that prevent the poor and vulnerable from having access to improved services.

Activities carried out under this objective during the reporting period included being part of the lobby group for National Eye Care policy in Ghana and development of the Ghana National Youth Strategy and the National Road Safety Strategy among others.

Development of the Federation Strategy for the future

Ghana, Nigeria and Egypt represented by their Secretaries general represented Africa on a team working on the preparatory framework for the futuristic performance of the Federation and NSs. A Futures meeting was held in Bellagio, Italy in February 2017.

4.0 MAPPING THE WAY FORWARD AND CONCLUSIONS

It can be concluded that the NS is generally on the right track in terms of the GRCS Strategic Plan 2016-2020. This is because the broad objective areas of the strategic plan are being tackled simultaneously and in a balanced manner.

- I. Enhanced Institutional and organizational development for efficient and effective service delivery and self-sustainability
- II. Scale up programs and projects for service delivery to the most vulnerable and affected individuals, households and communities to prevent and alleviate human suffering.

Furthermore, the plan of action backing the strategic plan is also being executed in a measurable manner and against specified indicators. We are also addressing the areas captured in the Ghana's National Development Plan, the Federation Strategy 2020, the Red Cross Movement Addis Ababa Plan of Action 2012 and the Abidjan Plan of action 2017. This is because they are all aligned to our Strategic Plan.

Governance and Management are also engaging government for proper recognition and support deserving of a government auxiliary establish by an Act of Parliament. A meeting for example was held in July 2017 with His Excellency the President of the Republic and Chief Patron to brief him of our activities and challenges. At the meeting which had in attendance the Chief of Staff, Minister for Gender and Social

Protection, Deputy Minister for Health among others representing government, His Excellency requested us to submit a list of the NS Key Priorities (Needs) for his action. The IFRC West Coast (Abuja) Cluster head and the WASH delegate also joined the GRCS governance and management team during the meeting.

Key Priorities presented to His Excellency the President and Chief Patron

- i. Review: Ghana Red Cross Society Act 10, 1958 and Accompanying Constitution.
- ii. Government absorption of Salaries of the forty one (41) Core Staff.
- iii. Support to complete the GRCS headquarters complex with First Aid Training & Resource Center) and one kilometer road leading to the office
- iv. Other Issues Requiring His Excellencies intervention:
 - a. His Excellency to support Volunteerism campaign
 - b. Driver Vehicle & Licensing Authority to engage Ghana Red Cross in the First Aid training for driver applicants since this is a Red Cross International mandate and core competency area.
 - c. Youth skills development and employment through our Bring to Save a Life initiative where rejects from institutions and individuals are collected, refurbished and sold to gain income for the NS activities.
 - d. Hand over to Ghana Red Cross (as an impartial, neutral humanitarian organization) the abandoned vehicles at the Institute of Local Government, Madina Estates, Accra for our operations.



Presentation of GRCS Cloth to His Excellency the Chief Patron & President of Ghana by GRCS President



Decoration of His Excellency with a Red Cross Pin



Group Picture after the meeting

We have also had meetings with our stakeholder organizations especially (Ministry of Health and NADMO), Corporates, UN Agencies, Development Partners and our beneficiary communities all aimed at having strengthening the NS and improving programs. We can summing all these interventions, conclude that the NS is on the right track to become a strong NS able to meet its core cost, have extra for programs implementation, and even support other National Societies in addition to achieving the overall strategic plan goal

KOFI ADDO
SECRETARY GENERAL