

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Disaster Risk Reduction

Appeal No. MAA00022

21/04/2009

This report covers the period 01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008.



Community involvement in disaster risk mitigation in Nepal. **Nepal Red Cross Society**

In brief

Programme purpose: To reduce the number of deaths and vulnerability to disasters through the development and effective use of national, regional, and international Red Cross and Red Crescent capacities and resources.

Programme(s) summary: Over the last 20 years, the Red Cross Red Crescent – in collaboration with numerous partners – has been actively engaged with communities in making them safer and more resilient. However, there is a lot more that can be done to further enhance community safety. In order to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the priorities set in the Hyogo Framework for Action, more effort and continued focus on risk reduction is needed in order for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to fulfil their mandates as auxiliaries to their respective governments.

The focus of the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction is on scaling up activities at the community level to ensure safe and resilient communities. This will be achieved by targeting the scaling up of 20 National Society programmes, namely Bangladesh, Botswana, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gambia, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Morocco, Nepal, Panama, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Tonga. Further to the 20 countries, an application was submitted to the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) to implement disaster risk reduction programmes in advocacy, capacity building and social network development for an additional eight National Societies namely; Albania, Armenia, Ecuador, Malawi, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda and Solomon Islands over the coming three years. At the end of the five-year project

period, the indicators developed from the situational analysis will enable the International Federation to demonstrate the clear increase and impact of the disaster risk reduction-related activities. Senegal and Burkina Faso's applications have been approved by the World Bank GFDRR's South-South Cooperation Trust Fund. Further, the ProVention Consortium will provide support to one National Society (Gambia), as the department works to merge the proposed outcomes of the Global Alliance on disaster risk reduction with ProVention's pioneering community resilience fund.

Financial situation: The 2008 appeal for DRR was budgeted at CHF 575,548 (USD 548,141 and EUR 383,699) of which 100 per cent covered. Expenditure overall was 45 per cent. The low expenditure rate can be attributed to the fact that the preparatory phase took longer than anticipated hence the programme's implementation will not start until 2009. Further, the budget had factored in two workshops. The expenses for the first workshop (Oslo meeting) were covered by the Norwegian Red Cross Society, and the second meeting has been postponed to early 2009. Also, since the appeal coverage was slow and the money did not come in until later in the year, the disaster risk reduction position was charged to an alternate budget for an initial six month period.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

No. of people we help: At least 23.5 million people have benefited from disaster management- (primarily disaster response) related activities in 2008. The focus of the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction is on scaling-up activities at the community level to ensure safe and resilient communities. This will be achieved through targeting the capacities and programmes of 20 National Societies in the Americas, Asia Pacific and Africa by reaching out to 30 per cent of the most vulnerable. Implementation of the programme is to start in 2009.

Our partners: To further its agenda in disaster risk reduction, the International Federation continues to strengthen its relationships with key global partners such as the World Bank – Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the South-South Cooperation Trust Fund, the Japanese Social Development Fund and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee members (IASC) working group on risk-informed humanitarian action. It is a member of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), and participates in the global platform for disaster risk reduction. It also works in collaboration with the ProVention Consortium.

Context

Disaster risk reduction initiatives encapsulate the growing recognition that relief is not enough in reducing disaster occurrence, and that resilient communities, in fact, are the key to reducing the impact and severity of natural hazards when they strike. During 2007 alone, more than 281 million people were affected by natural hazards.¹ Equally alarming is the projection, that should current trends continue, annually 100,000 lives will be lost each year, while the costs of natural disasters will be in excess of US\$ 300 billion per year by 2050.² These vulnerabilities become even more pronounced in poorer nations where it is estimated that 97 per cent of all people killed by natural disasters each year occur in developing countries.³

The challenge remains in keeping the spotlight on disaster risk reduction efforts and maintaining the engagement of concerned actors, including governments and donors, on the issue at hand. Although relief and emergency appeals procure greater investment and

¹ International Federation (2008), World Disasters Report

² SEI, IUCN, IISD: Coping with Climate Change: Environmental Strategies for Increasing Human Security, August 2001 (Source: Munich Re and UNEP).

³ World Bank, World Development Report, 2000-1:170.

garner greater global advocacy and resource mobilization, studies have indicated that investment in disaster risk reduction is highly cost-effective, and more importantly has a profound impact in saving lives and livelihoods when natural hazards strike. Studies show that US\$ 4-10 can be saved in the cost of recovery post-disasters for every US\$ 1 spent on disaster risk reduction⁴. The challenge remains in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction throughout humanitarian and development programmes, and accruing the necessary financial investment and institutional support to maintain it.

The Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Africa Food Security initiative both create opportunities, through the building of safer and more resilient communities to contribute to achieving the MDGs, and to overall development solutions for vulnerable populations.

Further, in moving the policy agenda of disaster risk reduction at the global level, the International Federation continues to lead an IASC working group on “risk informed humanitarian action,” and has provided a significant contribution to two European Union (EU) initiatives: that of developing an EU wide “communication” on disaster risk reduction and on an evaluation of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into humanitarian action.

The zone and National Society plans for 2008 to 2009 indicate that around 160 countries worldwide are committed to the implementation of disaster risk reduction programmes ranging from information and awareness raising, assessment, community-based disaster preparedness and the implementation of local disaster risk reduction projects. Final goal 3.1 of the Agenda for Humanitarian Action was adopted at the International Conference of 2003 which is specially related to disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness and disaster response. It received 35 pledges from National Societies. The declaration on climate change incorporating disaster risk reduction at the International Conference of 2007 received 50 pledges from National Societies. Regional conferences have demonstrated strong commitment to disaster risk reduction – the Americas (Guayaquil 2007) and Asia Pacific (Singapore 2006). The Pan African Conference in Algiers in 2004 gave long-term commitment to the importance of building community resilience around food security.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Risk Reduction Promotion

Objective 1: To increase community orientation in global and national disaster risk reduction policies, and to strengthen national and local institutions for disaster risk reduction.

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s)

- Consistent and effective National Society participation in national platforms for disaster risk reduction to promote community-centred approaches through planning, the sharing of good practices and lessons learned, as well as advocacy for community action.
- Consistent and effective secretariat participation in the global ISDR system, including the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to promote community-centred approaches through the sharing of good practices and lessons learned, strengthened results management, and advocacy for community action.

⁴ www.emdat.be/Documents/Outputs/ATRISK.pdf

- Disaster risk reduction issues are regularly featured in the department's annual flagship publication, the World Disasters Report.

Achievements

During the course of 2008, the International Federation, in collaboration with over 80 National Societies, has produced a *Framework for community safety and resilience* to guide its National Societies on the implementation of disaster risk reduction activities. The framework acknowledges the importance of key activities such as community-based disaster preparedness, early warning, education, public awareness, and the auxiliary status of National Societies to their respective governments. It also goes on to highlight the importance of addressing the unique disaster risk profile of each country. Further, the country-level assessment and analysis, and the final implementation of plan and budgets incorporating the areas of zone and secretariat support has been finalized based on a template developed by the different zones. The data collected has improved the Federation-wide situational analysis, and will help the department give profile to disaster risk reduction practice that can further assist the identification of capacity and knowledge-sharing needs.

Further, in moving the policy agenda of disaster risk reduction at the global level, the International Federation continues to lead an IASC working group on "risk informed humanitarian action," and has provided a significant contribution to two EU initiatives: that of developing an EU- wide "communication" on disaster risk reduction, and on an evaluation of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into humanitarian action.

A working meeting on the Global Alliance involving Partner National Societies, Host National Societies, staff from the zones (particularly the Reference Group set up during the disaster management coordinators meeting at the end of February 2008), secretariat staff in Geneva, and ProVention, to provide input to the Global Alliance planning process was held on 20 and 21 August 2008 in Oslo. The meeting reviewed and commented on the situational analysis and the framework for community safety and resilience, and confirmed a broad acceptance of the Global Alliance as a mechanism for delivering scaled-up disaster risk reduction initiatives. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the disaster preparedness and risk reduction working group with the zonal reference groups and key Host National Societies, in London in November 2008 to provide input for the Global Alliance planning process at the national, zonal and global level. A follow-up meeting supported by the Norwegian Government through the Norwegian Red Cross Society will take place in Oslo in February 2009. The aim of the meeting will be to promote the Global Alliance and the International Federation's disaster risk reduction agenda. It will also be an opportunity to develop partnerships and mobilize resources.

In December 2008, the International Federation and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP14) in Poznan, Poland. Prior to this conference, an informal task force on climate change was formed within the IASC, which enabled the International Federation to further its agenda with a number of other humanitarian organizations in the field.

The International Federation, through its zone office in West and Central Africa, is working towards bridging gaps between climatologists and the humanitarian actors, as there is a need for synergy. In order to achieve this, the zone office organized a four-day climate risk management workshop in Dakar in October 2008. The workshop aimed to familiarize those concerned with the nature and use of climate risk management tools and meteorological information in order to translate these tools into community actions. A major outcome of the workshop was that a memorandum of understanding was signed with the regional climate centres defining the framework for collaboration for a formal partnership agreement. Further,

it was agreed that the Red Cross Red Crescent will be represented in the regional climate outlook forum for West Africa, Cameroon and Chad (PRESAO) and the regional climate outlook forum for Central Africa (PRESAC) meetings.

The World Bank GFDRR's South-South Cooperation Trust Fund organized a partnership meeting in Delhi in October 2008 with the aim of bringing humanitarian development agencies together to discuss the strategy for implementing the South-South Trust Fund. The Fund assists the collaboration and partnership between organizations and institutions in the South to develop and promote the disaster risk reduction agenda. Two National Societies from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) zone, the Jordan National Red Crescent Society and the Yemen Red Crescent Society have submitted proposals to obtain funding from the Japanese Social Development Fund through the World Bank. These two proposals are currently being reviewed by the World Bank.

Further, clear roles and responsibilities in disaster risk reduction are being assigned and the necessary resources mobilized at different levels. The Malaysian Red Crescent Society, for example, has set up disaster management coordination centres in five zones of the country, expanded its network of chapters and branches to disaster-prone areas, and clarified the responsibilities of and resources for each level with regard to disaster risk reduction activities.⁵ The Cambodian Red Cross Society is currently implementing a nationwide disaster preparedness programme, which is supporting the decentralization of initial disaster response responsibilities to the 24 branches across the country.

In using the *World Disasters Report*, the flagship publication of the International Federation to disseminate key messages around disaster risk reduction, the 2008 edition of this report focused on *HIV and AIDS* – both as a disaster within its own right, and in the context of natural disasters. In 2009, the report will focus on *early warning early action*. The report will be launched on 17 June 2009 during the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Constraints and Challenges

Resource and capacity constraints at all levels continue to be the major constraint to effective and consistent programming. The challenge is to mobilize resources and develop capacities not just at the global level, but at the national and zone levels where resources are increasingly becoming available, as a result of the decentralization of budgets.

Scaling community-based planning

Objective 2: To encourage and support expanded community-based programming to identify and tackle disaster risks.

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s)

- Consistently apply the Federation Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) methodology to identify and monitor current and future disaster risks in targeted communities linked to design of locally-specific disaster risk reduction solutions.
- Expand public awareness and education, as well as the understanding of locally prevalent hazards, and promote a practical culture of safety and resilience.
- Undertake practical measures to protect or render safer critical community infrastructure (e.g. roads, drainage, schools, health centres) in relation to locally prevalent hazards.

⁵ All examples for Asia/Pacific covered in this report have been taken from the "Red Cross Red Crescent and the Hyogo Framework for Action focus on Asia/Pacific region" study produced by the Asia/Pacific International Federation zone office.

Achievements

The Disaster Policy and Preparedness department worked in close cooperation with the counterparts in the zone to identify focus countries for scaling up community-based programming within the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and programmes supported by the World Bank and the ProVention Consortium.

Based on information collated from the National Society 2008 to 2009 plans, it is estimated that 160 countries are globally committed to the implementation of disaster risk reduction programmes ranging from information and awareness raising, assessment, community-based disaster preparedness and the implementation of local disaster risk reduction projects.

The dissemination of information and the role of advocacy, education and awareness raising are paramount to building greater consciousness of the risk factors faced by communities, and the ways in which these can be addressed. This in turn can lead to reducing vulnerabilities, identifying dangers, assessment of capacities and vulnerabilities, and potential solutions.

According to statistics, 38 National Societies run community education programmes with schools, while 28 National Societies run community education programmes: neighbours (Figure 1).⁶ School-based disaster management activities have been profiled in Algeria, Indonesia, Kazakhstan and Central America. In Algeria, the Red Crescent's community education programme with schools has been extended to more than 164 schools. Three hundred and seventy-two teachers have been trained and 60,000 students have been sensitized. The training materials that are being used for this project has been developed by the National Society, in coordination with its local partners (Ministry of Education, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Health, Civil Protection, Universities, National Public Health Institute, and the Spanish and American Red Cross Societies). In 2005, the Kazakh Red Crescent Society, together in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, local non-governmental organization "Man and Element" and the Ministry for Emergency have developed a project for schools on earthquake preparedness. These materials include three-level trainings, cartoon strips and four video films.

⁶ Based on Phase II of well-prepared National Society analysis of 82 countries.

Community-based risk reduction initiatives

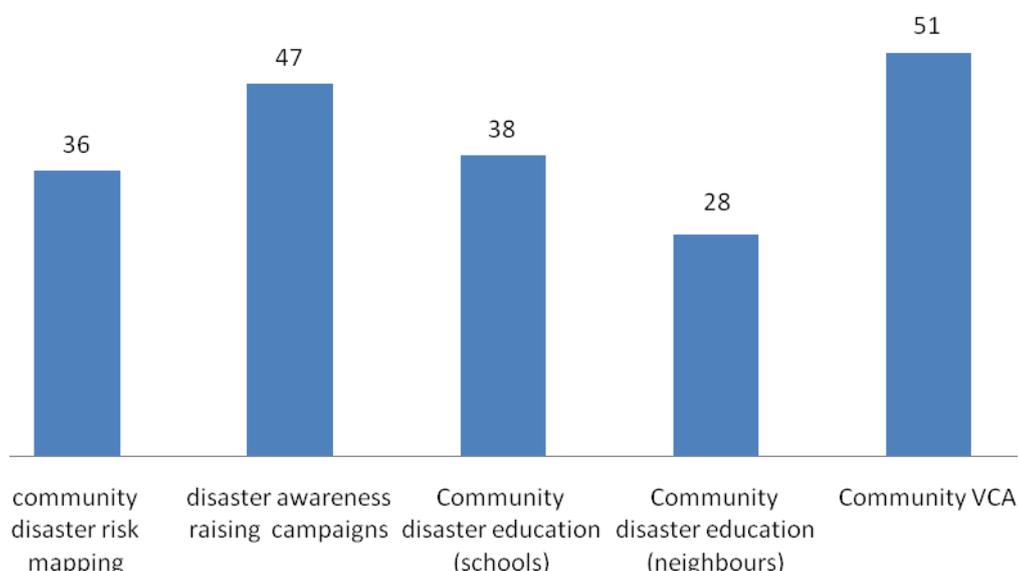


Figure 1 Number of National Societies running community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives (based on feedback provided by 82 National Societies, 2008)

Further, disaster risk reduction components are systematically integrated into emergency appeals. During the November floods in Morocco, the presence and role of the volunteers within the communities helped to identify the needs of the people. One of the lessons learned was the difficulty of accessing remote villages and beneficiaries to deliver the required support. The strategic pre-positioning of relief stocks in areas at risks, as well as increasing the community's resilience through the VCA process, promoting disaster risk reduction awareness campaigns, and supporting livelihoods and food security projects are vitally important to ensuring a rapid response capacity. In order to ensure that the resilience of the community is improved through better health awareness, knowledge and behaviour the Moroccan Red Crescent Society is committed to carrying out a disaster risk reduction campaign at the community and school level, with a focus on hygiene promotion, risk of water-borne diseases, risk of land and rockslides and electrical hazards etc.

In Southern Africa, the trainings in Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) and National Disaster Response Team (NRDT) have enabled National Societies to undertake a consistent and comprehensive approach to VCA in disaster-prone communities. National Societies involved government departments in the VCA process as a way to share skills, expertise and competencies. Key stakeholders were invited to participate in drawing the outcomes of the VCA carried out, and engaged in the development of disaster risk reduction plans.

In the Americas, community-training with an integral focus, and significant participation of volunteers is ongoing. An education programme has been developed by 95 per cent of the National Societies, with the aim of reducing vulnerability by increasing the resilience of the individual and collective capacity to anticipate hazards and to respond to emergencies. The basis for training and education is the use of the VCA with emphasis on community participation, and the importance attached to awareness raising and advocacy. Based on the VCA information, National Societies in the region, in close coordination with local authorities and other organizations, are working on identifying concrete disaster risk reduction measures, developing community disaster preparedness activities, micro-mitigation projects, and early warning systems at the community level.

The Solomon Islands Red Cross Society is developing a new toolkit for working with communities based on the International Federation's VCA and the World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF) climate witness toolkit. The toolkit is designed to gather baseline information on community vulnerability to disaster and climate change using participatory methods. The Solomon Islands Red Cross Society will analyze the information collected to identify how it can work with communities to help them better prepare for disasters and the impact of climate change.

Constraints or challenges

It is imperative to ensure that capacity development and adequate resources (financial and technical capacity) are key components of disaster risk reduction programming. There is a growing interest from National Societies in disaster risk reduction programming. One of the challenges would be to be able to meet those needs and requirements.

Integrating disaster risk reduction

Objective 3: To integrate enhanced community-centred disaster risk reduction measures as part of a comprehensive disaster response management, wherever this is applied.

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s)

- Link community-based early warning systems to national/regional early warning systems, so as to enable communities to take timely action to protect their lives and assets where feasible.
- Strengthen community preparedness for disaster response (including logistics and prepositioning for relief, training of first responders, rescue, shelter, health, first aid, and water and sanitation measures) by mobilizing resources and capacities at all levels within the Movement, so as to reduce the immediate and secondary impacts of disasters when they strike.
- "Building back safer" by incorporating risk reduction measures in post-disaster recovery programmes.

Achievements

As a part of the community safety and resilience framework, the International Federation continues to promote and establish community-based early warning systems in National Societies (Figure 2)⁷ where climate change is an emerging issue. For example, in Southern Africa, six National Societies along the Zambezi river are setting up a community-based risk reduction programme, with the aim to mitigate the impact of floods; improve livelihoods; and develop early warning systems for timely evacuations.

In the Americas, in responding to concerns around the issue of climate change, the Red Cross Climate Centre promoted and supported planning, awareness raising and actions at the local level in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Honduras, Colombia, Argentina and the Caribbean.

The International Federation risk reduction programme in the Americas continued to prioritize capacity-building support given to the National Societies that will contribute to reducing the impact of disaster on the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities in an

⁷ Ibid

integrated way. In doing so, the programme is not only contributing to the commitments of the International Federation's Global Agenda, the 2007 to 2011 Inter-American Plan, but also the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 to 2015, and the subregional inter-governmental strategies on disaster, such as the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Relief (CAPRADE), the Centro de Coordinación para la prevención de los Desastres Naturales en América Central (CEPRENAC), and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA).

In Central America, progress with community-based disaster preparedness has been made possible through the support extended by the Reference Centre for Community Disaster Risk Reduction and Education in Costa Rica. The Centre has published "*Better Be Ready*" series of community modules, and monitors its implementation. Further, National Societies are in the process of implementing disaster risk reduction activities which contribute towards improving communities' coping capacity and infrastructure for hurricanes and floods threats; raising awareness in regard to key measures for disaster risk reduction; promoting reforestation; strengthening capacities of the local authorities and other organizations to identify and analyze risk; strengthening school capacities in disaster preparedness; and improving early warning system capacities for hurricanes and floods.

Early warning systems and people centred approaches

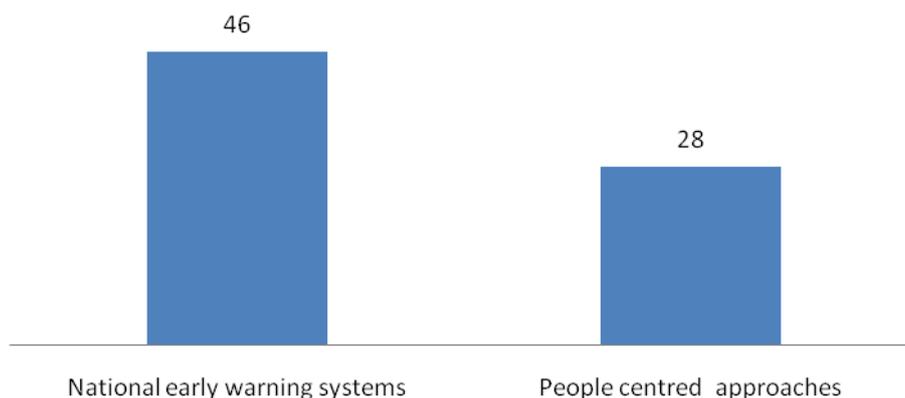


Figure 2 Number of National Societies utilizing national early warning systems and people centred approaches

In Asia Pacific, National Societies have incorporated a risk reduction element into their policies, strategies and plans; as well as mainstreamed it in sectoral programmes, especially community-based programmes. For example, the Nepal Red Cross Society has outlined activities specifically aimed at mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, with a focus on the community level, in its disaster management policy adopted in 2008, to be carried out in cooperation with the Government and other organizations.

The Solomon Islands Red Cross Society has been working closely with the Government's National Disaster Management office, the Solomon Islands Climate Change division and office, and the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service to ensure that climate change issues are included in vulnerability reduction programmes for the nation.

The Mongolian Red Cross Society, through its regional disaster preparedness centres, has developed a series of regional hazard maps (marking drought areas, earthquake-prone areas, dangerous lakes, hazardous mountains and water sources) in consultation with nomadic herders and volunteers. The regional maps have been consolidated into a national

hazard map, which was shared with the government, and is used by the National Society to assess its preparedness and response needs.

The International Federation would like to ensure a closer synergy between disaster risk reduction and recovery programmes. To this end, the recovery project of the Chadian Red Cross Society in Bere and Bongor aimed to reduce the vulnerability of 600 households (4,000 persons) affected by the floods in 2008. The main objectives of the project were to reduce the risks of contamination and outbreak of water-borne diseases; strengthen operational relations between the Chadian Red Cross Society and the public services by involving administrative authorities of Bere and Bongor in the implementation of recovery activities; and building capacities of the affected communities by providing them with construction supplies and training them in improved masonry techniques.

Constraints or challenges

The pace at which elements of disaster risk reduction are being implemented through the Framework for Community Safety and Resilience, using mechanisms such as the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction, is sometimes hindered by other priorities. This is particularly the case in zones where major disasters have recently occurred. Keeping disaster risk reduction as a strong element of response and recovery is difficult, and to try to ensure that it remains a focus through response and recovery programmes remains a challenge.

National Society capacity building

Objective 4: To strengthen National Society capacities to deliver and sustain scaled-up programmes in disaster risk reduction.

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s)

- Improve governance, accountability and leadership of National Societies to discharge planned disaster risk reduction commitments.
- Improve volunteer and staff support and management to enable delivery of risk reduction programming.
- Strengthen the disaster risk reduction programme cycle management. Focus on improving the link between national and community-based early warning systems.
- Widen partnerships and expand resource mobilization to strengthen disaster risk reduction capacity to ensure effective and timely programming.

Achievements

Partnerships and linkages with the public and private sectors are being developed at all levels to obtain their support for, and cooperation in disaster risk reduction activities. The Thai Red Cross Society for example, has established a partnership with Tesco Lotus, a leading retailer in Thailand. The Singapore Red Cross Society has agreements with McDonald's for food relief, with the Civic Ambulance Services for pandemic response, and with the Alexandra Hospital for the deployment of volunteers.

At a global level, a partnership with Zurich Financial Services was established and an agreement signed at the end of 2008 to provide flexible funding to the Global Alliance on Disaster Risk Reduction for the period of 2009 to 2013. Zurich Financial Services has among other things, a strong interest and expertise in the area of disaster risk assessment and micro insurance. The partnership also includes a focus on promoting relations between the National Societies and the Zurich business units around the world.

Advocating for the institutionalization of disaster risk reduction and its inclusion in the development policies and plans of the local authorities and other organizations has also been a key task of National Societies in Asia Pacific in recent years. In Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and elsewhere, National Societies have been pressing for the inclusion of community-level disaster risk reduction plans in local government development plans. These efforts have proven highly successful, with governments increasingly accepting this approach, and encouraging partnerships with local governments and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Figure 3).⁸

Disaster preparedness and response plans

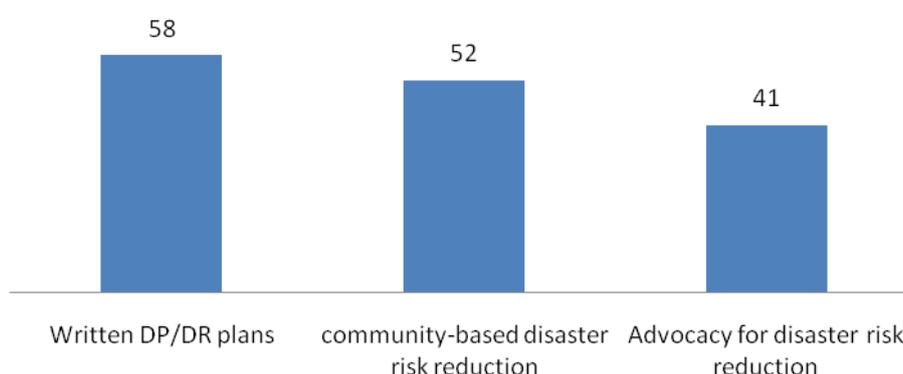


Figure 3 Number of National Societies with written DP/DR plans which include disaster risk reduction components

The Indonesian Red Cross Society for instance, was invited by the government to participate in a three-year process to develop the National Action Plan for Disaster Reduction 2006 to 2009, and to formulate guidelines for the National Disaster Management Authority. In addition, the National Society played a key support role to the People's Consultative Assembly in reviewing and providing input to the draft of the Disaster Management Bill.

Many other National Societies, such as those in the Cook Islands, Nepal and Sri Lanka, have participated in similar processes. At the regional and global level, National Societies have also advocated for the implementation of disaster risk reduction activities in accordance with national laws, policies and strategies, both within and outside the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Building the capacities of National Societies is one of the major objectives for the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2009. National Societies in the Asia Pacific region have made progress in establishing and enhancing their organizational structures with respect to disaster risk reduction. Some have been active in creating or strengthening institutional mechanisms and agreements, clarifying their auxiliary responsibilities with their governments.

In Cambodia, for example, the Cambodian Red Cross Society and the International Federation provided the government with technical and financial support for the development and strengthening of the National Disaster Management Committee to enable it to take on the main responsibility for disaster management in the country.

⁸ Ibid

There is also a growing cognisance that the building of community safety and resilience cannot be achieved in a silo, and necessitates partnerships with international, governmental, non-governmental and community-based organizations. According to statistics, at least 40 National Societies have had advocacy efforts with governments and other in favour of mitigation and preparedness measures.⁹

The National Societies in Fiji, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, for example, have been advocating for the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in formal school curricula, in cooperation with national and international organizations such as Oxfam, Save the Children, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and the ISDR.

The Fiji Red Cross Society recently revised a booklet on disaster preparedness for primary school children (first published in 1981) to raise their awareness of hazards, and to encourage them to be proactive in reducing risks in school, at home and in the community before and during disasters.

Constraints or challenges

Maintaining consistent programming and implementation is a key challenge in building the capacity of National Societies, and this will have implications for the programme as a whole. The effectiveness of scaled-up disaster risk reduction activity is predicated on a strong working capacity in the National Society.

Working in partnership

The International Federation is a part of the Global Platform on Risk Reduction with the ISDR, and has long-standing working relationship in climate change and risk reduction with the World Meteorological Organization and the ProVention Consortium. It is further developing strong working relationships with key disaster risk reduction and community resilience actors, such as the World Bank's Community Driven Development and the GFDRR programme.

Eight National Societies are expected to access funding from the World Bank's GFDRR to support activities in their countries. These activities will aim at influencing government policy towards community-level disaster risk reduction, working with their Governments on capacity building for community-level delivery and surveying community-level social networks to assess the feasibility of establishing micro-level insurance programmes.

Discussions with the World Bank's South-South Cooperation Fund on accessing resources from the fund to support disaster risk reduction and community resilience initiatives for Senegal and Burkina Faso have been agreed.

Further, a close working collaboration between the International Federation and the ProVention Consortium will see initial support to the Gambia Red Cross Society, as the International Federation works towards merging the proposed outcomes of the Global Alliance on Disaster Risk Reduction with ProVention's pioneering community resilience fund.

⁹ Ibid

Contributing to longer-term impact

Changes in risk and disaster patterns result in large-scale emergencies that require the mobilization of huge levels of international disaster assistance. Underlying the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Agenda is a commitment to address the causes of vulnerability, and to build effective disaster risk reduction capacities.

Looking ahead

The department hopes to focus on the full implementation of disaster risk reduction in 2009. Meanwhile, the implementation of the framework is under development concentrating currently on two global areas – the analysis of the scale and scope of current disaster risk reduction activities across the International Federation to lay the foundations for a baseline and to develop indicators, and the implementation of the Framework for Community Safety and Resilience to guide National Societies in the identification of Federation-specific disaster risk reduction activities.

These mechanisms at the global level will enable the development of a country-level assessment and planning, and support National Societies in targeted countries to increase aspects of their disaster risk reduction work from 2009. This process is due to take place over the next couple of months.

The secretariat and the zones are currently formulating a plan to transition the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction initiative, taking into account regional experience, available and required resources, and challenges in the region. It is anticipated that the transition to the zones will take place during the course of 2009.

The ownership of the Global Alliance rests with the National Society and at the community level. Fundraising efforts will continue simultaneously at the national, regional and global levels. On-the-job training and other methods of skills and technical expertise refinement will be given to staff and volunteers involved.

How we work	
The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".	Global Agenda Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
Contact information	
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