

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

HONDURAS

22 November 2001

Appeal No. 01.28/2001

Appeal Target: CHF 2,024,137

Programme Update No. 2; Period covered: 1 July - 30 September 2001

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 45.6%

Related appeals: 01.26/2001 - Central America

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,100,357

Update: A biannual conference of National Societies in the region - the XVIIth meeting of presidents and technical seminars, hosted by the Honduran Red Cross in late September - took on an innovative approach, which led to the formulation of commitments for the region in the core areas of the Federation's work. The reporting period also saw significant developments in the creation of a health department within the Honduran Red Cross, progress in the pilot projects in branch development and the launch of a relief operation to assist those affected by severe drought in the country.

Operational Developments:

Tensions in Honduras continue to grow in view of the elections scheduled at the end of November. The effects of the terrorist attacks in the US and of the present conflict in Afghanistan are beginning to show. Tourism has been badly affected and the economy, so dependent on that of the US, is showing signs of weakness, further complicated by the lowest price of coffee ever. It is anticipated that the "maquilas", tax-free small-scale textile transformation industries, will be severely affected in the near future, due to a fall in demand. Furthermore, a recession in the US will dramatically impact on income for thousands of both legal and illegal immigrants in the US from Central America; this also translates into a fall in earnings sent to families in Honduras and neighbouring countries, making up a significant part of the GDP. As a result, family vulnerability in Honduras will be on the rise, possibly resulting

into an increase in unemployment and diffused violence, which is already an alarming phenomenon.

Since the beginning of the year, incidents of violence have been numerous with murders, rape and delinquency inflicted by gangs of youth which, in September, took over the Tegucigalpa city centre for an entire day.

The Honduran Red Cross (HRC) was host to a biannual conference of National Societies in the region - the XVIIth meeting of presidents and technical seminars for Central America - which took place in Tegucigalpa between 19 and 23 September.

Disaster Response

Drought

In Honduras, as in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, delays in rainfall resulted in a severe drought, causing a food shortage which according to the Permanent Contingency Commission, COPECO, is affecting 316,745 people in three departments of the country. Given the lack of rain and its damaging effect on crops, on 23 July the government declared a state of emergency. The August crop, essential for farmers, was totally lost in vast areas of the affected departments. The situation is further complicated by an overall loss of competitiveness of Honduran products, particularly coffee, and by the recurrent lack of rainfall in the south which has no irrigation schemes. The crisis was the subject of a Federation appeal (Central America food and drought 31/2001)

Disaster Preparedness

Objective 1 To assist the HRC to increase the disaster prevention and response capacity in identified communities, through coordination and training.

Over the last three months, a workshop was held in the northern part of the country, in the city of San Pedro Sula, in order to train 14 facilitators from the branches of Villanueva, Choloma, Potrerillos, La Lima, San Miguel, Sonaguera and Jutiapa to work in 15 communities. Through the project being carried out in coordination with the World Bank, revision of risk maps and drawing up of contingency plans took place within the Garífuna communities which fall under the project.

Objective 2 To assist the HRC in the strengthening of its response capacity.

The HRC and the Federation signed a letter of understanding regarding the purchase of emergency response equipment under the plans to set up regional warehouses nationwide in anticipation of emergencies. This plan foresees the creation of five warehouses in the areas of San Pedro Sula, Nacaome, La Ceiba, La Esperanza and the centre of the country. The American Red Cross is contributing to this project which is managed by the HRC's disaster management office, OPADE.

Revision of contingency plans for four branches in the department of El Paraíso has been carried out. A SPHERE workshop took place for the Honduran Red Cross, with the participation of the coordinators of each department in view of application of SPHERE standards in disaster preparedness activities and in daily work.

A national intervention team workshop took place, with the participation of the regional delegation, and in which 17 volunteers from various branches were trained.

Objective 3 To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the HRC's disaster programmes by strengthening coordination, exchange of knowledge and inter institutional analysis.

The Honduran Red Cross is planning an inter-agency meeting with the various organisations which are providing assistance to those affected by the drought. The National Society and the Federation thereby hope to exchange knowledge and experience in relation to this emergency and identify potential cooperation agreements to maximise resources and initiatives which are taking place.

Objective 4 To assist the HRC to improve its management of information in disasters, and to conduct disaster preparedness public awareness campaigns.

Last year, the Honduran Red Cross, with the support of the Federation and the partner National Societies, launched a family awareness campaign, which aimed to sensitise the population as regards disaster response and preparedness. The evaluation of the methodology used in the family emergency campaign has now been finalised. The overall results of the pilot campaign are positive. However, several recommendations were formulated, as follows:

A) to revise the material and methodology utilised, better adapting these to the educational levels of the population.

B) to ensure the participation of the community in the planning and design of future evaluations.

C) to take into account the gender perspective, bearing in mind that 70 per cent of the heads of household are women.

The Federation, in cooperation with the Christian Development Commission and the Catholic Relief Service, carried out an inter-agency workshop on the SPHERE project. During this workshop, an exchange of knowledge and experience took place with over 20 organisations as regards the use of this tool.

Humanitarian Values

Objective: To reduce violence in the community through the formation of 16 educational brigades in the capital and in seven other municipalities particularly affected by social violence.

Unfortunately, to date, the Federation has received no funding contributions for this programme. However, this area is seen as a clear priority, given the continuing increase in criminality, particularly among the youth, and its impact on the overall security situation.

During the Presidents and Technical Seminars meeting in September, commitments were made to disseminate policies emphasising the value of volunteer support.

Health and Care

Objective 1 To strengthen the health and care department of the Honduran Red Cross.

Although no funds have been received for this programme, the delegation has been supporting the National Society to strengthen the new health and care department. This lengthy process has now brought forward some positive results: selected candidates for the position of coordinator and administrator will start their activities in early November. The new coordinator has relevant experience in HIV/AIDS prevention in collaboration with HRC

youth. The American and Canadian Red Cross Societies have confirmed their decision to support the financing of the department.

The Honduran Red Cross has received confirmation from UNICEF of a three-year joint project to continue the campaign against HIV/AIDS in schools. For this reason, the delegation plans to intervene in a specific sector of the fight against HIV/AIDS next year by developing a pilot project to fight the stigma faced by HIV positive persons and people living with AIDS.

Objective 2 To support the National Society in improving the coordination amongst the Red Cross partners in health related issues.

Since no contributions have been received, the delegation has not been in a position to employ a health officer, which would have facilitated the creation of the new health department. For the year 2002, we foresee that a health officer will be needed in order to support the new health department and, in particular, to manage, supervise, monitor and evaluate the pilot project to fight the stigma of HIV/AIDS.

Institutional and Resource Development

Objective 1 To assist the National Society in strengthening its governance and management.

Between 19 and 23 September, Honduras was host to the XVIIth meeting of Presidents and Technical Seminars of the sub region 1 (Canada to Panama) of the Americas. The meeting aimed to diverge from the structure of previous meetings by generating a space for dialogue between governance, Red Cross personnel and volunteers in joint working groups. The fact that the Presidents took an active part in the working groups, rather than holding separate meetings as before, was highly appreciated. The agenda of the Presidents' individual meeting sessions was clearly focused on governance issues. In addition, for the first time, the Directors General of the NSs of the region met separately to discuss a clearly identified management agenda.

The monitoring group which was formed as a result of the meeting is made up, for the first time in this region, of the Directors General who will meet twice a year over the next two years until the next regional meeting is convened. In addition, funds for meetings of the monitoring group have been secured.

Objective 2 To assist the National Society in the process of preparation, review and implementation of its development plan.

The national development plan is gradually taking shape and is being drawn up taking into account contributions from experts in such areas as human rights, disaster response and health. The sections on volunteering and health were completed and the section on administration and human resources is currently being drawn up. The executive committee of the HRC approved 11 sectoral strategic plans (one for each area of national coordination) and the 2001 operational plans in the areas of youth, relief, volunteering, disaster management, dissemination, information, the blood bank, primary health care, administration, training and projects relating to infrastructure. These plans, once approved, were forwarded to the HRC's national committee.

The ICRC's regional cooperation delegate, the HRC President, together with the organisational development delegate, reviewed the strategic dissemination plan in order to look into the possibility of implementing a dissemination project with the national police.

The Honduran Red Cross/Federation agreed on the design of projects relating to organisational development for the period September 2001 and December 2003 in the areas of governance, Statutes and regulations, communication and image building, fund-raising, administration, human resources, volunteers and salaried staff, the basic training plan at national level and strategic planning.

Objective 3 To promote human resource development and volunteering.

It was agreed to hold a course leading to a diploma in management skills and systems organised for the heads of volunteer organisations and coordinators of departments within the HRC. It is anticipated that this training will strengthen the management capacity of the National Society, guaranteeing continuity of the process which began in 2000.

Objective 4 To strengthen the financial system and fund raising of the HRC.

A contract has been signed with the consulting firm, Fortín Lagos, which will have the responsibility of strengthening the accounting systems of the Honduran Red Cross, and which will set up a budgeting system per programme in order to reinforce the National Society's accounting and administrative systems.

Objective 5 To strengthen the public image and internal and external communication of the HRC.

With the support of the Federation, the National Society carried out training for ten members of staff in the design of a web page. With the support of the Netherlands Red Cross, an employee has been engaged to maintain and update the information on the Honduran Red Cross' web page. Through this page, the National Society will be in a position to facilitate and promote both internal and external communication as well as strengthen its institutional image.

Objective 6 As part of a pilot project, to contribute to the strengthening of four branches.¹

Reports from the branches of Santa Rosa de Copán and Copán Ruinas were received. These include strategic plans, operational plans for 2001, results of the inter-agency workshops held with NGOs and public institutions with the aim of identifying potential strategic partners, together with SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analyses and contingency plans for these two branches in the event of the occurrence of a disaster.

As for the Marcala branch, the strategic and operational plans for 2001 were established. Once the operational plan was approved, the Honduran Red Cross/Federation reached agreement as regards the funding for this plan. To this end, and with a view to ensuring the sustainability of branch programmes, the Federation is carrying out a marketing and image study for the branch with the aim of setting up a fund-raising programme, for which contributions could be sought from both the business community in Marcala and the public at large. Once potential fund-raising sources have been identified, training sessions will be carried out focused on service to the client and in accordance with the results of the marketing survey. It is planned that a similar study also take place in the branches of Copán Ruinas and Santa Rosa de Copán.

¹Copan Ruinas, Santa Rosa de Copan, Marcala and Camasca.

Furthermore, the coordinator of organisational development of the Honduran Red Cross, the President of the National Society, together with the members of the Marcala branch executive board, received a donation from the Japanese Embassy for the purchase of an ambulance for use by the branch.

Coordination and Management

Objective 1 Establish and apply criteria for efficient (cost-benefit) and effective (objectives-results) use of resources made available through the Federation for the implementation of programmes, in line with the priorities of Strategy 2010 and applying Federation procedures and guidelines.

Objective 2 Promote co-ordination between the Honduran Red Cross, the Participating National Societies, the ICRC and the Secretariat, as well as with external partners, in line with the HRC rehabilitation and development plans and the Federation Country Assistance Strategy.

Under the guidance of the head of delegation, the delegation has made an internal analysis of the funding for the appeal, and of the implementation of the two main funded programmes. It is clear that the lack of funding for the health and care and humanitarian values programmes has limited the role and scope of the delegation in supporting the HRC towards accomplishment of its strategic priorities in line with *Strategy 2010*.

On the other hand, the organisational development and disaster preparedness programmes, funded by the Spanish Red Cross, have provided effective frameworks to promote improvements and critical changes in the capacity of the HRC. Furthermore, Japanese Red Cross funds are being used effectively to both support the branches in one of the most vulnerable areas of the country, and to systematise the experience learnt towards the creation of an intervention methodology in branch development.

It is clear that a longer term commitment to addressing the priorities of the Honduran Red Cross is required in the future, particularly taking into account the vulnerabilities in the country. The existing CAS (cooperation agreement strategy) was drawn up prior to the finalisation of HRC's strategic plan; the new version of the CAS, now scheduled for early 2002, will provide an effective framework for the different partners in development of the HRC. The National Society has been working effectively with other partners, external to the Red Cross Movement: UNICEF, the World Bank, PAHO, with three small-scale cooperation agreements, which may pave the way towards increased collaboration in the future.

During the reporting period, monthly meetings were held with the President of the HRC and the representatives of the partner National Societies working in Honduras. Informal meetings were held regularly with the Spanish Red Cross and the American Red Cross and there was daily interaction with representatives from the Netherlands Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross whose representatives share the premises of the delegation.

The HoD held weekly meetings with the President of the HRC, providing an effective opportunity to monitor the change process within the National Society and progress towards the commitments of *S2010*.

The interaction of the Honduras delegation with other members of the Movement in Honduras is producing interesting patterns, which it would be useful to analyse.

Together with the results of the interesting and innovative regional meeting held in Tegucigalpa in September, the HRC has three essential tools which enable the National Society to work towards the goals of *Strategy 2010*: its internal Strategic Plan, the revised CAS, and the regional strategic framework.

With the presence of Dr. Astrid Heiberg, (the now former) president of the International Federation as well as representatives of the ICRC and major participating National Societies, the Honduran Red Cross hosted the biannual meeting of the nine National Societies. The preparatory work for the meeting was carried out fully by the Honduran Red Cross with the direct support of the Federation delegation, in particular, the organisational development delegate. Constant contact was maintained with the regional delegation for Central America and with the representatives of the six partner National Societies present in the country. During several months of preparation, four working committees were set up, on the basis of constant inputs from the National Societies of the region as regards the themes of the meeting. The President of the Honduran Red Cross aimed to hold a productive meeting which could build on the successful dynamics generated in the region through the Panamerican Conference of 1999, the regional conferences on disaster preparedness held in 2000 and 2001, and the Presidents' meetings held jointly by the ICRC and the Federation in Guatemala. Therefore, the HRC decided to break with the traditional formula for the meeting, setting up separate working groups and identifying common themes around which to group discussions in which governance, staff and volunteers of the National Societies would participate.

Over a three day period, Presidents, Directors General, staff and volunteers sitting at the same tables openly discussed themes such as the role of volunteers in the face of new challenges, and the core areas of *S2010* and their implications for the Central American region. The result is a set of joint commitments; follow-up is guaranteed and fully financed - two meetings will take place each year over two years - of a monitoring committee made of the Directors General of the NSs of the region. This will promote a more active role of the Directors General and a clearer division of tasks between governance and management.

The results of the meeting, which was felt to be a clear success by participants, will make up the ingredients of a regional strategy.

Outstanding needs

Overall appeal coverage stands at 45.6 per cent. As mentioned above, funding support for the both the humanitarian values and health and care programmes is required.

For further details please contact: Olaug Bergseth, Phone : 41 22 730 45 35 Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: bergseth@ifrc.org

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Santiago Gil
Head
Americas Department

Honduras						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.28/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			22.11.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'024'137		TOTAL COVERAGE 45.6%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				76'582		
AMERICAN - RC				29'847	20.08.2001	INV. SRI 2551/B
BRITISH - RC				44'432	30.11.00	DPP DELEGATE 12 MONTHS
SPAIN RC				636'000	01.01.2001	BALANCE FUNDS 2000
PRIVATE DONOR - FOUNDATION				67'340	09.03.2001	
PRIVATE DONOR - FOUNDATION				9'620	09.03.2001	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				863'821	CHF	42.7%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Italy	Delegate(s)			59'959		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				59'959	CHF	3.0%