

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

SOUTH ASIA

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Appeal No. 01.24/2002

Appeal Target CHF 2,948,770. Budget revised to CHF 2,964,976

Programme Update No. 2

Period covered: 1 July- 15 December 2002;

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage 60%

Related Appeals: Annual Appeal 2002: 01.25/02 Afghanistan, 01.26/02 Bangladesh, 01.27 Nepal, 01.28/02 Pakistan and 01.29/02 Sri Lanka

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,188,582

Summary: Continued progress has been made in strengthening the National Societies in South Asia. One of the major outcomes are the action points in the Kabul Pledge, adopted by all National Societies in South Asia at a Secretaries General Meeting in August. The Kabul Pledge displays a great commitment from all six National Societies to collectively strengthen their Societies and to be role models for change.

The regional disaster preparedness (DP) Policy Priorities document has been finalised. It was unanimously adopted by all senior Disaster Management participants in Sri Lanka in July and later approved by the South Asian Secretaries General.

The 6th Asia and Pacific Conference took place in Manila in November and the Manila Action Plan committed National Societies to focus more on population movements. In anticipation of this, a Regional Population Movement coordinator, an Afghan national, started her work in early October. The Manila Action Plan and other developments, such as the implementation of the Secretariat Change Strategy, are being incorporated the 4th draft Regional Cooperation Agreement Strategy. Further input from Partners as previously requested is welcomed.

Regional progress has also been made in areas such as:

- ***Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment - the outcome of a workshop in October will provide important directions to the development of Disaster Management plans in National Societies;***
- ***Constitution revision - the National Societies' in the region have reaffirmed their collective commitments in this area. A regional branch development workshop in December confirmed that a strong legal base is an essential foundation of an overall organisational strengthening process. In this context significant progress has been made in all Societies, inspired by the successful completion of the processes and the creation of regional role models in Sri Lanka and Nepal.***
- ***Planning and reporting - four National Society reporting focal points are in place in the region to improve reporting and capacity building in this area. This is partly the result of the first Regional Planning and Reporting workshop in the region, in October.***
- ***Better Programme Initiative - National Societies programme planning in conflict sensitive areas has improved after a training of trainers (ToT) course in December in Nepal.***
- ***Information Technology - strategies to maximise the use of effective Information Technology (IT) to manage the flow of information and change have been shared between Pakistan, Nepal and Indian RC/RC Societies, using Nepal Red Cross experience of networking as an example.***

The regional programs are generally progressing well with the exception of the regional Health Programme, after the tragic death of the Regional Health Delegate in August. A limited review of the regional health program will be done shortly to equip National Societies and the incoming health delegate on the latest needs and priorities.

Operational Development w

Overall objective for the operation:

The South Asia Regional Delegation's (SARD) mission is 'to work as a co-ordinated Federation team with all members of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and external stakeholders to facilitate better use of regional resources, mutual learning and support between National Societies and other partners to deliver self-sufficient, relevant programs in disaster preparedness and response, health care in the community, and the promotion of humanitarian values'.

Priority programs for Federation assistance (as per the South Asia appeal for 2002):

Deciding on priority programs that reflect the priorities emanating from the Hanoi declaration and adherence to the four core areas of Strategy 2010, is no easy task when the region's massive population and overwhelming humanitarian needs are taken into consideration. Identified regional priorities for 2002-2003 are:

- Disaster preparedness and response;
- Health capacity strengthening (including scaling up of HIV/AIDS programmes);
- Organisational, finance and resource development;
- Information and advocacy strengthening and the promotion of humanitarian values.

General overview of the context and operational developments:

Events of September 11 in 2001 have changed the course of history in South Asia. These events have further destabilised the region which is impacting the whole world. Afghanistan is struggling to find some semblance of peace while border tensions between Pakistan and India have caused grave concern for the region's future. The conflict and political situation in

Nepal is alarming and adds another dimension of insecurity in a region with porous borders which allows growing violence, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, and population movements. These borders pay no regard to natural disasters which can decimate hard gained economic improvements.

The positive exception again during this period has been Sri Lanka. As the cease fire continues to hold and peace prevails, new opportunities are arising for the Federation and ICRC to strengthen further the capacity of the Sri Lanka Red Cross in hitherto remote, and difficult to reach, branches.

The regional priorities continue to be developed through regular and intensive consultative process commencing with the Hanoi Declaration and followed by biannual Secretaries General meetings, regional partnership meetings and various regional technical meetings.

The cumulative result of this process was made during the meeting of the South Asia Secretaries General meeting in Islamabad in August 2002, when the 'Kabul Pledge' was adopted by all National Societies in the region. The Kabul Pledge is a strong commitment from all six National Societies to strengthen collectively their National Societies and to be role models for change.

The Kabul pledge states the following regional priorities:

- Strengthening our humanitarian networks to share knowledge and best practice in how best to address the region's vulnerability to crisis, via coordinated policies and practices in disaster preparedness.
- Making sure that the region's growing capability in disaster response is enhanced so that each National Society's capacity to respond in a timely and focused manner to crisis is increased.
- Continuing to establish clear mechanisms for sister Societies, the Federation and the ICRC to assist on those occasions when our National Societies request support in the face of an overwhelming crisis.
- Renewing efforts to break down barriers separating communities in our diverse region and building trust and links between groups to construct a future together. We will live and work in our communities and lead by example - under our emblem - in the cause of coexistence and tolerance.
- Scaling up our commitment to confront the HIV/AIDS pandemic by making our prevention efforts more effective, improving treatment for people living with the virus and reducing the stigmatization of those who have HIV/AIDS. Our South Asia Regional Network on HIV/AIDS will coordinate responses as well as share lessons and best practice on how to reduce vulnerability to this health crisis.
- Strengthening the National Societies role in the collection of safe blood and seeking more technical and policy support from the Secretariat.
- Supporting the Asia and Pacific change implementation strategy and advocating for more authority and resources to the South Asia Regional Delegation so that it can serve in strengthening the capacities of National Societies in the region".

The 6th Asia Pacific conference¹, took place in Manila between 24 and 28 November. The theme for this conference was 'Uniting for Human Dignity' and the outcome provided clear action plans. A meeting between leaders of the six National Societies in South Asia, the Federation's President, Secretary General, Head of Asia and Pacific and Head of Regional Delegation took place during this conference. It was evident in the meeting that the sense of regional cooperation and togetherness is high. The Federation's Secretary General and representatives from governance also expressed a high degree of satisfaction in the support they are receiving from the Federation at regional level.

¹ A regional conference, is one of the statutory meetings, where the member Societies of the International Federation meet in each geographical region, in principle once every four years, for the purpose of considering issues which are of common and special interest to the National Societies in the region. The last regional conference before that held in Manila in November 2002 was in Hanoi, in 1998.

What was clearly evident in Manila was that the South Asian National Societies are moving clearly in line with strategy 2010. They have adopted the Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as the framework for the Regional Cooperation Agreement Strategy and have positioned themselves well to carry through the Manila Action Plan.

Despite continuing security issues in some countries, the Federation's regional programs, with the exception of the regional Disaster Response program, are in line with their revised budgets. The DR program has a balance mainly due to a postponed regional workshop which will now be carried out during the first quarter of 2003.

Due to continued tensions in the region, potential emergency needs, and noting the large numbers of refugees and IDP's in the region and the likelihood of further movements, greater emphasis is being placed on improving the regional RC/RC disaster response and organisational capabilities. During the latter half of the year this was for instance done through adding a regional training of trainers workshop in Better Programme Initiative (BPI) in December and a branch development workshop in Sri Lanka, also in December.

General overview of the context and operational developments:

With sporadic fighting continuing across parts of *Afghanistan* instability remains a priority concern in the country still recovering from 23 years of war. Fears over ethnic violence and retribution killings are keeping thousands of refugees from returning to their homes in northern Afghanistan. Despite unprecedented levels of refugee repatriations, people are reluctant to return to the north and many are still fleeing their homes.

More than 1.7 million Afghan refugees and over 200,000 internally displaced persons (IDP) have returned home under the UNHCR-Afghan government repatriation programs, which started in March 2002. Most arrive with very little and their coping mechanisms have yet to be established. On top of that, there are over one million IDPs in different regions of the country.

Although the situation remains volatile, the Federation/Afghan Red Crescent operations are ongoing as planned without interruption. With the economy in ruins, limited access to food, lack of essential utilities such as health care, electricity, gas, water supply and sanitation facilities, large groups of the population are exposed to the combined effects of the winter, which include physical isolation, food insecurity, inadequate shelter and poverty.

Pakistan: An earthquake, which struck on 2 November destroyed hundreds of homes, while others were left uninhabitable in remote northern Pakistan. The earthquake killed at least eleven people and injured another 40. Over 2,000 earthquake victims were rescued and moved out of the remote mountainous area to safer locations by the government. The Pakistan Red Crescent responded rapidly by sending emergency relief materials to the affected areas.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to a UN-backed framework for the voluntary repatriation of an estimated 1.8 million Afghan refugees. Under the framework the voluntary returns will continue to be supported for the next three years, during which the situation will be reviewed periodically.

The Red Crescent continues to assist these vulnerable groups to meet the challenges of the winter months in the North West Front Province (NWFP), while in Balochistan the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, supported by the Federation sub-delegation, is working closely with UNHCR regarding distributions of nonfood relief items.

During June and July the onset of the annual monsoon in the region intensified causing widespread flooding in northeastern *India, Nepal and Bangladesh*. In Bangladesh and Nepal

the flooding was accompanied by severe landslides and river erosion. The subsequent increase in flooding further aggravated the suffering of the millions of people affected by this years monsoon. An additional matter of concern was the exceptionally high snow pack and glacial melt-rate being observed in the Himalayas which added to the already swollen river volume.

An emergency appeal to support 150,000 flood victims for four months was launched for Bangladesh in early August (appeal 21/2002) shortly followed by another appeal to support 130,000 monsoon and landslide victims for six months in Nepal (appeal 23/2002) and again another appeal to support 200,000 people affected by flooding for six months in India (appeal 24/2002).

During the reporting period political unrest and a deteriorating law and order situation continued in **Bangladesh**. In late July, the opposition party Awami League stopped boycotting participation in the national parliament and joined the budget session. The *Hartals* (national strike) continue.

The security situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) improved. International donors, in particular Danish government whose citizens were among the kidnapped in an incident last year, have now revised their restriction concerning their involvement in development programs in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. In October 2002, the Bangladesh floods relief operation (appeal 21/2002) was successfully completed with all objectives from the emergency appeal having been met.

On 7 December, four bomb explosions went off in four cinemas in Mymensingh town, 110 km north of capital Dhaka. At least 17 people were killed and 200 injured. The cinemas were packed with about 2,000 people who had gone to see Bengali films following the Eid-ul-Fitr holidays.



The National Societies in Bangladesh, India and here in Nepal were busy providing support to victims of this year's monsoon flooding.

In **India**, the communal violence that ripped through the earthquake-stricken Gujarat since February may appear to have ended, but the ruin it brought to thousands continues. Prolonged rioting has substantially hampered the rehabilitation efforts for the earthquake hit population, causing delays to most of the programs supported by the Federation and Indian Red Cross partner Societies in Gujarat. Despite continuous reports of sporadic communal clashes in some areas up to September, the situation in Ahmedabad which witnessed the worst of the violence was gradually improving and many people were leaving the relief camps to rebuild their livelihood. However, a terrorist attack on the Akshardham temple in the state capital of Gandhinagar on 24 September in which 31 people were killed and 100 injured posed fear of another wave of communal rioting. The security situation after the

Gujarat election on 12 December deteriorated again when communal clashes during victory celebrations were reported in different cities of Gujarat which left at least three persons dead. Curfews were imposed in some areas.

The early onset of monsoon rains caused widespread flooding in large parts of western and northeastern India (see the above mentioned appeal 24/2002). Ironically in other parts of India, with the monsoon reaching only 19 per cent of normal levels this year, the agriculturally dependent central and northern part of India have seriously lacked rain. Around 300 million people of at least 12 states have been directly affected by the dry spell. This is the most widespread drought India has faced in the last 15 years with Rajasthan being the worst hit. An emergency appeal relating to the drought has been drafted.

During November, a number of earthquakes of various magnitudes from 3.6 to 6.2 on the Richter scale were reported in some bordering and coastal regions of India including the drought affected state of Gujarat in the Rann of Kutch.

The seven year old conflict between the government and the armed opposition in *Nepal* which has escalated during the year remains volatile. A national State of Emergency for ten months, unsuccessful attempts to sustain peace talks, curfews in the most affected districts, and the deaths of nearly 4,400 persons due to the conflict over seven months alone have formed the key backdrop to events in the country. The dismissal of the government and the installation of a caretaker government by the King in October pending a new election schedule has brought further political instability.

The escalating violence has challenged the Nepal Red Cross to readjust quickly from delivering services which have developed in a peacetime environment for forty years, to managing change to enable it to adjust to operating in conflict sensitive situations. Several security incidents have been recorded against the Red Cross staff/members and property. The Federation and ICRC have been striving in a coordinated way to strengthen the National Society's strategies on how to respond to conflict while implementing its programs. The regional OD program has been vital in helping the Nepal Red Cross to adjust itself better to delivering services in an increasingly conflict sensitive environment.

In beginning of December, there were signs that the leadership of the armed opposition would sit for talks if the government created "a suitable atmosphere." According to news sources armed opposition have also decided to stop targeting infrastructure and attacks on individuals affiliated with political parties.

In *Sri Lanka*, an ambitious ceasefire with ethnic Tamil rebels, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam, has held for nine months, and three rounds of peace talks have made remarkable progress.

The drought that has gripped specific areas of Southern Sri Lanka's Hambantota District for the past two and a half years continued during the second half of the year but in September and October well awaited rain was received. More than 400,000 people, some 80% of Hambantota's population, have been affected by the long term effects of the drought. Two Red Cross assessments during the first half of the year confirmed the continued needs from last years' appeal and a new appeal (18/2002) was launched 1 July to support 18,000 beneficiaries for 9 months.

Disaster Response w

Goal: Rapid and effective disaster response by South Asia National Societies, co-ordinated by SARD, with minimal adverse impact on ongoing regional programs.

Objective 1: To increase Federation capacity to assist South Asia National Societies to respond effectively and rapidly to disasters.

The Regional Disaster Response Delegate (RDRD) has been involved in drafting the appeal for the Floods and Landslides in Nepal (23/2002) and was part of the assessment team for the India Drought Appeal. Support was also given to the Sri Lanka Red Cross for the drought operation and the Nepalese Red Cross for the floods and landslide relief operation. For this purpose the RDRD made four visits to Nepal, three visits to Sri Lanka and field trips to the Indian states of Assam and Rajasthan.

Visits were also used to give training in different aspects of disaster response and/or lessons learned exercises. In Nepal the RDRD facilitated jointly with the Nepal Red Cross and the ICRC Cooperation Delegate two joint conflict preparedness/ disaster response workshops at district level. A joint country-specific curriculum for district level is currently under development and will be piloted early in 2003. A Better Programming Initiative (BPI) module will be part of that curriculum. After evaluation, the experience will be used as a model in the region to further mobilize the different components in increasing the capacity of the National Societies. The effort to put a similar process in place in Sri Lanka has been hampered by the postponement of the signing of the cooperation agreement between the Sri Lanka Red Cross, the ICRC and the Federation.

In Sri Lanka, Assam and Nepal the RDRD participated in lessons learned exercises with beneficiaries, volunteers and district and national staff participating in close cooperation with the Regional DP delegate. In the case of Assam the RDRD cooperated closely with the India Operation Center (IOC) DP delegate. In Sri Lanka these sessions were followed with training where priority was given to subjects identified as weaknesses during the lessons learned sessions.

The RDRD further cooperated with key persons in the Indian Red Cross as well as the Federation's India Operations Centre (IOC) to further develop operational procedures for deployment of an Emergency Response Kit (ERkit) in emergency situations.

***Objective 2:** To establish a regional field assessment and coordination team (FACT) of competent, trained, experienced National Society personnel capable of rapid deployment within the region to assess and coordinate immediate Red Cross Red Crescent response to major disasters.*

The second regional disaster response team (RDRT) training which was planned to be held in November, was postponed to the first quarter of 2003. The main reasons for the postponement were a) ongoing relief operations and numerous workshops in the last quarter of 2002 would have made it difficult to get the right participants for the training and b) so that the ToT for BPI could facilitate inclusion of this important tool.

Lesson learned in this respect is that longer training programs have to be organized in the first two quarters of the year, before the monsoon, and that funding has to be available from the start of the year. Therefore, 40,000 CHF will be carried over to 2003 to facilitate the RDRT training to be held in the first quarter of 2003. The remaining balance is reserved to facilitate the RDRD to react quickly when the situation in the region demands it. Meanwhile, one RDRT member was sent to the Federation team leader training in Germany, and one member was sent to Sri Lanka to support the drought operation of the Sri Lanka Red Cross. Team members were put on alert during a cyclone warning in the gulf of Bengal, but finally no intervention was considered to be necessary.

The post of Regional Population Movement Coordinator has been filled. In November, the PM coordinator attended a REACH OUT training in Tanzania followed by a ToT course in BPI in Katmandu. She has also visited the Butanese refugee camps in Nepal. She will be a valuable asset to the region, by identifying regional trends in PM as well as possibly initiating pilot projects to further integrate BPI and REACH OUT in the National Society programs.

A Better Programme Initiative (BPI) ToT with ten participants from four counties of the region was held in Kathmandu, Nepal in December. Plans for further introduction of BPI in the region are underway. Both SARD and the Federation Secretariat facilitators committed themselves to supporting the National Society in this issue. All participants agreed that integration of BPI into existing programs will increase their sustainability.

The Disaster Response program has a carry over of approximately 50 per cent of the revised budget due to reasons mentioned above. The balance will be utilized during the first quarter of 2003.

Disaster Preparedness w

Goal: Improved response by regional Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation, to the needs of disaster-prone populations, before, during and following disasters.

Objective 1: To develop and implement common standards and guidelines and a regional Disaster Preparedness / Disaster Response policy and plan of action.

Based on the recommendations of the Working Group on Training Materials (one representative from each National Society plus the SARD disaster management team) in the first half of 2002, the SARD team, in coordination with the National Societies in the region, started translation into English of seven manuals, currently utilised by the Nepal Red Cross and Bangladesh Red Crescent. These manuals will be published and printed at the end of December and distributed to all six National Societies.

In addition to this, copies of two Federation DP Trainers manuals are currently being reprinted for distribution and local adaptation by the National Societies. This resource is targeted to support National Societies in the development of minimum standard training materials for Disaster Management.

During the DP Strategy Workshop held in July in Negombo, Sri Lanka, the seven recommendations made by the working group on training materials were discussed. Workshop participants recommended to continue the process with more members (India and Afghanistan) meeting more frequently. Recommendations also supported the inclusion of Community Based First Aid (CBFA) in the core curriculum, hiring of consultants and the integration of gender sensitivity into future training activities. Senior Government Disaster Management officials from South Asia who attended the workshop were appraised of the concept and progress. Delegates responsible for bilateral DP programs in the region have also been kept informed on the availability of these resources in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

The regional DP Policy Priorities document has been finalised. It was unanimously adopted by all senior Disaster Management participants during the Sri Lanka workshop and approved by South Asia Secretaries General at their meeting in Islamabad in August.

These policy priorities will provide a coherent approach in DP program implementation in the region and uniformity in capacity building initiatives. A meeting of delegates from Country Delegations is planned in early 2003 to work out coherent Disaster Management action plans, in line with these regional DP policy priorities.

Objective 2: To assist South Asia National Societies to develop their own operational and strategic DP plans, based upon the regional DP policy.

During the Regional DP Strategy Workshop in Sri Lanka the Bangladesh DP Delegate discussed elements of Disaster Management plans and provided all National Society

participants with a copy of the Federation's Standard Training Module on National Society DP Planning. The participants suggested more emphasis on integration of DP & Disaster Response, establishing linkages with government, and community level programming in Disaster Management plans. They clearly recognised the development of National Society DP Plans as a priority activity for 2003.

The regional Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) workshop carried out in Bangladesh in October stressed the need to assess capacities of the National Societies, in the light of vulnerabilities and also to develop structures within National Societies for implementation of VCA. These developments will provide important directions to the development of Disaster Management plans in National Societies.

In Pakistan, the nation-wide Disaster Management Capacity Assessment of Pakistan Red Crescent was completed. The outcome will assist the Pakistan Red Crescent further to formulate its Disaster Management Policy and plans for 2003 and beyond.

Financial support for the new position of Disaster Management Director in the Sri Lanka Red Cross will help to take the process of developing Disaster Management plans further. It will also consolidate the efforts of the Spanish RC-supported Floods Preparedness program in eight districts in Sri Lanka. A VCA training program will also take place in December to develop skills of SLRCS staff primarily in the drought affected District of Hambantota.

The Regional Delegation has facilitated deployment of its DP Coordinator to the India Operations Center, exclusively for support of the Assam community based DP program (CBDP).

The CBDP evaluation in Nepal has been completed by a local evaluation team with support from a regional consultant appointed by the Regional Delegation. The recommendations include extending the program with slight changes in the implementation and broadening the scope of training programs to include income generation activities for better sustainability of the program by communities. The Nepal Red Cross is also developing an information database for analysis by GIS tools. Data is shared by all major relief organisations and Government under "DP-Net". The Nepal Red Cross has a very good liaison with the government's Disaster Management department at national and district levels and is working to improve the same at village and community levels. This will provide useful learning for other National Societies in the region, to develop their strategies in establishing linkages with Government and other partners.

Objective 3: *To develop the human resources of South Asia National Societies to ensure sufficient trained, competent staff, male and female, to implement country based DP programs, and who have an understanding of regional DP strategies and priorities and a commitment to each other in maintaining excellence in DP program delivery at all levels.*

The regional DP Strategy workshop in Sri Lanka provided a much needed opportunity for National Society senior Disaster Management staff to examine the regional DP program and approach and redefine Disaster Management priorities for their countries in the changed economic and political scenario. It also served to provide insight into development of Disaster Management plans & training materials, advocacy and use of tools such as the "Well Prepared National Society".

In July, four participants from South Asia successfully participated in a Federation global VCA Training of Trainers workshop in Italy. There were two participants from Bangladesh (one from Bangladesh Red Crescent and one from the Federation), one from the regional delegation in Delhi, and one from Pakistan Red Crescent. Three of those trained, one from each country, subsequently organised and facilitated in Bangladesh in October, a four day regional VCA training workshop for participants from all six National Societies. This cascading process continued in Sri Lanka in December when the Sri Lanka Red Cross

participants, supported by the trainer from Pakistan Red Crescent, conducted a VCA training workshop in Hambantota. This process in Sri Lanka will result in implementation of a VCA in Hambantota early in 2003 to identify needs and priorities for a drought mitigation program. The entire process will be written up as a case study during 2003.

A Sri Lanka senior Disaster Management staff member was seconded to the Regional Delegation for a month to learn about activities and procedures in the Federation and to support the organisation and documentation of the regional VCA workshop. A field trip was organised to drought affected areas of an Indian state, Rajasthan for his better learning on coping mechanisms and long term drought mitigation measures suitable for implementation in drought affected areas in Sri Lanka.

During this reporting period, three staff members of the Pakistan Red Crescent - involved with disaster management at provincial level, went on a study visit for six days to Bangladesh to learn about the Community Based Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP). The coastal areas of Pakistan are prone to cyclones and the visiting team gained useful information to assist them to develop a program comparable to CPP to be implemented in vulnerable areas of Pakistan.

The Regional Delegation is also working to improve IT structure and skills in National Societies Disaster Management departments. It is doing so by facilitating improved knowledge sharing and communication through internet/e-mails. A laptop computer has been provided to the Sri Lanka Disaster Management department for the purpose, along with basic operating instructions. A training program on Geographical Information Systems (GIS) is planned for National Society staff in January for skills development in compilation and analysis of databases.

Objective 4: *To improve the compilation and sharing of knowledge, case studies and skills within the region and internationally.*

Lessons learned exercises have been carried out by the Nepal and Sri Lanka Red Cross, with external facilitation by SARD. The Country Delegations in India and Bangladesh have also carried out similar exercises on floods relief operations this year. These lessons learned will be published in January for sharing with RC/RC partners, including concerned Government officials.

Almost all National Societies/Country Delegations have now carried out these activities with little or no support from the Regional Delegation. It is expected that in future, after each relief operation, lessons learned exercises will be undertaken and shared by concerned National Societies for broader knowledge sharing.

A CBDP case study has been completed in Nepal in addition to the evaluation of the CBDP program. The recommendations of the evaluation are under review by Nepal Red Cross and once finalised, the document will be shared for internal and external learning.

Please also refer to Objective 3 for details of skills transfer activities between National Societies.

Objective 5: *To advocate for recognition of the Red Cross Red Crescent role in Disaster Management and for the involvement and participation of Red Cross Red Crescent partners in Disaster Management policy-making forums at regional and national levels.*

During this reporting period, there have been several activities for promoting the role of RC/RC in Disaster Management which have indirect yet strategic impact. The attendance of senior government officials from four countries, at the Regional DP Strategy Workshop in Sri Lanka was very well appreciated and workshop participants recommended its continuance. The joint government-RC/RC group made recommendations on policy

development and planning, development of coordination mechanisms, joint assessments, sharing Disaster Management logistics, and volunteer development and mobilisation. The group also discussed possible constraints and ways to overcome them.

Meetings were also held with UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, ECHO, DFID, CARE, and OXFAM to increase interagency communication and exchange program information.

A further DP Newsletter was published and distributed amongst various partners. The database of recipients has been updated to improve communication with all those not directly associated with the Regional Delegation DP Programmes.

Government counterparts were invited to participate in the lessons learned exercises, carried out in Sri Lanka and Nepal to discuss streamlining of relief operations by learning from past experiences. Increased emphasis on government participation in regional and country programs is helping South Asia National Societies to work more closely with Governments and other partners.

The Disaster Preparedness Program is in line with the revised budget.

Humanitarian Values w

Goal: To implement a range of communications and advocacy initiatives that achieve a greater degree of visibility, credibility, co-operation and support for Red Cross and Red Crescent activities in South Asia and a better understanding of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values among internal and external stakeholders.

Objective 1: To expand strategic links with local and international media in order to promote and advocate for the strategic priorities of the Federation.

A comprehensive database of all key international and local media organizations and individual correspondents based in South Asia now exists in the SARD information department. However, there is a need to constantly update this database due to the regular changes in journalists' areas of operation.

Media representatives increasingly see the Federation as a credible and reliable source of information on humanitarian issues in the region. This recognition has in part been derived from the consistent networking with the media carried out by the regional information team. A good indication of this recognition was the level of interview requests made to the Federation following the 2002 floods in Nepal, India and Bangladesh and also at the time of launching the Sri Lanka Drought Appeal.

Regular informal briefings on operational/ advocacy issues have been given to the international media. Information material including press releases, publications and photographs relating to global issues and the role of the Federation and National Societies around the region have been constantly provided to journalists. The Foreign Correspondent Club of New Delhi now lists the Regional Delegation as an associate member and recommends many correspondents arriving newly in New Delhi to call on the Regional Information team, mainly for the purpose of getting introduced.

The regional information team has actively contributed to some of the global advocacy initiatives carried out by the Federation and has maintained a consistent flow of information materials to key media representatives. A number of news stories were produced from the region which were used on the special web pages on ifrc.org set up to coincide with the World AIDS Meeting in Barcelona held in mid July and for the First Aid Day on September 14.

The regional information team also provided support to National Society advocacy and communication strategies in relation to the Global First Aid Project and World AIDS Day.

Objective 2: *To achieve a greater degree of cooperation and support amongst key external stakeholders through more effective marketing of the Federation*

Having fully incorporated the Asia Pacific communications strategy into the sub-regional communications objectives of SARD earlier on in the year, a five-day workshop of Information Officers from the National Societies in the region chalked out their roles with the strategy in mind. The Nepal Red Cross has already come up with its own Communications Strategy and also a Communications Policy. Similarly a communications strategy for the Indian Red Cross is being developed jointly by the OD unit of the India Operations Center and the ICRC's Cooperation Delegate. From the SARD, the Regional Information Officer and from ICRC the Communications Manager are also involved in the framing of this strategy. Their involvement in the development of the strategy will increase in the coming months as it evolves.

The Regional Information Officer continues to provide a regular flow of stories from the region for use on the news section of ifrc.org. Stories were also provided for the June issue of the Asia Pacific FOCUS Magazine. Two thematic stories on the issues of migration and HIV/AIDS are under preparation for the next issue of the Focus Magazine.

Contributions of stories from National Societies in the region have increased. Consistent coverage has been given to major programs undertaken by National Societies in the region particularly in relation to the emergency relief operations such as the drought in Sri Lanka and the floods in Nepal, India and Bangladesh. Coverage is also being provided for a drought situation in the western state of Rajasthan in India.

Assigning regional journalists to cover RC/ RC has been undertaken with two institutions imparting training in mass media and communications. Two journalists have also been taken on a tour of the flood-hit regions of Nepal. The journalists made four stories on the impact of Red Cross relief reaching vulnerable people affected by the floods in the Terai (flat) region. The viability of a regional 'Red Cross Red Crescent journalism fellowship' is being explored whereby regional media will be supported under the program to produce feature articles on core area themes.

Objective 3: *To promote an understanding and application of the 'Fundamental Principles' and 'Humanitarian Values within National Societies in the region*

While awaiting appropriate examples of 'best practice' in the application of Humanitarian Values in the region, the priority to date has been to orientate National Society managers in the concept of Humanitarian Values with the BPI framework as one of the tools.

An orientation into the 'Principles in Action' CD has been provided to each National Society's information department. In some National Societies these training materials are being used to complement existing orientation/induction programs for new staff and volunteers. The 'Principles to Action' CD provided by the Humanitarian Advocacy unit in Geneva has also been distributed among the National Societies. A presentation based on this CD was made before the information officers of the region during the Information Officers workshop in Sri Lanka. The Regional Information Officer and the Information Officer of the Nepal Red Cross made a similar presentation for the Nepal Red Cross staff and officers in September.

A comprehensive set of activities has been emphasized under the Humanitarian Values and advocacy component of the emergency appeal for the floods in Nepal (23/2002). One of the

objectives under this section of the Appeal is to advocate with government to resettle vulnerable people/communities on safer land.

The advocacy efforts initiated by the Sri Lanka Red Cross with the technical support of the Regional Information team around the earlier drought appeal have been sustained for the purpose of this year's appeal for the ongoing drought.

In late December, the Regional Information Officer will attend the strategic planning meeting of the South Asia Regional HIV/AIDS Network (SARNHA) in Dhaka. There he will make a presentation on the Federation's Campaign to put an end to discrimination and stigmatization towards people living with HIV/AIDS. A presentation will also be made to Network member(s) and National Societies on how to write for and produce their quarterly newsletter.

Objective 4: *To localize the post of the SARD regional Information Delegate*

The Regional Information Officer assumed the responsibilities of the Regional Information Delegate in the last week of September. This was preceded by a structured induction/ orientation program which has entailed the Regional Information Officer undertaking a month long secondment to the Federation Secretariat's Strategic Communications Unit (formerly the media service) where he assumed specific responsibilities as well as received some technical training. In addition, he underwent the Delegates Induction Course. Further training is being organized to improve his skills in financial management.

No donor support was received towards this program. However funds reallocated from old India emergency appeal projects have made it possible to complete the activities mentioned above. Around 85% of the budget will have been spent at the end of the year and remaining will be spent during the first quarter of 2003.

Health and Care w

Following the year-end review of the program 2001, some minor modifications were made for 2002. These included the establishment of a broader-based Regional Health team and a down-scaling of attempts to hold regional-level training, given the diversity of training needs within the region. Instead it was decided that more effort would be made to identify relevant in-country training opportunities and to develop more National Society needs-specific training.

The Regional Health Program faced a major drawback and disruption due to the tragic death of the Regional Health Delegate in August. The draft South Asia Annual Appeal section for Health had just been finalized and the Delegate's work in the region had just begun. This position is currently being advertised with some candidates expressing interest at the time of writing.

Current regional health priorities for South Asia are HIV/AIDS; community based first aid, community based promotive/preventive and basic curative care; and the strengthening of health management capacity to tackle key health needs prevailing in the region.

It has been decided to carry out a Health Mapping exercise in order to equip the new Regional Health Delegate and the National Societies on updated priorities. As the Regional Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA) is in place and the American Red Cross is active in safe blood programs, it is anticipated that the areas for the Regional Health Delegate will somewhat change.

The mapping, which due to funding constraints will now be more like a desk review is planned to take place early in 2003.

Goal: The overall goal of the program for the next three to five years is to strengthen National Societies' capacity to plan, implement and manage quality health programs and emergency health responses which make a positive difference to the health of vulnerable people, with the active participation of national societies in the region in this process.

Objective 1: To provide technical and financial support for strategic health capacity strengthening, including the management of emergency health situations

The development of the Regional Health Resource Centre was started during the first half of the year. This will be a collection of books, journals, videos, CDs etc., on aspects of health and health program management which should be useful for National Societies. These include Federation publications as well as those from many other sources. In 2003 it is also intended to collect health monitoring tools from the different National Societies. The overall aim is to have a "toolbox" from existing resources which can be utilized to strengthen health program management and capacity. All documents and resources are being put onto a special library database.

The anticipated meeting of the National Society Health Managers (Health Forum) has been postponed pending the arrival of a new Regional Health Delegate. At the meeting it was planned to review the monitoring tools which are currently available. It is anticipated that all health management tools will be converted into an electronic version and which will be distributed to the respective National Societies.

A new activity for 2002 within this objective was the development of a Regional strategy for better response to and management of emergency health situations. Both the Health Forum meeting and the newly-formed Regional health team are expected to address this issue in early 2003. The latter initiative is described in more detail under Objective Three below.

Objective 2: To provide technical and financial support through the Appeal for National Society health programs, especially in health prevention/ promotion/ education and basic curative care; reproductive/child health (including HIV/AIDS); appropriate First Aid; and safe blood donor recruitment and retention.

National Society priorities were discussed at the time of the previous regional Health Delegate, now HoD in Pakistan. In particular Sri Lanka will, through their community health program, be focusing on first aid, HIV/AIDS and safe blood donor recruitment and retention. It is hoped to have the next meeting of the Regional Safe Blood Working Group in the first half of 2003. Nepal Red Cross has particularly asked for support for its community based first aid and community development activities, within its overall health and care program. The Nepal Red Cross has submitted a proposal in this regard.

In India, an HIV/AIDS Prevention and advocacy program through Junior, Youth Red Cross and in the communities will make up a major component of the annual appeal for India 2003.

Country Delegation technical support to Pakistan Red Crescent is ongoing. Support within the current Humanitarian Crisis operation for Afghan refugees is being closely linked to the ongoing health activities and capacity development of the National Society. A new Health Delegate is expected to arrive at the end of January. Meanwhile the Federation Health Officer in Islamabad is the responsible Health person at the Federation Delegation and continues to support the National Societies in capacity building and community health services.

September 14 was observed as First Aid day by the National Societies in Pakistan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka with funding from the Humanitarian Values and Information programs of SARD.

The first priority for the South Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA) has been peer education for Youth, (see also Objective three).

***Objective 3:** To develop a learning environment and facilitate the better utilisation of existing intra- and inter-Regional resources*

In the Secretaries General meeting in August and as a part of the Kabul Pledge, the National Societies in the region determined the following regional health priorities:

- Scaling up our commitment to confront the HIV/AIDS pandemic by making our prevention efforts more effective, improving treatment for people living with the virus and reducing the stigmatization of those who have HIV/AIDS. Our South Asia Regional Network on HIV/AIDS will coordinate responses as well as share lessons and best practice on how to reduce vulnerability to this health crisis.
- Strengthening the National Societies role in the collection of safe blood and seeking more technical and policy support from secretariat.

The first South Asia Regional HIV/AIDS meeting held in Kathmandu in May culminated in the creation of the South Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA). The SARNHA aims at building capacity of member National Societies to effectively deliver HIV/AIDS related programs. For this purpose SARNHA organizes various levels of meetings and workshops with participation of representatives of the member National Societies. All six National Societies in the region are members of SARNHA.

In line with this plan, the following activities have been carried out by the SARNHA Coordination Office between June and December 2002:

- A rapid review of the project was carried out. The review recommended to accelerate issues like cross border interventions, to meet the recommendations of the Kathmandu Meeting, building capacity of the National Societies on HIV/AIDS programming and enhancing ownership of the network among them
- HIV/AIDS related Information Education and Communication materials like training materials were collected, purchased and disseminated to all National Societies.
- The SARNHA Coordination Office Team visited the National Societies of Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The team reviewed activities carried out by the National Societies and SARNHA Coordination Office according to the work plan developed in the Kathmandu meeting. The visiting team also held meetings with GO's, NGO's and INGO's for exploring opportunities for cooperation.
- A one day brain storming session was organized with the Health Service Department and Junior/Youth Department, HIV/AIDS Prevention Section of the Nepal Red Cross in order to develop a discussion paper on Youth Peer Education. The discussion paper is planned to be presented, discussed and finalized at the second SARNHA meeting which will be held between 22 and 27 December in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- A quarterly newsletter has been developed

The second SARNHA meeting in Dhaka will focus on the Nepal Red Cross sharing its youth peer education (experience/lessons learned) program and building consensus on minimum contents of the peer education program/modalities. Following are the meeting objectives:

- To review activities carried out by member National Societies and the SARNHA Coordination office against the action plan developed in Kathmandu;
- To share the Youth Peer Education discussion paper and build consensus on the contents of the same
- To prepare a plan of action for the next six months period and finalize the plan for the next (3rd) SARNHA workshop.

The meeting will be followed by a strategic planning workshop. The expected outputs of the workshop are to develop common understanding on concepts of a strategic plan, and

processes of formulating one. The workshop also encourages every National Society to hold a strategic planning workshop in their countries, using skills from this one.

It is also expected that each member National Society will have a draft strategic plan on HIV/AIDS at the time of the third SARNHA. The draft SARNHA strategic plan will be shared with all concerned authorities for their inputs. Measures will also be taken to have complementarity between SARNHA and country level strategic plans.

The Regional Safe Blood Working Group planned for the third quarter in Sri Lanka did not take place. However, and as reinforced by the Kabul Pledge there is a real commitment from National Societies to scale up safe blood donor recruitment and retention activities, and this will be the main focus for the next meeting, which now is planned for the first half of 2003. The draft agenda prepared earlier this year also includes sessions on working in partnerships with Government and others in blood programs, and maximising capacity development of the National Society through donor recruitment and retention programs. In India, the American Red Cross is involved in this project. The Federation manual will be a key tool for developing donor programs.

The broader-based Regional Health team meeting, with the purpose of making better use of health resources within the region, unfortunately never had the chance to take place in 2002. This team will consist of the Regional Health Delegate and the country-level Health Coordinators in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The intention is to meet six-monthly to discuss common issues and to provide greater and more co-ordinated support to the National Societies. In 2003, more effort will be made to facilitate the increased publication and dissemination of each National Society's health programs and activities.

Due to obvious reasons the Regional Health Programme has not been able to deliver as planned during the last half of the year however the SARNHA project has been very active. In summary the expenditure is in line with the revised budget.

Organisational Development (Institutional and Resource Development) w

Goal: To establish further measurable progress towards well-functioning National Societies in the region, and thereby greater capacity to respond effectively to the needs of the most vulnerable, by establishing consistency in governance and management standards in all National Societies.

Institutional Development

Objective 1: To develop and implement common standards regarding measurable progress towards the "Characteristics of well-functioning societies" by supporting the revision of the statutes of 5 national societies.

Following the regional Constitution Review workshop held in June 2001, and the regional Change Management workshop in March 2002, a regional Branch Development workshop conducted in December 2002 reaffirmed the National Societies' collective commitments in the region to achieve constitution revision. The Branch Development workshop confirmed that a strong legal base is the essential foundation of an overall organisational strengthening process. In this context significant progress has been made in all Societies, inspired by the successful completion of the processes and the creation of regional role models in Sri Lanka and Nepal.

The regional OD delegate has co-ordinated technical and legal support with the ICRC to enable these processes to be supported in ways that meet the requirements of the Federation's "Guidance for National Society Statutes". Each constitutional revision process is taking place within a particular and strategic context to enable the National Society to

improve its overall service delivery in more coordinated and well-managed internal environments.

In Nepal the constitutional revision process was aimed at helping the Nepal Red Cross to address some of the criticisms and accusations about the political positioning of some of its volunteers and members. This seriously compromised its neutrality in the conflict sensitive environment. The adoption of the new constitution and its Code of Conduct for members led to the introduction of new volunteer management systems through the national Volunteer Policy, a proposed Volunteer Manager post, and introduction of new competency based selection and orientation systems. These systems aim to ensure a higher standard of integrity in the human resource base that will protect the National Society from external interference which will otherwise render it ineffectual in the conflict.

The new constitution in Sri Lanka Red Cross has also had an important impact. The newly elected Central Governing Board is requesting Federation and ICRC support to enable it to appoint a Branch Executive Officer in each of the twenty five district branches. This strengthening of management and consequent separation from governance is an important outcome of the constitutional revision. The Society is faced with many new program planning opportunities with the emerging peace process in the country. To improve its program capacity it has also prioritized a 5 Year Strategic Plan to be coordinated by the new management which will assist it to plan more effective services and Branch development strategies. Clarifying the differences between governance and management has resulted in further restructuring of the NHQ management organigrams leading to strengthened management responsibilities. New managers are being appointed with external experience to bring new management competencies to the new structures.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent has prepared the seventh draft of the new constitution according to the requirements of the Federation's "Guidance for National Society Statutes". The National Society will be receiving technical advice and observations in a coordinated feedback from the Federation's regional OD delegate and the regional ICRC Cooperation delegate in January. This will be followed by a final drafting process and Constitution Revision Committee meeting in Bangladesh in early February attended by the Federation and ICRC delegates, prior to the text being submitted to the Joint Commission for Statutes in Geneva after that.

In Afghanistan and India the Red Crescent/Red Cross Societies have formed a small review body to begin the process of scrutinizing the existing Constitutions and reflect on their conformity with the global "Guidance for National Society Statutes" document. As part of a strategic preparation process for these discussions, both National Societies have completed an extensive and well-documented Branch assessment exercise. The purposes of these exercises were to gain uniform understanding of membership and volunteer systems, review all existing policies and systems, and take suggestions for strengthening the legal base of each Society. Both exercises prioritized the need for constitutional revision and legal base strengthening at all levels, followed by the development of national policies, guidelines and systems in a uniform and coordinated manner across the whole Society.

It has been noticeable that the improved clarification in governance and management roles in some Societies as a result of new constitutions has improved policy making committee structures. Examples of this stronger governance and management relationship from Nepal and Sri Lanka are being shared with other Societies as indicators of successful impact from these processes.

Objective 2: To build strategic management capacity in all societies by implementing a regional approach to management development programs to strengthen further the strategic change management skills needed to deliver the change objectives of "Strategy 2010".

Further results from the regional Change Management workshop held in March 2002 can be measured through more effective and strategic planning processes in a number of the region's National Societies. The processes used by Societies to plan and manage change more sensitively are clearly shown in the more participatory planning techniques currently under discussion across the region.

The regional Branch Development workshop held in December was attended by NHQ and Branch level participants from all six Societies. Through participatory techniques and discussions participants created a strong and collectively agreed framework by which all National Societies want in future to measure effective organisational change. The participants agreed minimum impact indicators for characteristics of well functioning Societies in the region. These indicators were set at Sub-Branch (community) level, Intermediate (Province, State or District) level, and NHQ level. The strategic framework agreed requires each of these levels to have measurable and developed plans and strategies, systems and procedures, human resource development and skills, resource mobilization and sustainability plans, internal structures and linkage mechanisms, and external linkage plans.

At country levels change management strategies have also demonstrated more participatory approaches. In Afghanistan the branch assessment exercise resulted in the assessment team visiting all 31 Branches. This has also led to interest in conducting a comprehensive 5 Year Strategic Development Plan process in early 2003 aimed at reunifying the National Society through participatory long-term internal planning to meet the needs of external vulnerability. In order to strengthen the management competencies at all levels to achieve this objective a "management development" training is being planned for early 2003.

The Indian Red Cross is planning a national level 5 Year Strategic Development Plan meeting in May 2003. It will use the analysis of the nationwide branch assessment exercise as an important platform on which to build change management plans. The NHQ has been strengthened by a new Organizational Development/Resource Development department. Amongst its aims are to assist the Society to undertake strategic planning processes, restructure the management organigram at NHQ level into two parts (program and service departments), integrate organisational development objectives into all programs, and assist all managers to identify key change goals to strengthen service delivery.

The Sri Lanka and Pakistan Red Cross/Red Crescent senior management are focussing on planned change processes. In Pakistan the Development and Cooperation Unit (DCU) review with its participatory Branch involvement agreed the services required at NHQ level to support more effective program and service delivery at Branch levels. In Sri Lanka Red Cross the senior management team is planning a similar participatory 5 Year Strategic Development Plan process. The change management technique will involve Branches in visioning about future structures to improve integrated national program planning and support.

The Federation regional OD delegate continues to draft a "South Asia RC/RC Societies' Change Management Manual" as requested at the regional Change Management workshop in March 2002. However, effective change management experiences, techniques and practices are also being shared across all Societies in the region. The Pakistan DCU review has been shared with the Bangladesh and Afghanistan Red Crescent Societies to strengthen the participatory nature of their planning processes.

Similarly strategies to maximize the use of effective Information Technology (IT) to better manage the flow of information and change have been shared between Pakistan, Nepal and Indian RC/RC Societies. Using the Nepal Red Cross experience of networking 60 computers together to improve knowledge management and cross-departmental planning, other Societies have been encouraged to adopt the same technique and Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India are in the process of active discussions to implement similar initiatives. The impact of the initiative regarding better narrative and financial planning,

monitoring and reporting between all departments is being monitored in Nepal Red Cross and will be shared when available with all other Societies in early 2003.

Objective 3: *To build a regional approach to human resource development and maximise internal training capacities in all national societies.*

The request of National Societies to avail of a structured management development “training of trainers” program has been initiated. The Sri Lanka Red Cross has agreed dates for the first course in January 2003 using the regionally developed training module facilitated by a regional “personnel-on-loan” from Nepal Red Cross human resource development (HRD) Division as the core trainer. Two initial planning visits have been made by the core trainer to agree the final curriculum and appropriate participants list in Sri Lanka, and other National Societies have expressed interest and are consulting on training dates in early 2003.

There continues to be active follow up to adapting and strengthening the standards of volunteer management across the region following the circulation of the finalised “South Asia Regional HRD Manual” agreed by the regional HRD workshop held in December 2001. New senior national level Volunteer Manager posts have been set up in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Nepal. In India, the responsibilities have been merged into a new Human Resource Development Coordinator post in the NHQ.

The “Regional HRD Manual” was once again considered as a key tool at the December 2002 regional “Branch Development” workshop and will be used to further develop new Volunteer Handbooks in India and Afghanistan RC/RC Societies. In India a pilot “Volunteer Handbook” will be used to recruit and train 150-200 volunteer managers in the Gujarat State Branch to improve volunteer recruitment, induction, retention and development. If successful it will be replicated across the rest of India. The Manual has already been adapted to Sri Lanka Red Cross needs and the version which has been translated into three languages has been distributed at a special HRD training and orientation workshop in November for NHQ and all Branches.

During the regional workshop on “Branch Development Models” in December 2002 all six National Societies debated proposals to launch regional fora on “Volunteers”, “Gender” and “Youth”. It was proposed to strengthen national level work in each of these areas first before forming regional fora of focal points. It was therefore agreed that the existing “training of trainers” in gender sensitization, and further support work to strengthen the youth and volunteering structures would be prioritized in all Societies.

The draft curriculum for the gender sensitisation TOT work is now being shared with all other Societies. Dates to complete the regional gender sensitization training events are being agreed with each National Society throughout 2003. In the meantime all Societies attended the regional “Branch Development” workshop in December and undertook mapping of existing gender policies, structures and systems across the region. This led to an agreement to take action to strengthen their approaches to drafting, adopting and implementing their Gender Policy and implementation systems. Sri Lanka Red Cross has planned to appoint new personnel to a specific national Gender Unit.

At the regional workshop on “Branch Development models” in December a structured discussion took place to enable all six National Societies to consider ways of strengthening each others’ youth wing development experiences. Although it was considered too early to invite a Federation Youth Delegate from another region, it was agreed to consider forming a regional RC/RC Youth forum perhaps in late 2003. A mapping exercise revealed the status of youth wing strategies and policy development in each Society. This discussion led to the collective agreement to adopt new or revised Youth Policies in conformity with the federation’s global Youth Policy.

It was also agreed to create opportunities for staff on loan programs between National Societies so that in-region experienced youth training resource people can train others in techniques to enhance participation of youth in all programs at all levels. Strong examples of good practice were shared. For example, Sri Lanka Red Cross have incorporated a youth representative at every level of governance committees as part of their revised Constitution.

The activities of the Institutional Development project remains in line with the revised budget.

Regional Finance Development program

Goal: To assist the regional National Societies to build up and develop their financial management capacities and to enable them to have transparent systems of accounting, with appropriate internal controls, able to produce timely, accurate and transparent financial reporting for external donors and internal management purposes.

Objective 1: To ensure that regional National Societies benefit from the experience of regional sister societies in developing common standards in finance development plans.

The regional Finance development work in the region (Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka & India) has experienced a good amount of progress and improvement in this period.

The program continues to be welcomed by all National Societies as it supports in-country improvements from regionally consistent norms. The National Societies have improved their financial management capacity, including accounting and financial reports, management information system (MIS) etc. Plans are in place for National Societies to pass on the new financial systems to their district branches and chapters.

A regional workshop on Narrative and Financial Reporting was held in October in Bangladesh jointly with the Regional Reporting Delegate. The module on finance reporting enabled the team to emphasize the importance of Finance development as an integrated part of organisational development.

A Regional Finance Management workshop was held in September in Nepal jointly with the Nepal Red Cross targeting junior finance staff (Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India & Bangladesh) who are involved in day to day finance work. The main focus was on how to achieve well functioning account/financial management systems particularly when it comes to utilizing modern technology such as accounting software, knowledge about procurement, budgeting, inventory control & other relevant matters.

Objective 2: To improve National Societies' financial systems and procedures taking into consideration existing capacities, within a regional framework for planned capacity building plans.

In November a Regional Finance Directors meeting (Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India & Bangladesh) was held in Sri Lanka. Following are the main outcomes:

- The progress of the finance development plans as developed and agreed in the Kathmandu workshop in November 2001 was followed-up. Where applicable, the reasons for non achievements were identified.
- Success stories, problems, constraints and lessons learned with regard to finance management were shared.
- It was decided to develop finance development projects for each National Society in the region - to be carried out 2003 and onwards.

The Internal Audit system of each National Society was also discussed. Even though some have a good system, the different constitution of each National Society makes it somewhat difficult to produce a regional manual. As a result, there will be a proposal to develop a

common internal audit approach in the region. This proposal will be presented at the next Secretaries General Meeting for their consideration.

Objective 3: To strengthen the capacity of National Society staff and arrange appropriate training when required.

The financial software company selected for the Sri Lanka Red Cross is not able to provide service to meet donor requirements. Therefore the Federation team is looking for another finance software which can meet the requirements and it is hoped that this will be finalized this year. The Pakistan Red Crescent has already finalized its financial software as have the Indian Red Cross which will complete installation early next year.

Attempts to develop common computerized accounting systems and financial procedures within the region have met some difficulties due to the different and specific requirements of National Society Managements. Similarly, the common computer software is not available in all countries. As a result, the Federation team has finalized the available software in the individual countries and has had it re-designed to ensure that it meets Federation financial reporting requirements.

Changing processes and procedures and finalizing software for National Societies takes time. National Societies in the region have experienced similar problems in terms of implementing new financial procedures and techniques. The Finance Development manager's visits to the National Societies ensured that technical advice will continue to be provided to National Society Finance Director's as and when needed.

The activities under this project are in line with the initial budget.

Regional Information Development Programme

Goal: To enable National Societies in the region to attain a greater degree of visibility and support among key stakeholders by promoting their activities and the Fundamental Principles through effective and professional advocacy and communications strategies.

Objective 1 : To support the development of well functioning communications capacity within each of the National Societies in the region through technical support, mutual learning and training initiatives.

A five-day workshop for information officers from the National Societies was held in Sri Lanka in July. The workshop was facilitated by the regional information team together with the Regional OD Delegate. The workshop came up with the following objectives for the information and communications work of each National Society:

- To act as a channel for the needs of vulnerable communities. To increase support from diverse stakeholders to vulnerable communities.
- To increase awareness of RC/RC programs in response to humanitarian contexts.
- To build a strong organisational network focused on flow of information and knowledge
- To build the image and understanding of the RC RC Movement and its ideals.

Capacity building of the information teams within the National Societies to achieve these objectives was identified as the central issue for the regional information department at SARD. The Information Officer of the Sri Lanka Red Cross is spending November and December with the regional information department (time shared with the Reporting Delegate) in New Delhi as a staff on loan (SOL).

With the assistance of external facilitators the Sri Lanka Red Cross Information Officer on Loan is receiving specific training in various aspects of communications including advocacy,

web site editing and strategic planning. She has also participated in a BPI workshop while also part-resourcing the Information module for a reporting workshop in Dhaka.

As well as improving her technical skills, this was an opportunity to familiarize her with the role of the Movement in the region, SARD delegates and their work. The visit has also been used to develop a communications strategy for the Sri Lanka Red Cross. In addition to providing a valuable knowledge sharing opportunity, the secondment has also been aimed at providing a greater understanding of Federation communications priorities.

The SARD has provided financial support to the National Society information departments of Nepal, India and Pakistan which has enabled two staff from each National Society to undergo technical training in web site design, editing and management. This training is being undertaken through local external consultancies.

Salary support to the information officers of the Sri Lanka Red Cross and the Nepal Red Cross continues to be provided and some technical hardware has been purchased for the information departments of each National Societies (including stills cameras for Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh). A contribution was also made towards acquiring new hardware in the Sri Lanka Red Cross (to go with a LAN network in the headquarters which can be installed in the coming year) which has greatly enhanced information sharing between NHQ departments.

All National Society information staff have access to the recently completed online Movement 'Communications Guide' and the Nepal Red Cross have already translated the guide into Nepali and distributed the same to program staff. Other National Societies are expected to follow suit in the coming year.

The Information Development Project is in line with the revised budget.

Regional Resource Development Programme

Goal: To support the regional National Societies in developing effective financial resource mobilisation strategies.

Objective 1 To promote effective local resource mobilisation and income diversification strategies in all 6 national societies by facilitating mutual capacity building and sharing of successfully documented case studies and developing a regional resource group of fund raising personnel.

The regional "Local Resource Mobilisation" training module was successfully conducted in Pakistan in November. Two trainers from the South Asia Fundraising Group conducted the training program for 24 participants from Branches and NHQ in Islamabad. The training was followed by action planning at all levels. The National Society has appointed its first ever national Fundraising Manager who has been tasked with developing a strategic resource mobilization plan for all levels, and to support Branch level plans and activities to strengthen existing resource mobilization techniques.

Plans are being made to conduct the regional training in Afghanistan and Bangladesh in early 2003 to complete the cycle of one training course in each of all six National Societies. In the Afghanistan Red Crescent this is a timely opportunity as the National Society is reestablishing some vital local resource mobilization techniques such as the national Lottery which it has just reintroduced. The Branch assessment exercise revealed that some branches have initiated income generating activities but that wide knowledge sharing across the National Society is a vital capacity building necessity. The branches have requested support to strengthen their ability to become more independent of the NHQ and external funding, therefore developing long-term sustainability plans.

As a result of the “Local Resource Mobilization” training the Indian Red Cross a presentation of the outcome and recommendations was made to the Managing Body. As a result a national Resource Development/Fundraising Officer post has been created to strengthen national policy in this area and develop more unified coordinated resource mobilization activities across the Branches and at national level.

In addition, the Indian Red Cross has appointed an external “Resource Development Consultant” for 12 months. The roles of this consultant are to give the National Society structured support in the areas of mapping existing assets and recommending maximization of income opportunities, developing corporate sector partnerships (and possibly corporate volunteering), strengthening resource development strategies by developing a clear action plan and steps, and assisting the national Resource Development/Fundraising Officer to prepare a presentation on more effective nationwide and State-level fundraising opportunities to the Indian Red Cross Managing Body.

There are now several examples across all National Societies of policy development discussions to strengthen integrated approaches to resource mobilization at all levels of the institutions. The Nepal Red Cross has drafted a national “Resource Development Policy” which has been considered by the Central Executive Committee”. When this is adopted after further refinements, it will be shared with the Governing Bodies and senior management of all the other Societies as an example of good practice.

Nepal Red Cross also sent two senior managers from their Resource Development Unit to study the successful fundraising experiences of the Karnataka State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society and the Sindh Provincial Branch of the Pakistan Red Crescent in October. Their internal report makes several recommendations, and the impact of the changes made following this regional cross-program learning visits will be evaluated in early 2003.

Sri Lanka Red Cross appointed a Consultant Director and Executive Consultant to form the new national Fundraising and Communications Department. The new team has initiated active internal planning to improve approaches to events management, commercial First Aid training, project fundraising, corporate sector engagement, and diversified income generating proposals. The team brings the fresh skills of marketing to the National Society and the overall impact of this professional approach to “Red Cross Brand” association, continuity and external communications strategy will be documented and shared with all other National Societies for learning purposes.

The regional OD delegate has continued to identify successful Resource Mobilisation case studies across the region that will lead in early 2003 to the documentation of a regional set of knowledge sharing “Fact Sheets”. It is intended to convene a regional forum of all existing National Society Fundraising/Resource Development Managers, Directors and Officers in early 2003. This meeting will map further knowledge of existing good practices and successes in all National Societies prior to the documentation process. It will also decide mutual capacity building strategies between all Societies where experienced personnel from one Society can train trainers in another. The experience from the Nepal Red Cross mutual capacity building visit in October will be evaluated at this meeting to decide whether this or other modalities for sharing knowledge and managing change effectively should be used in future.

No donor support was received for this project. However funding from the Institutional Development project made it possible to carry out the above mentioned activities. Comparing with the initial budget, the spent amount on this project is in line with the initial budget of CHF 51,000.

Regional Reporting Development

Reporting development is not part of this year’s regional appeal. However, with the view of reflecting the development initiatives undertaken within this area during this year, it will be

included in the next years appeal as a project under the organisational development program.

The first ever regional planning and reporting workshop was successfully conducted in October in Dhaka, Bangladesh. As the linkage between financial and narrative reporting is an important but neglected aspect of reporting, participants from both finance departments and people with narrative reporting experience were invited. 23 staff members from all 6 National Societies participated in the workshop and the main outcomes were the following:

- In addition to the formally designated reporting focal point selected in Nepal this spring, there are now focal points in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. This will considerably facilitate standard reporting input and is expected to enhance the outcome of capacity building efforts targeting various levels at the National Societies in the region.
- The participants' awareness on the need for good financial and narrative donor reporting and how to do it in view of being able to support vulnerable people was considerably increased. A module on marketing and advocacy also highlighted important aspects for reporting.
- The participants jointly determined the common National Society strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) primarily with regard to donor reporting. The outcome serves as a base for further capacity building support within projects under OD in 2003 and 2004.

As indicated in the evaluation the expectations were well met and there is growing interest and understanding of the need to increase skills within these areas.

In September the Nepal Red Cross reporting focal point received on the spot job training for some two weeks by the subregional Reporting Delegate, based in Dhaka. Computer and printer were purchased and installed, together with Federation software and style sheets, English language and writing courses are also being provided. Similarly the Delegate has also provided regular support to the Bangladesh reporting focal point who also has received hardware and installed software. The reporting focal point at the Bangladesh Red Crescent is currently attending an English course.

In December, additional training (communication and reporting) will be provided for Bangladesh Red Crescent Branches. Four days of training in reporting/planning is planned for managers/officers to be organized by the sub regional reporting Delegate in cooperation with the National Society's OD department early next year.

The Sri Lankan Information Officer, who is also the reporting focal point, was seconded to SARD for most of November and throughout December in a training program with the Regional Reporting Delegate and the Regional Information Officer respectively. During this period, the Staff on loan (SOL) worked hands on with Federation standard reporting with priority to those relating to operations in Sri Lanka. She also contributed to the South Asia Regional Newsletter and other more joint reporting/information tasks.

Developed training presentations and case studies were shared with the Reporting Delegate in Afghanistan who is working closely with the reporting focal point there. Plans are underway for training at NHQ and branch level.

Regular contacts are maintained with relevant delegates and staff at country level in India and Pakistan with the view of capacity building within these areas including selection of reporting focal points.

The planning and reporting development activities next year will focus on further capacity building of the reporting focal points after which training, targeting all levels of the national societies will follow. The methods will primarily be internships at Federation Country or Regional Delegations, working closely with Reporting Delegates. The focal points will also

be supported with externally organized courses (as deemed necessary), such as British Council English writing courses and computer, software and/or hardware including Internet access facilities. One follow up planning and reporting workshop is planned to be held as well as the organization of a regional ToT in Project Planning Process (PPP) to cover staff at National Societies not yet covered by Country Delegation support.

It is expected that additional Country Delegations in the region will be reporting through SARD as of 1 January 2003. A Regional Reporting Officer will be recruited shortly. The officer will be responsible for compiling and preparing narrative reports for the Federation Secretariat and, where appropriate, donors and other organizations. S/he will do so on behalf of the Regional Reporting Delegate and Head of Regional Delegation, and will also provide support to National Societies to enhance their reporting capacities.

The Reporting Officer will initially work alongside the Regional Reporting Delegate with the aim of her/him developing the necessary skills and competencies to replace her by the mid June 2003.

The Regional Reporting activities are in line with the revised budget.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Fundamental Principles and Initiatives w

Working closely with ICRC and the National Societies in the region, every effort has been made to ensure that the Fundamental Principles and Emblem issues are addressed and reinforced. This includes all training programs and seminars run at national and regional level, meetings with existing and new partners as well as relations with the media.

Regular use of the media has raised awareness considerably. During this period, the regional Information Officer has visited Nepal and helped the Nepal Red Cross to project itself as a neutral and impartial actor in this very sensitive conflict situation. The second Better Programming Initiative (BPI) training this year, held in Kathmandu in December is expected to further reinforce these issues as part of programs in Nepal and in the other National Societies attending the BPI workshop (Bangladesh Red Crescent, Pakistan Red Crescent and Sri Lanka Red Cross).

As a relatively new core area, the National Societies initially struggled to interpret and shape activities within Humanitarian Values. The National Societies, supported by SARD, have, where possible, incorporated Principles and Humanitarian Values as part and parcel of all programs and projects. The Humanitarian Values program has used as a vehicle, new initiatives such as BPI and REACH OUT, together with SPHERE, to promote this exciting vital concept. In December, a regional ten day TOT course on BPI was held in the conflict stricken Nepal.

In a region with frequently gender imbalances in courses and seminars, a concerted effort is being made at all fora to train and sensitise National Society leaders, staff and volunteers to be more aware of gender issues and gender imbalances throughout the National Societies in the region.

As mentioned in the previous update, encouragement within the DP program to involve more women in disaster management at all levels has been done but overall progress is slow. The program is however continuing its efforts and incorporating gender issues in the following ways:

- The new regional DP policy priorities document includes gender equality issues;
- National Societies are requested to submit at least one female participant to each DP/DR training and as far as possible to ensure 50-50 gender balance.

- During the Regional DP Strategy Workshop in Sri Lanka in July the importance of including gender sensitivity aspects in to Disaster Management (DP) plans was discussed and underlined.
- During the VCA workshop in October the participants were requested to consider gender issues while designing assessments.

As already mentioned under the Institutional Development section six National Societies debated proposals to launch regional fora on “Volunteers”, “Gender” and Youth” at the branch development workshop in Sri Lanka in December. After considerable discussion it was proposed to strengthen national level work in each of these areas first before forming regional focal points. In many Societies the process of consolidating their existing work on these issues needed attention, prior to participating more effectively in regional knowledge sharing discussions. It was therefore agreed that the existing “training of trainers” in gender sensitization, and further support work to strengthen the youth and volunteering structures would be prioritized in all Societies.

The “regional gender sensitization trainer-on-loan” program began with a workshop in Pakistan Red Crescent Society in November. The Nepal Red Cross’s Head of the Women’s Development section set up the first of the six “training of trainers” programs on gender sensitisation in a training attended by 20 participants from all levels of the NHQ and Branches across the country. Participants evaluated the workshop and planning session as extremely valuable, and felt able to train other volunteers and staff to integrate more active gender considerations in all aspects of program planning and evaluation. A specific impact is that Pakistan Red Crescent has agreed to formulate a national Gender Policy (in conformity with the Federation’s Gender Policy) and to appoint a national Gender Officer.

Regional Cooperation w

Goal: The overall goal of this program is to build National Societies’ confidence in working as a Federation and establishing strong networks between all Movement stakeholders in South Asia.

Objective 1: To provide a regional forum for strengthened relationships between Movement stakeholders (national societies, Federation and ICRC regional and Country Delegations) and promote specific Federation-facilitated co-operation activities to increase program coordination between all Movement actors in the region.

At the end of August a regional planning meeting was held in Islamabad with the view to finalise the draft appeals for 2003/4. This objective was partly accomplished but due to the tragic death of the Regional Health Delegate, the meeting was cut short. The Federation’s Senior Desk officer participated as did the Head of Regional Delegation, some SARD delegates, the Heads of Delegations of the India Operation Centre, Pakistan and Bangladesh and the Regional ICRC Cooperation Delegate from India.

Following the regional planning meeting the Afghan Red Crescent hosted a Secretaries General Meeting. Originally it was to be held in Kabul, but was later transferred to Islamabad as there were some minor doubts about security. It was evident at this meeting that the Secretaries General have taken full ownership of this forum with intelligent and vigorous debating, mutual peer review and support.

One of the major outcomes of this meeting are the already mentioned action points in the Kabul Pledge which was adopted by all National Societies. The Kabul Pledge displays a great commitment from all six National Societies to collectively strengthen their Societies and to be role models for change.

Three new Federation positions in the region are also helping to improve the Federation in facilitating cooperation. For instance, having a senior relief delegate in Nepal is valuable to support the Nepal Red Cross with the flood and landslide relief operation in the difficult environment and has served to facilitate more regular dialogue between the components of the RC/RC Movement.

The Secretaries General meeting in January requested more information from the Secretariat. There are technical limitations that sometimes hamper communication. However the SGs felt that there is also hesitation from the Federation's side to share enough. Following this meeting, the Regional Information and Reporting team has produced and distributed five issues of the "South Asia Regional Movement Newsletter" (April, May, June, August and a combined for issue September/October) targeting the components of the Movement in the region. The newsletter is also being distributed to Participating National Societies.

In connection with the recent issue, all Secretaries General were asked to provide feedback on the content so far, whether the newsletter is useful to them, to what extent it is shared within their respective National Societies etc. Their feedback will be used to develop the newsletter further, as will feedback from other stakeholders.

With a network of information officers and now also four reporting focal points, it is expected that the inputs from National Societies and ownership of this publication will increase and the information and reporting team's work towards this is ongoing.

Following the regional Constitution Review workshop held in June 2001, and the regional Change Management workshop in March 2002, a regional Branch Development workshop conducted in December 2002 reaffirmed the National Societies' collective commitments in the region to achieve Constitution revision. The Branch Development workshop confirmed that a strong legal base is the essential foundation of an overall organisational strengthening process. In this context significant progress has been made in all Societies, inspired by the successful completion of the processes and the creation of regional role models in Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Regular meetings between the ICRC and Federation Regional Delegations are useful opportunities to share information and plan joint initiatives. In August, an Operational Project Agreement was concluded between the Nepal Red Cross, the ICRC, the Nepal delegation and the Federation's Regional Delegation in Delhi regarding the implementation of disaster flood assistance (appeal 23/2002) in those districts which are affected by conflict. By the terms of the agreement, the ICRC has lead agency status while the Federation plays a lead role in support of the Nepal Red Cross in that operation.

***Objective 2:** To continue to increase the pool of talented potential delegates in South Asia and to increase regional exchanges of qualified human resources between regional national societies.*

Two staff on loan from Sri Lanka have during the period contributed to SARD programs HQ in Delhi. It is encouraging to see so many delegates/SOL from the region, including the OD/DP delegate from Bangladesh working in Pakistan, the former Secretary General of Bangladesh Red Crescent working as Head of Delegation in Afghanistan, the former Director General of the Sri Lankan Red Cross appointed Head of Sub Delegation in Afghanistan and a staff from Nepal working as Regional Finance Development Manager at SARD.

The intensive seven day regional disaster response training (RDRT) course in April clearly trained and identified many talented disaster response officers who can first work in the

region and can later move on to being delegates. The next RDRT workshop was re-scheduled and is now planned for March 2003.

Four participants from South Asia successfully participated in a Federation global VCA Training of Trainers workshop in Italy. There were two participants from Bangladesh (one from Bangladesh Red Crescent and one from the Federation), one from the Regional Delegation in Delhi, and one from Pakistan Red Crescent. Three of those trained, one from each country, subsequently organised and facilitated in Bangladesh in October, a four day regional VCA training workshop for participants from all six National Societies. This cascading process continued in Sri Lanka in December when the Sri Lanka Red Cross participants, supported by the trainer from Pakistan Red Crescent, conducted a VCA training workshop in Hambantota in Sri Lanka. This process in Sri Lanka will result in implementation of a VCA in Hambantota to identify needs and priorities for a drought mitigation program. The entire process will be written up as a case study during 2003.

The SARD Project Coordinator who is working with Human Resource Development began a staff on loan mission as desk assistant at the Secretariat in July 2002. Her mission in Geneva has been extended to end of March.

The activities of the regional co-operation program is in line with the revised budget.

Co-ordination and Management w

Goal: The overall goal of this program is to co-ordinate Federation activities in the region.

Objective 1: To act as the focal point for National Societies in the region and to help to develop sustainable processes of mutual capacity building and common programming, by continuing to support jointly with ICRC the regional secretary generals meeting.

Thanks to consistent funding, the Regional Delegation has been able to step up its support in building capacities of National Societies in the region for instance within the area of National Society constitutional review. The Regional Delegation, the out-posted regional delegate in Sri Lanka and the Country Delegations continue to be seen and used by the National Societies, as the knowledge centres of the region for program support and development, advice, technical and training assistance and an essential resource centre.

Further results from the regional Change Management workshop held in March 2002 can be measured through more effective and strategic planning processes in a number of the region's National Societies. The processes used by Societies to plan and manage change more sensitively are clearly shown in the more participatory planning techniques currently under discussion across the region.

Building on the strong traditions of Regional Secretaries General meetings, ICRC co-operation, and strategic planning between SARD and all the National Societies in the Region, the participatory process of drafting a Regional Cooperation Agreement Strategy (RCAS) is underway with the third (not as earlier advised fourth) draft in circulation. Inputs from Participating National Societies have so far been useful, but limited.

Important information such as the Kabul pledge, the Manila action plan and Change Strategy implementation in the South Asia region is in the process of being incorporated into the RCAS. The final document will be the strategic work plan for all the RC/RC Movement components from within and outside the region and currently we are seeking further feedback through a questionnaire.

The Regional Delegation made considerable consultative efforts in meetings and workshops with the National Societies and delegation colleagues in order to develop and link the

programs and project that make up the appeal for 2003/4. Compliance with the new Federation guidelines was also ensured and an initial good draft appeal example from Afghanistan was shared with other Country Delegations to promote uniformity within the region.

The Secretaries General Meetings, earlier funded under this program are now funded under the Regional Cooperation program.

Objective 2: *To represent the Federation and build good relations with national authorities, international and national organisations, donor governments, international and national media and the ICRC.*

Representation continues to be given a very high priority in South Asia and SARD and Country Delegations regularly meet senior government Ministers and officials, members of the diplomatic communities, UN agencies, INGO's and other key players.

During the visit of the Federation's Secretary General to Nepal at the end of November, the opportunity was taken to meet the ICRC Delegate General for Asia and South Pacific who was also on visit at that time. A selected number of ambassadors and representatives of UNDP, WHO and WFP as well as government officials and, in another occasion, media representatives were also met. The Federation's Secretary General provided briefings on the Federation's humanitarian activities worldwide.

During the India/Pakistan border tensions and again with the deterioration of security in Nepal, the ICRC, Federation and National Societies have been drawn closer together. One example is that the Operational Project Agreement was concluded between the Nepal Red Cross, the ICRC, the Nepal Delegation and the Federation's Regional Delegation in Delhi regarding the implementation of flood disaster assistance (appeal 23/2002) in August.

Regular meetings including annual planning meetings are held with ICRC which also co-funds a number of regional meetings. During the first part of the year, Sri Lanka Red Cross, the ICRC and the Federation carried out a joint survey mission of branches in the former conflict area.

Preliminary discussions are being held with the ICRC on harmonization of Disaster Management (DM) and conflict preparedness. This will be followed up next year with a joint meeting to discuss further action.

Another area of close cooperation with the ICRC is communications. A communications strategy for the Indian Red Cross is being developed jointly by the OD unit of the India Operations Center and the ICRC's Cooperation Delegate. From the SARD, the Regional Information Officer, and from ICRC the Communications Manager, are also involved in the framing of this strategy. Their involvement in the development of the strategy will increase in the coming months.

The Regional Delegation has been requested by the UNICEF to assist in facilitation of a regional Vulnerability and Capacity workshop to be held in Nepal in February 2003.

The DM team are also discussing with the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) on the development of disaster management training modules.

In addition more international organisations, diplomatic missions and governments are acknowledging the experience and information resources we have. World Disaster Report launches (see also the following section on Advocacy/ Public Information) have done a lot to promote National Societies in the region and the Federation's delegations.

The Asia & Pacific communications strategy continues to be used in a focussed way to build good relations with stakeholders and ensure that the Federation is seen as a reliable source of information provided in an impartial manner.

An emerging priority is to work more strategically in the area of locally raised funding to further support the National Societies resource development initiatives in the region as well as ensuring a broader funding base for the Federation programs. This effort is included in the South Asia annual appeal for 2003/4.

Objective 3: *To ensure the implementation of Federation activities in the region, according to integrated and approved plans and budgets between all regional programs.*

All programs, projects and activities and respective budgets have been implemented in a co-ordinated manner and in line with strategy 2010, the annual Appeal, and with the fourth draft of the RCAS. Programme managers have regularly monitored programs together with National Society counterparts.

There continues to be active follow up to adapting and strengthening the standards of volunteer management across the region following the circulation of the finalised “South Asia Regional HRD Manual” agreed by the regional HRD workshop held in December 2001. New senior national level Volunteer Manager posts have been set up in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Nepal. In India, the responsibilities have been merged into a new Human Resource Development Coordinator post in the NHQ.

Simple peer and team reviews are used regularly to ensure implementation is well co-ordinated, integrated and on track. The Project Planning Process was introduced for finance staff and new and potential reporting officers at the Regional Planning and Reporting Workshop in October and plans are underway to organize full courses for National Societies in 2003 to capture those who are not already covered with in country training.

In Sri Lanka, a Federation representative began his mission in early December. The representative will focus on strengthening the Sri Lanka Red Cross to meet the challenges of a major rehabilitation phase the country is beginning, now that peace is beginning to look permanent.

As mentioned in the previous update and with the new change strategy approved by the Governing Board in June, the Regional Delegation is taking on more regional responsibility. To achieve this, there will be a need to free up the HoRD for strategic work and representation and relationship building inside and outside the Federation, by employing a Programme Co-ordinator. This appointment will be made available as soon as possible in 2003. This position will be utilised within areas such as:

- Ensuring that changing priorities are integrated in to regional programs
- Ensuring and strengthening marketing/communication strategy
- Ensuring that regional/country program links are maintained
- Coordinating (reporting deadlines, appeal process, monitoring program implementation, financial + narrative reporting)
- Providing financial and monitoring overview

Objective 4: *To undertake joint missions with ICRC to facilitate the emergence of a National Society in the Maldives, and to review opportunities to achieve the same objectives in Bhutan.*

Again, more pressing priorities have had to be addressed during this period. The Regional Delegation maintains close relations with the ICRC on this issue.

Activities within Coordination and Management are in line with the revised budget.

Advocacy/Public Information w

Support provided to National Societies information departments by the SARD Information Development Programme has contributed towards improving the levels of visibility for the RC/ RC Movement in the region as displayed for instance in relation to the flood and landslide disaster in Nepal.

Recognition of the Federation and National Societies continues to grow amongst key stakeholders particularly the media. Advocacy efforts by the Sri Lanka Red Cross and the Federation have helped to ensure that the drought in southern Sri Lanka in 2002 remains firmly in the public eye and that good coordination is maintained between peer organisations working in the drought affected areas. Regular interaction is maintained with the international press corps based in New Delhi who receive a regular flow of publicity materials such as press releases relating to global issues and the role and activities of the Federation and National Societies across the region.

The period also saw the launching of a number of emergency appeals for the region; the Sri Lanka drought, the floods in Nepal, India, and Bangladesh and possibly the drought in India. The Regional Information team was involved in the information and advocacy components of these appeals.

With support from the Regional Delegation successful launches of the World Disasters Report were carried out in Pakistan and Bangladesh. These launch events and the ensuing media coverage have served to further position the RC/ RC Movement as leading advocates in the field of Disaster management.

September 14 was observed as First Aid day by the National Societies in Pakistan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka with funding from the Humanitarian Values and Information programs of SARD.

Outstanding needs

Thanks to support from donors such as DFID and the Swedish Red Cross plus reallocations from old emergency appeals (CHF 395,000) and carry over balances from 2001 (CHF 473,794) the South Asia Regional Delegation has been in a reasonably good funding position (75% coverage and (if soft pledge from Japanese RC towards Reg. Health is included) 80%). However, funding concerns remained throughout the year within the following areas: Humanitarian Values, HIV/AIDS, Regional Resource Development and Co-ordination and Management.

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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>.

Director
External Relations

Head
Asia Pacific Department

South Asia regional						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.24/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED				30.12.2002
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'964'276		TOTAL COVERAGE 59.9%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				446'397		
Programme support				361'180		
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				247'500	19.02.2002	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE DEV., NS DEV. COOPERATION , DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				187'500	07.08.2002	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE DEV., NS DEV. COOPERATION , DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH
SWEDISH - GOVT		2'200'000	SEK	347'820	30.05.2002	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION, FINANCE & REPORTING DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, COOPERATION, COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'590'397	CHF	53.7%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			65'379		
NETHERLANDS	DELEGATE(S)			59'959		
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			59'959		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				185'297	CHF	6.3%