UGANDA RED CROSS EBOLA PREPAREDNESS

More stories inside

Bududa Appeal

- Tweddeko Road safety Caravan
- Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Program
- DRR Day celebrations in Katakwi
Dear readers,

I am delighted to share this fourth edition of the Humanitarian for the year 2018.

It is very enriching with lots of humanitarian stories picked from the communities where Uganda Red Cross Volunteers, staff and members are at the front line of saving lives. This issue, among other things, captures; the efforts of volunteers who are every morning ready to screen people entering Uganda from DR-Congo for Ebola, the humanitarian faces that risk their lives to walk through communities sensitizing people about public health issues through social mobilization, our road safety Campaign dubbed “Tweddeko” in partnership with NTV Uganda, Uganda traffic Police and Vivo Energy Uganda, and our continued efforts to support people affected by the October 11th Mudslide incident in Bududa.

Special thanks to everyone who has responded towards the appeal URCS made in October to support the people of Bududa and neighboring districts at risk. Appreciation goes to Worship Harvest Ministries Church, UMEME Ltd, MTN Uganda, Exquisite Solutions, Uganda National Council of Science and Technology, Companies under the Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA), and individuals. Most of items donated have been distributed to the affected families, while others will reach them before Christmas. This will be their Christmas package. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable people.

Lastly, I want to interest you to appreciate a certain software called “Kobo”, which is used to collect data before and after community case interventions. Uganda Red Cross also uses drama and mobile cinemas to promote Health messages in rural Uganda. This is part of how we ensure that people get access to vital information that keeps them alive and healthy, but also bring innovations that humanitarian actors like the Red Cross globally are using to quickly respond to emergencies and save lives.

I invite you to read the detailed stories and enjoy our publication.

I wish you a merry Christmas and happy new year 2019 together with your families.

 Cheers!
Note from the Secretary General

URCS on a move towards innovation: leaving nobody behind

This season brings glad tidings to all communities around us. I am glad to share this message with you as we all celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. As many of you break off for Christmas, Uganda Red Cross staff and Volunteers are like front line soldiers. They will continue offering humanitarian services to the people we serve. Some staff are on standby- and others are available to respond to any call where the public needs our services. To us, this is the true meaning of Christmas, sharing our love with those in need.

Thank you for walking the year 2018 with us. As we crown it, we take time to reflect on the key successes we achieved and the challenges we encountered as we pursued the tasks we set out to accomplish, as an institution by end of the year.

On behalf of the entire Uganda Red Cross team, I thank the staff, Volunteers, and members for the hard work, team spirit and concerted efforts put in to ensure that we deliver on our humanitarian mandate.

I also thank our dear partners and donors for trusting Uganda Red Cross with your resources. We have walked a great year of recovery with your support and great cheer! We have been able to deliver on the key mandates of the National society through your committed support. Thank you and may the collaboration and partnership spirit grow even stronger in 2019.

2019 is going to be unique in many ways as we are going to shift our focus towards improving innovative ways to ensure sustainable funding. We are well positioned, with our partners, to come up with new and improved systems in detection of disasters and outbreaks before they happen. We have devised means to rely on real time alerts that are low-cost, low- resource and adaptable. We have already rolled this out in our Community epidemic and pandemic preparedness program in the highly risky Ebola targeted districts; Bundibugyo, Kabarole, Kanungu, Ntoroko, Bunyangabu and so on.

The New Year will also centre on further strengthening of what makes us unique in our work, Volunteers. We continue to build capacity for our volunteers and train them various skills needed for them to be able to sufficiently deliver in their respective capacities. We will also further equip our 51 branches across the country with the capacity they need and ensure growth and impact is felt in society.

Some of the highlights of the year have been:

- Continued support towards the South Sudan refugee operation where we are a key player in Health and WASH services, ensuring adequate supply of safe and clean water, relief non-food items distribution, restoration of broken family links, hygiene promotion through latrine construction, supporting women and adolescent mothers, supporting persons with special needs among others.

- Response to the DR-Congo refugee influx since December 2017. We managed the first arrivals at the reception centres, set up initial structures for accommodation until Government established official structures to settle them. Uganda Red Cross managed the Cholera outbreak that proceeded the influx in the settlement. From the onset when refugees entering Uganda via DR-Congo came with severe Cholera cases.

The Humanitarian 2018

Read full Secretary General’s Christmas and end of year message on page 16-18
Communication as Aid; Using music and drama to disseminate Ebola prevention messages in Kabarole district, South Western Uganda.

As Ebola remains a major health threat to Uganda, a number of preparedness interventions have been put in place to avert the epidemic.

The Ebola outbreak broke out in neighboring DR-Congo in August 2018. Given the proximity of Uganda to North Kivu province, where a number of people have died of the same disease, Uganda remains among the countries with the highest risk of getting Ebola.

Since December 2017, Uganda started receiving refugees from DR-Congo and with the confirmation of Ebola, Uganda has been on toes while guarding its porous borders from letting in people with Ebola.

The Ministry of Health in Uganda has marked 7 districts ranked at high risk due to their proximity to the high risk areas in DR-Congo with Ebola. Among those in Uganda include Kabarole, Kasese, Bundibugyo, Bunyangabu, Kanungu, Kisoro and Ntoroko. A lot of trade goes on in these areas and this makes them stand higher chances of exposure with people from Congo whom are highly susceptible.

Uganda Red Cross in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF Uganda, World Food program, the International Federation of the Red Cross / Crescent have come together to support the Ebola preparedness as a means of preventing Ebola but also managing it should there be any cases.

Over 180 Red Cross volunteers have been trained and deployed to conduct risk communication and social mobilization in all the 7 high risk districts through conducting home visits, engaging communities through community gatherings, sharing IEC materials on Ebola, screening all entrants at boarder points, conducting hygiene promotion among other interventions.

In Kabarole district music and drama is an innovative health approach to passing on Ebola messages to the local communities. It is a faster, effective and easier way of engaging communities to understand Ebola, how it is spread, how to avoid it, until the cycle of burial is managed should one die.

Uganda Red Cross mobilized a group of community members, women and men to start up a drama group. These compose Ebola related songs and plays and perform in their communities. The group in Harrugongo Sub County is led by Mrs. Grace Safari 51, a dedicated Red Cross community based volunteer.

“We started in September after a thorough training by the Red Cross. We then started recruiting members who had the various talents to help us put together songs and a drama which we would take to the communities. Our music and plays basically re-
mind people that Ebola is real and encourage them to avoid it through the prevention messages we include.” Said Safari

Harugongo drama group has 25 members so far, two writers who are also the choir leaders, five instrumentalists, dancers and other group members. They have so far written 10 songs about Ebola and one play. In their songs, they emphasize how to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus, how to handle someone with Ebola symptoms (suspected case) and how to handle a dead body and burial of the Ebola victim. According to the group these are some of the key messages that the communities need to learn about Ebola.

“Through music and drama, people understand the message so fast and easily and this has helped a lot. We sing and act in our own local language which the communities appreciate very much. The children have found our messages very clear and interesting and they enjoy seeing us perform. It is always good to know that the children are well prepared for such an outbreak and have the knowledge to prevent it” Safari added.

The group meets at a local church in the e sub county. The church helps them with some instruments and seats to use during their performances. Ibrahim Baguma 34, is one of the writers in the group. He is passionate about music and grew up dreaming of becoming a great artist who would sing to improve the lives of people in his society. Ibrahim never went to school all his life but found perfect joy in writing songs and serving in his local church. He believes through music and drama he is able to reach the educated people who he wouldn’t access Otherwise. “I did not go to school. I cannot just go around telling educated people about Ebola. These are doctors, teachers and nurses, who am I to talk to them about these things? But through music and drama, I attract their attention and they appreciate me and the message. It gives me great joy to know that my songs help transform my community and help my people prepare for this killer endemic” said Baguma.

According to the District Health Office in Kabarole district, this is one of the greatest ideas in place to fight and avoid the spread of Ebola because music is regarded as the biggest form of entertainment. It gathers big numbers of people at once.

“Whenever drama is staged in a place, people will always come. It is a form of entertainment and the mes-
message is still carried home. Through this intervention, people can watch and listen at the same time which further drives the message. We have put a technical person in place to move with the drama to answer all questions that might arise from the audience about Ebola. This therefore allows easy and immediate feedback” said Brian Kisembo, a member of the district health task force in the District Health Officer’s office in Kabarole.

The role played by the drama team so far has been enormous and much appreciated by the communities and the authorities. From the plays and songs, people have and become more precautious. No wonder suspected case in the district was iden-

“We identified one of the suspect-watching the Ebola drama re- with most of the symptoms walked to us and asked our out. The suspect had indeed few weeks back and had not point where screening is

According to the Red Cross district, it had increasingly people in their homes during tions and social mobilization, an addition of music and dra-people at their places of work “We first concentrated on house we later realized people ae not all lot of businesses. we then resorted to one of the key communication methods illy to communities through edutainment.” Said Kabarole district.

In August 2018 the Ministry Of Health and W.H.O declared an Ebola outbreak in DR Congo which has so far claimed over 250 people, with 457 more confirmed cases. This has led to intensified preparedness activities around the border areas in Uganda.

The Uganda Red Cross with support from partners continues to scale up Ebola preparedness interventions at all the border points with DR-Congo and in communities that are at risk. Uganda has never had any confirmed Ebola case since the fresh outbreak in DR-Congo in August 2018.

Ibrahim, one of the characters in the Ebola drama, and the lead singer expressing the agony related with the Ebola epidemic
There is no one who understands a community better than its own members. Community challenges are best known to its people and solutions are always with the same people. Uganda Red Cross employs the ‘community based volunteer approach’ which allows volunteers picked and trained from the communities to deal with their own people and present their community’s needs. With support from USAID Uganda through the International Federation of the Red Cross, Uganda Red Cross is implementing a community based preparedness program that focuses on epidemics and pandemics dubbed CP3 Project.

The Community is trained to be able to detect potential disease outbreaks and also respond through reporting the signs and eventually participate in the response to save lives.

This community based Surveillance as an innovative way to detect outbreaks before they happen or immediately they happen and manage them in the fastest way possible to save people’s lives.

Today, Uganda is one of the countries at risk for Ebola following the confirmed outbreak in neighboring DR-Congo. As the Ebola threat continues to loom around the Uganda-Congo boarder, Uganda Red Cross has trained over 300 Volunteers in communities close to DR-Congo in districts like Bundibugyo, Kasese, Ntoroko, Bunyangabu, Kisoro, Kabale, Kanungu among others to carry out surveillance and risk communication activities, including screening for all people entering the country.

In some busy communities, a special data collection

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App called “Kobo-Collect” was introduced and about 50 volunteers have been trained to use it. This is to enable the reporting of any epidemic alerts in real time at low costs and resources for early response.

“We trained our volunteers to use this real time mobile system to help us detect any epidemic alerts in the community. These communities are near the border and are at high risk. We have a lot of movement across the border, especially on market days and the risk of an Ebola outbreak is imminent. This is why we have relied on our community based volunteers to use this technology as a surveillance tool to further keep Ebola out of Uganda but also sensitize the people about Ebola.” Said Dr. Joseph Kasumba, the Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Program officer in Bundibugyo district.

Majority of the trained volunteers have already started working in communities where they hold sessions with community members and sensitize them about Ebola. Others like Adam Mugenyi have already sent out alerts to their supervisor and highly commend the system.

“I have so far sent two alerts to my supervisor. I am proud that the community trusts me and in case of any suspicions, I am the first one they call. After my door to door movements, a lady called and told me her grand-daughter was sick with what she described as Ebola symptoms. I checked on the child, indeed she was bleeding and had bloody diarrhea. She also had blood in her urine. I then called my supervisor and informed him about it. I was amazed to see a response in just 25 minutes. They checked on the girl, took her to hospital and fortunately she tested negative for Ebola. I kept checking on the family to ensure that they were doing the right hygiene practices. I am so proud of my work, I believe I saved her life” Adam said.

In Bundibugyo district which is in South Western Uganda, community based surveillance system is at preparedness phase where surveillance, monitoring and reporting is a great effort in partnership with stakeholders like WHO, UNICEF Uganda, Ministry of Health, World Food Programme.

Volunteers submit reports by short message service (SMS) or forms which upload to a computer system for automated data processing. Reports can be designed for very basic analogue phones or modern touch phones and used by people with no experience, and minimal literacy with a well-designed training approach.

This is done through the Red Cross Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Program (CP3) which collaborates closely with Ministry of Health, health care workers, sectors for animal health, agriculture and environment, development partners, civil society, and the communities themselves.

“We have been trained in this approach by the Red Cross and we have worked closely with them to tackle community epidemics in this region. Given that Ebola is the major threat at the moment, all efforts have been focused on prevention and preparedness because of our proximity to neighboring Congo where Ebola has already killed many people. The future of this project is very bright and the government always welcomes such support and collaborations.” Said Dr. Samson Ndyana-baisi, the District Veterinary Officer, Bundibugyo district.

URCS has trained and deployed over 360 volunteers who are doing risk communication, social mobilization and Ebola screening at the border. Other interventions like edutainment through use of music and drama, community engagement through mobile cinema have also been employed to ensure that people access messages on Ebola and communities are prepared to cope despite the high risk.

In August 2018 World Health Organization declared an Ebola outbreak in Congo where over 250 people have died from the epidemic. Uganda has been on high alert and Uganda Red Cross with support in partnership with other partners and government structures that include the Ministry of Health, Unicef Uganda, W.H.O, USAID and IFRC, has been at the center of Ebola prevention and preparedness especially around the Uganda-Congo border.
Road users sensitized about road safety ahead of the festive season.

“This is a very dangerous season on the road and the perfect time for this road safety campaign. This is the 3rd year we are doing this and the second edition of the caravan. This year’s caravan has been brought along this Jinja-Kampala road highway. Last year we took it to Kampala – Masaka highway. We focus on educating and engaging road users along the busy highways on road safety.” said Gilbert Assi, the Managing Director Vivo Energy Uganda.

Every December, as we approach the festive season, a number of fatal accidents claim lives of people. This is because of over-speeding, among other factors since motorists usually drive up-country to enjoy festive seasons with their extended families and friends. Away from Kampala, some drivers want to make more trips and maximize profits, while others want to come to town to sell merchandise. The heavy traffic makes the roads busier than usual.

According to the Annual Traffic and Road safety report for Uganda, there were 13,244 road accidents in 2017 and most of these happened towards the end of the year. The same report reveals that 3,000 people died during these accidents while 10,000 were injured.

Vivo energy in partnership with Uganda Red Cross society, Ministry Of Works And Transport, NTV Uganda in 2016 came up with a road safety campaign to sensitize road users on major highways about road usage and safety. This was dubbed “Tweddeko” meaning “let’s re-think our ways”. Most of these accidents can be avoided if road users became a little more careful.

“The campaign started in February in 2016 with an initial focus on television messages on road safety until last year when the caravan edition was introduced. This includes a mobile cinema with testimonials and other road safety messages. This is accompanied by a fleet of vehicles and patrol that make stop overs at major towns along the highway. The caravan made its maiden convoy on Masaka road last year and thousands of road users were engaged.

This year’s caravan has been brought on Jinja road which has the biggest traffic flow in Uganda, given its connection to Kenya border and beyond. The road is also considered one of the deadliest in Africa. Let us not forget that road safety is shared responsibility. Jinja road is our gateway to the sea and is the route that carries 90% of the goods that are imported to Uganda. It has more traffic than any other road in Uganda and this increases the risk of road accidents” said Mr. Benon Kajuna, the Director Transport, Ministry Of
Works And Transport. The road crosses to Kenya through Malaba, then to Nairobi and up to Mombasa. He added.

There were two road safety caravans, one started off at Namwange towards Jinja and the other one moved from Jinja town towards Kampala. The two teams then met at Mabira forest for the closing ceremony. The convoy was joined by the minister for works and transport Eng. Monica Azuba Ntege who applauded the initiative and pledged the ministry’s continued support.

“The ministry would like to pledge continued collaboration with all likeminded partners in the fight against road carnage. We have set up a multisectoral team to prepare a paper detailing measures for reducing road carnage and this work is about to be completed and the paper will be presented to cabinet in January 2019,” said the Hon. Minister before flagging off the caravan.

During this exercise, Uganda Red Cross equipped the different road users with knowledge and tips on how to respond or handle someone who has been involved in an accident. They also learnt the basics of first aid. This was done through demonstration of live simulations and accident skits. Road safety messages and testimonies were also played for the participants on the mobile cinema. They also received the Highway Code manual book, road signs posters and stickers. A few participants walked away with reflector jackets as well. At the major towns, the caravan targeted taxi drivers, boda-boda cyclists, pedestrians and their leaders in those areas.

Road safety is a collective responsibility. We can avoid most of the accidents.

“The Day in the world, 17th November is marked as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims to remember those who died or were injured from road crashes and the plight of their loved ones who must cope with the consequences of their deaths or injuries. As such, we encourage the people of Uganda to keep safe, observe traffic rules and do everything possible within their means to avoid road accidents. Tweedeeko, every life matters!” said Mr. Miti Lwanga, lead first aid instructor on the caravan.
Being a refugee might be one of life’s biggest challenges. It comes with a lot of deprivations, trauma and other limitations. Thousands of refugees in the world go hungry, others just fall sick and die, and any are killed by the stress and circumstances while stress and boredom linger on majority. Everyone cherishes being in their home country, peaceful, working, studying and have a happy family life.

For many years, South Sudan has been raging with war and this has pushed over a million refugees into Uganda. Despite Uganda’s friendly refugee policy, these still stay in settlements, with a small chunk of land, only a few household items, and still get food rations.

Story continues to page 11
would become my future husband.” Said Stella, as she reminisced with nostalgia about the olden days.

After high school, the two moved back to South Sudan and Kennedy started working at the airport. Unfortunately, against her will, Stella couldn’t proceed to university as there was no money for university tuition, she just kept waiting and praying for the day she would go back to school. The two eventually got married after Kennedy met her parents in 2015.

“The parents on both ends were happy for us. Her parents loved the fact that we were from the same tribe (Kakwa) and this made it easy for the cultures to blend. I was asked to take a few cows as dowry, but because of the war, this arrangement was sabotaged. I was still working to raise money for the cows when the war broke out and we fled the country.” Said Kennedy

The war in South Sudan intensified in 2016 and by this time, Kennedy and Stella already had one child; Patricia. Stella lived in Yei with her Kennedy’s mother since she was already accepted to live with Kennedy’s family. Kennedy was working at the airport, some good distance away from his family. When the war broke out, Stella was very pregnant. She ran to Uganda with Kennedy’s mother and their daughter Patricia. Kennedy was at work and they couldn’t communicate with him.

“We were forced to leave him behind. The situation was getting out of hand, we were all scared. They slaughtered our neighbors the night before we ran and this compelled us to take off. We run with nothing. On the road, we suffered a lot, there was no food or water, I had a young baby, I was pregnant for our second child and then I had to help Kennedy’s mother, who is old now. Some people died on the road and others fell sick. We were so happy and relieved when we reached Uganda” Stella narrated the ordeal.

When Stella reached in Uganda, she gave birth to their second child. This was in the refugee settlement in Uganda. It took Stella and Kennedy seven months to see each other again. There was no connection at all until through the Red Cross restoration of family links program, Stella got to know that Kennedy was nearby in Bidibidi settlement. Kennedy had also fled after his family left, but had no idea whether his family was safe or not. Through the Red Cross family tracing program, he got to know that his family was alive in a refugee settlement in Uganda. He however had no idea it was so close to his.

“When I got to know where they lived, I couldn’t stop visiting. They were really suffering when I found them. There was no food, no land and life was hard. They clearly missed a father. I had to bribe security to allow me sneak in to check on my family every day. This is why I requested Uganda Red Cross and other authorities to let me join my family here in

Kennedy and Stella started dating way back in secondary school when they were both students in Uganda

Kennedy would sneak into the settlement even at night just to be with his family. He requested the Red Cross RFL to reunite him with his family.
Imvepi refugee settlement.” The family recalls the joy and jubilations when they were reunited.

“When I saw him again, I felt life come back. We were worried that he hadn’t made it out alive. We really thank God for having kept him alive and brought him back to us” said Stella.

After reuniting with his family, Kennedy got an opportunity to become a Red Cross volunteer in his community where he helps in translations during psychosocial, health and hygiene promotion activities carried out by Uganda Red Cross in the settlements. From his small facilitation, he has been able to look after his family. His wife Stella also volunteers at a nearby nursery school as a care taker for children. The two have never given up hopes of going back to school and have applied for a few scholarship opportunities within the settlement. Stella wants to study Public Health at the university and Kennedy wants to get more qualifications  to get him a better paying job here in Uganda.

When asked about going back to South Sudan, Stella had this to say; “I can’t, I can never go back to that place. I just want to go back to school and we comfortably live here.!”

Corporate companies join URCS to support families affected by the Bududa landslide.

Following the launch of the Bududa public appeal by URCS on October 17th 2018, a number of corporate bodies and other members of the public have responded by massively contributing both food and non food items.

The corporate bodies and institutions that participated included MTN, Umeme, Exquisite solutions, Harvest worship and UMA. The items were distributed to the beneficiaries in Bududa on 21st December.
On 13th October 2018 Uganda Red Cross joined the rest world to celebrate Disaster risk reduction day. The celebrations were held in Katakwi district under the theme Reducing the economic loss of disasters. URCS exhibited some of the flood resistant hats that were produced to counter floods in this region.

URCS staff capacity and team building workshop 2018

URCS staff and volunteers underwent a five days team building and planning workshop that happened between 19th and 23rd November at the national headquarters. The team also celebrated the end of year with the traditional culture of exchanging gifts and cutting cake by staff and partners.
A scene from the Ebola Drama portraying the safe and dignified burial (SDB) process

The URCS Safe and dignified burial team arrives for a simulation exercise in Kabarole district

The URCS CP3 officer in Bundibugyo sets up the project to be used for a mobile cinema session about Ebola prevention
A URCS staff engages a business owner in Kampala about business preparedness.

A URCS Community based volunteer shares with during her risk communication home visits in Bundibugyo.

Health Promotion volunteers in West Nile visiting an expectant mother to see how committed she has been to her antenatal care activities and visits.

An RFL assistant mobilising people in Kyangwali refugee settlement to come for RFL services.
This season brings glad tidings to all communities around us. I am glad to share this message with you as we all celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. As many of you break off for Christmas, Uganda Red Cross staff and Volunteers are like front line soldiers. They will continue offering humanitarian services to the people we serve. Some staff are on standby- and others are available to respond to any call where the public needs our services. To us, this is the true meaning of Christmas, sharing our love with those in need.

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- Response to the DR-Congo refugee influx since December 2017. We managed the first arrivals at the reception centers, set up initial structures for accommodation until Government established official structures to settle them. Uganda Red Cross managed the Cholera outbreak that proceeded the influx in the settlement. From the onset when refugees entering Uganda via DR-Congo came with severe Cholera cases.

- Uganda Red Cross response to flash floods in Teso and Karamoja regions from March to July 2018. Our teams also responded to floods in Kasese, Kiryandongo, Kabale and Isingiro. We also responded to a number of fires that happened throughout the year including in Ssese Islands, Mukono, Kalangala and in Rakai.

- Response to Mudslide Victims in Bududa in October 2018. (This is still on-going)

- Response to Cholera outbreaks in Kampala and neighboring districts from March to July 2018.

- Mobilizing safe blood for emergency blood transfusion

- Offering community health through first aid services and emergency community ambulance services and rescue.

- Continued Risk reduction and livelihood projects in Eastern (Mt. Elgon) and North – eastern Uganda.

- We have been at the center of the ongoing Ebola prevention and preparedness on the Uganda-Congo Boarder. We have trained our volunteers in community based surveillance and other early warning systems. We have also trained them in dead body management and safe and dignified burial. We continue to offer screening services at all points of entry and our community based volunteers have intensified social mobilization and risk communication engagements.

While undertaking the above lifesaving interventions, Uganda Red Cross also trained more volunteers and recruited more staff as part of building capacity of the National society to be able to handle emergencies whenever they occur. This is part of our mandate and we are glad to have supported more than 4.5 million people in our operations.

The year 2018 is the second year that saw URCS into progressive implementation of the new strategic plan 2017-2020, the new policies and systems, and full time implementation of the whole Change / transformation process of the National Society. This is part of what the new Red Cross stands for while ensuring a high level of professionalism, transparency, zero toler
ance to fraud, equity and meaningful programming.

With all lose ends fixed, we are in business with many partners and others are coming on board to join the humanitarian cause of saving lives.

Notwithstanding some challenges while endeavoring to bring back the National society to total recovery, we recorded traces of transitional resistance and sabotage, hangover of the previous institutional cultural orientations, red tape, change fever among others. We will however continue to uphold the values of integrity, professionalism and accountability while we adhere to our call to responsiveness as we carry out our core mandates.

Worth to mention, the road to bridging gaps in disaster response and management in this country is progressive. Through the Office of the Prime Minister, we started on the disaster Law framework, tabled before legislators and we await to see the Bill in place sooner than later.

The process of revising the Red Cross Act is also steadfast and this will strengthen and consolidate the position of the National Society.

I wish you a joyous Christmas and fruitful New Year 2019.

Secretary General

Robert Kwaresga
SECRETARY GENERAL

Everywhere for Everyone!
Editorial

IRENE NAKASIITA
PR & COMMS CORDINATOR

ESTHER KYOKUTAMBA
COMMS VOLUNTEER

AGGREY K. NYONDWA
COMMS VOLUNTEER

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MTN PROCEDURE
Dial *165#, Select Payments (No. 4)
Select Next (00), Goods and Services (No. 8)
Enter Merchant code: redcross
Enter Payment Reference: Your name
Enter Amount, Enter PIN to confirm

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Dial *185#, Select Pay Bills
Select Others
Enter Business Number (700103)
Enter Amount/ Reason for Payment
Confirm Pay, Enter PIN

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