

## **Disaster Response**

**CHF 4,074,000**

**Programme No. 01.71/2000**

### ***Programme Context***

The number and size of disasters that the Federation is called upon to respond to are on the increase, while the quantity of resources flowing through the Federation for disaster response has quadrupled in the past decade. The Federation's response has shown a marked increase in three areas: refugee emergencies, often involving millions of people; natural disasters, in particular the disturbing rise in flooding; and socio-economic disasters, arising from political and economic crises or post-war situations.

At the same time, the pressure to respond faster and more globally is growing steadily. Fed by instant media coverage and the movement of humanitarian action to the centre stage of states' foreign policy, humanitarian response is scrutinised as never before. A huge number of institutions and agencies are operational in this area, creating increased competition for resources.

It is in this competitive, complex and increasingly demanding environment that the Federation must seek to carry out effective disaster response on an increasing scale, evolving methodologies to stay ahead of this changing environment and improving further the timeliness and impact of the disaster response of the entire Federation.

### ***Programme Strategy***

This global programme seeks to improve the impact of the Federation's disaster response through improved co-ordination and mobilisation of the Federation members' resources, speeding up of response mechanisms, setting and improving disaster response standards, building capacity through disaster response, and advocacy on behalf of the needs and rights of disaster victims.

The programme will complete quality improvement initiatives already underway and introduce new initiatives extending over the next two years.

### ***Programme Objectives***

To support local disaster response the Federation will further develop the Disaster Response Emergency Fund, making it more responsive and increasing the money available so that it is better able to provide start-up funds for relief operations and cover those small but vital operations for which the issuing of a full relief appeal would be impractical. The Emergency Response Units (ERUs) will be further developed, taking the concept into new geographical areas and incorporating the Sphere standards. The training, development and evaluation of the ERUs will be put on a more sustainable basis.

Timely and effective response also requires co-ordinated and well trained human resources. The programme will seek to develop and implement procedures and standards for the incorporation of Participating Society relief teams and programmes into the broader co-ordinated Federation response, putting practical procedures behind the ideals of the Federation's policies. On another front, progress is being made and will be built upon to improve the Federation's ability to identify, recruit and fund delegates from Societies who do not traditionally supply delegates, particularly from disaster prone countries.

Within disaster response programmes there are many opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness. This programme will focus on three such opportunities. It will put in place a set of standards and procedures in logistics systems. Secondly, it will further develop and implement the Federation Disaster Response workshop series. Allied with this will be a revision of the present Delegates Handbook - a vital tool in the quality assurance of disaster response.

The Federation's security systems will be further strengthened through a broad-based training programme being put in place, as will the systems for information gathering, reporting and monitoring of disaster response. Finally, particular emphasis will be placed on improving the Federation's response to refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.

The Federation will work both internally and with other organisations to develop more professional and appropriate standards in humanitarian response (including the Sphere standards), and to advocate for those changes and concerns that are critical to the improvement of the situation of the most vulnerable people. Through co-operative research with external specialised institutions the Federation will try to better understand future types of disasters and environments in order to mitigate their worst effects and prepare for them effectively.