

Safer Access Round Table - Africa Region 2018



On November 27-28, the second Safer Access Round Table for English speaking National Societies was held in Kigali with 26 representatives from eight National Societies (Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Liberia, Kenya and Rwanda) along with ICRC cooperation colleagues.

Since the inception of SAF in 2013, National Societies in the African region, have undergone the SAF assessment and planning workshop to address many challenges they face during operations. The objectives of the Round Table was hence to create the environment for key operational staff, top management of National Societies to come together to; (a) learn from each other about their experiences in the practical and concrete application of the Safer Access Framework; (b) to discuss and address challenges and work together to identify solutions to issues of common interest and concerns and c) for the ICRC to foster its contribution to a peer to peer approach amongst National Societies.

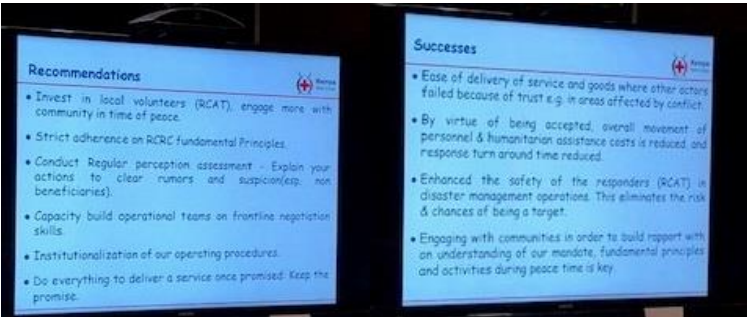


Various topics were discussed and the most common ones were about National Societies being able to develop and sustain strong safety and security systems, mechanisms and procedures that would allow them to operate safely. In addition, all participants agreed that the elements of legal and policy base, communication (internal and external), identification, when supported by strong policies and guidelines contribute to the positive perception in their respective environment. Emphasis was

also noted on peace time engagement and overall positioning with potential stakeholders (state, non-state actors as well as communities/ beneficiaries/ non - beneficiaries) to ease access in times of conflict and emergency and accelerate response and delivery of aid; while complying with the application of the Fundamental Principles.

Finally, growing recognition among the NS was noted regarding the added value of the SAF in their overall NSD plans and operations: SAF rather than being a standalone program or project, is a collective responsibility of National Society at all levels from Headquarters to branch level. While the ownership of SAF lies with the NS, the continuous support of the ICRC and other Movement Partners remain relevant to create a well-coordinated Movement approach to preparedness and response in a given context.

Kenya Red Cross - Successes in Operationalization of SAF & Future Recommendations



Nigeria Red Cross - Achievements & Future Recommendations

