

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

PACIFIC REGION

28 July 2003

Appeal No. 01.71/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 1,353,390

Programme Update No. 1

Period covered: January to June, 2003

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 over 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 65%; See attached Contributions List for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 530, 503

Programme Summary: The ability of Pacific national societies to respond to disaster continues to improve despite significant limitations in strengthening this capacity due to poor access to information technology, such as email and internet, geographical distances and restricted organisational capacity. Continued funding of this appeal is sought in order to execute projects aimed at supporting the development of the organisational capacities of the national societies as well as inter-country dialogue and knowledge sharing.

Operational Developments w

The situation in the Solomon Islands deteriorated further during the first part of the year, and it is now likely that an Australian-led intervention force will be formally invited by the government to restore law and order. The Solomon Islands Red Cross has provided immediate emergency relief to displaced families from the Weathercoast who have sought refuge around the capital Honiara.

In Papua New Guinea, the international Peace Monitoring Group finally left the island of Bougainville by the end of June, while the United Nations Observer Mission (UNOMB) is expected to move out in December 2003. Although progress has been made towards a draft constitution, the peace process itself remains fragile.

Meanwhile in Fiji, the high court was expected to deliver judgment on the constitutionality of the government, but the final verdict was delayed until after the completion of the South Pacific Games held in Suva.

Disaster Response w

During the second week of the year, cyclone Ami caused extensive damage on Fiji, especially on the second largest island of Vanua Levu. The Fiji Red Cross responded quickly and effectively, and the Federation launched an international emergency appeal in support, focusing on water and sanitation, school repairs, replenishment of relief stock and the further strengthening of response capacity, including training of staff and volunteers. By the end of June, the relief and rehabilitation operations had all but finished.

Disaster Preparedness w

Goal: National societies have the capacity and resources to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable in times of emergency.

Objective: By the end of 2004, three national societies have the technical capacity to provide quality services to the most vulnerable in times of emergencies.

Progress against expected results

Expected result: The Regional Disaster Management Core Group is functioning and is an advisory body to the National Societies.

- A first Emergency Management Core Group in the Pacific (EMCG Pacific) meeting was held in Suva from 31 March - 2 April 2003. This regional working group developed a framework document, and examined regional disaster preparedness and emergency response issues. A report has been circulated to all national societies in the Pacific after the meeting.

Expected Result: Disaster Preparedness Container projects in six National Societies in the Pacific are managed in a sustainable manner

- As part of the Fiji Red Cross' DP container project the national society procured a second-hand aluminium container for Taveuni, the second largest island in the northern region.
- A contribution by American Red Cross after the Cyclone Zoe allowed Solomon Islands Red Cross to procure a total of 163 family kits early April. The society has put a DP container management mechanism in place, in which volunteers have organised a well-managed logistic tracking system.
- By the end of April, the Tonga Red Cross had repaired two DP containers in Vava'u and Nuku'alofa, replenished some of the relief stocks and purchased a new container for the Ha'apai branch.



Expected Result: Four National Societies have workable Disaster Management Plans in place.

- The Solomon Islands Red Cross and Fiji Red Cross revised their disaster management plans, and also drafted standard operational procedures.
- The Micronesia Red Cross hosted two disaster management-planning workshops in the states of Kosrae and Pohnpei with financial support from the Japanese Red Cross' Kanakawa chapter. Another two state workshops are scheduled for Yap and Chuuk.

Expected result: Targeted communities in three National Societies have identified their vulnerabilities and capacities. Three National Societies have necessary expertise in Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment and Community Based Self Reliance to work with small remote island communities.

- A five-day vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) workshop for the Solomon Islands Red Cross took place from 9 April to 13 April in Honiara. The regional DM delegate facilitated the workshop in collaboration with Australian Red Cross. Sixteen staff, branch programme officers

and volunteers of the Solomon Islands Red Cross participated, and reviewed their operational capacity.

- To support the Cook Islands Red Cross' community based disaster preparedness efforts, a total of 100 high-visibility night vests were procured, following the night emergency exercise last year at the Cook Islands airport. The vests will be distributed to all branches in the Cook Islands.

Expected result: National societies have benefited from each other's experiences and capitalised on opportunities offered by Red Cross partners and external agencies.

- The PNG Red Cross held an emergency management workshop in May, and a similar workshop is scheduled for the Solomon Islands Red Cross later this year, in close cooperation with the Australian Red Cross and the ICRC.
- Regional DM delegates from East Asia, Southeast Asia and Pacific along with other DP/DR delegates met in Bangkok in February, exchanging experiences and skills, and discussing key issues such as community based disaster preparedness and emergency response.
- In an effort to better coordinate training activities, the Pacific Emergency Management Training Advisory Group (PEMTAG) was established by the Federation, SOPAC, OCHA and the Asia Foundation/OFDA, and officially introduced during the 11th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting and the Community at Risk Conference organised by SOPAC in early May.
- In collaboration with the Netherlands Red Cross Climate Centre, terms of reference were developed for an assessment of the possible future Red Cross role disaster preparedness and adaptation for climate change. A consultant of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) will be asked to support the assessment from a technical perspective.

Impact

- The establishment of the EMCG Pacific working group has led to improved communication among the Pacific national societies and with the regionalDM programme
- Despite the fact that most Pacific NS have relatively small capacities with limited resources, they are able to deliver services to the most vulnerable people effectively in times of disasters and emergencies, as demonstrated earlier in the year. Their growing confidence in disaster response has also allowed them to further examine their capacity and opportunities in disaster preparedness. Some societies have requested further assistance including training courses, pre-positioned stock replenishment and contingency planning.
- Following consultation with national societies in preparation for the climate change and disaster preparedness assessment in the Pacific, some national societies acknowledge emerging opportunities in community based risk reduction programmes and possibly adaptation projects.

Constraints

- The implementation rate of ongoing projects such as DP container projects is relatively low, and still requires regular maintenance and monitoring.
- Although gradually improving, the NS branch structure is still too weak to respond to sizeable disasters. Regular communication between headquarters and branches generally needs to be improved, and further attention must be given to standardising training and operational procedures.

Health and Care w

Goal: National societies in the Pacific have the necessary knowledge, information, skills and technical support to implement quality programmes in HIV/AIDS, First Aid, Community Based Self Reliance and Voluntary Blood Donor Recruitment that meet the needs of the most vulnerable communities and individuals.

Objective: By the end of 2004, five National Societies have the technical capacity in Health and Care to provide quality programmes and service delivery to the most vulnerable.

Progress against Expected Results:

Expected result: National societies in the Pacific have access to and knowledge of HIV/AIDS resources to assist in the development and implementation of their programmes.

- The regional HIV/AIDS programme is now well underway, with overall management responsibility delegated to the Australian RC. A first regional workshop, held in Fiji in June, was attended by 24 participants from 12 NS. It also counted three persons living with HIV/AIDS among the facilitators, stressing the importance of working closely with PLWHA in future programme design and delivery. A technical working group has been set up to guide the regional programme
- All NS organised specific HIV/AIDS activities on world RC day (8 May), focusing on the fight against stigma and discrimination.
- The Regional Delegation was formally accepted into the Pacific Islands Region Country Coordination Mechanism (PIRCCM) for the Global Fund on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Expected result: Seven national societies' first aid programmes comply with agreed quality standards.

- The Pacific First Aid Quality Management Committee has been formally established, and quality auditing commenced in three NS, with five more to follow later this year.
- A regional training for instructors (TFI) was organised in June in collaboration with the Asia Foundation/OFDA, funded by New Zealand RC. Most of the participants were first aid (FA) instructors or assistant instructors.
- Two FA instructors from Kiribati and the Solomon Islands were certified by a New Zealand RC FA instructor.
- Planning for World FA day (13 Sep) is ongoing in all NS in the region

Expected result: In coordination with ICRC, two National Societies have first aid in Conflict programmes.

- Initial discussions were held on how best to incorporate First Aid in Conflict into the various curricula, and further decisions will be taken once the harmonised guidelines have been finalised in Geneva.

Expected result: Three National Societies have the necessary expertise in Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) and Community Based Self Reliance (CBSR) to work in small island communities.

- Both the PNG RC and the Cook Islands RC continued their CBRS training in remote communities.
- An evening session on CBSR was included in the TFI workshop; participants will now review what topics from the CBSR manual are used most.

Expected result: Five National Societies have well-functioning Voluntary Blood Donor Recruitment (VBDR) programmes and up-to-date databases.

- A Safe Blood workshop was facilitated in the Solomon Islands for Red Cross and Ministry of Health staff, in close cooperation with WHO. A regional VBDR promotional video was finalised for use by NS and local TV stations, with special clips for use in commercial cinemas and TV stations. Both were used during a regional theme day held in June, promoting VBDR amongst the youth in the Pacific countries. The campaign was accompanied by other promotional materials such as posters and bookmarks.
- The Fiji Red Cross negotiated a revised MoU with the Ministry of Health regarding its role and legal responsibilities, and National Societies in PNG, the Solomon Islands and Tonga are concluding similar agreements.

Expected result: National Societies have benefited from each others experiences and capitalized on opportunities offered by Red Cross partners and external agencies.

- A review of the regional health and care programme 2000-2003 was carried out in June by an independent consultant from the Fiji School of Medicine, supported by a representative from the Samoa RC and one from Australia RC. The review methodology comprised document review, telephone/on-site interviews, NS field visits and a two day regional review workshop. The main

finding and recommendations will be presented at the upcoming partnership meeting in Brisbane, and should feed into the next planning cycle.

- The four health workshops held so far this year have all actively promoted the sharing of ideas and experiences by the participants.
- National societies have been more actively involved in their National AIDS councils.
- The regional health delegate continued to liaise with external partners, most notably with WHO and SPC on blood issues and with UNDP and UNICEF and PIAF on HIV/AIDS. The regional delegation is also actively taking part in the CROP working group on “health and population”.

Impact

During the reporting period there has been clear progress in First Aid, especially regarding quality management. Most NS have significantly stepped up their activities and involvement in HIV/AIDS, with some already integrating this into their mainstream programmes (FA, DP, CBSR, and blood), thus getting into different interest groups and remote communities. Others have opted for separate or new activities in this field.

The approach for delivering the CBSR programme is slowly changing, with more emphasis on enabling branches to carry out the activities. Some NS have requested further assistance, including training, manuals and other tools.

Constraints

The need for a more effective communication – both between the regional delegation and the health programme/field officers and within the NS themselves - remains a key challenge. Information does not always reach those who need it, and it is not always available in an appropriate form. Most NS still have poor access to internet and e-mail. Reporting from NS to the regional delegation also needs to be improved further.

Most NS in the Pacific do not have enough human or financial resources to carry out their work effectively across their territories, and successful branch and volunteer development will be crucial

Organisational Development w

Overall Goal: NS in the Pacific have the organisational and technical capacity to provide quality programmes that focus on the needs of the most vulnerable

Programme objective: To have five functioning NS with an organisational management capacity that enables them to provide quality programmes and services by the end of 2004

Expected Results: Coordination and networks between Red Cross and Red Crescent partners and relevant agencies have assisted in the development of specific regional resources and strategic alliances

Five NS have the technical skills to plan, implement, monitor, evaluate their programmes and have the financial structures and systems to support their programmes and service delivery

Three NS have sufficient numbers of skilled volunteers to carry out their programme activities

Effective volunteer management is operational in five NS for their health and disaster management programmes

Leadership in five NS is adequate whereby ensuring organisational change has commenced, which has resulted in improved programme and service delivery and effective governance and management practices.

Progress against expected results

A three day workshop on good NS governance in the Cook Islands drew participants from all outer islands, some of whom subsequently established new branches upon their return. The meeting ended with the adoption of a new constitution at the Annual General Meeting, as well as the formal election of office bearers.

This workshop and subsequent visits to other NS also highlighted the need for basic RC leadership training tailored to the needs of Pacific NS. A regional system for effectively delivering leadership

training – already planned, but not yet implemented – will need to be designed carefully to take into account both the cultural diversity and different stages of development of each NS as well as the logistical and technical challenges of the region.

The next phase in the Australian RC-led capacity building programme with the Solomon Islands RC was kicked off with a joint VCA workshop. It was agreed that the regional delegation should be more closely involved in the programme, and it is likely that a joint review exercise will take place later in the year.

In Vanuatu, organisational development priorities were discussed during a joint ICRC/Federation mission, and a follow-up meeting will take place in July. It is hoped that the VRCS and its Movement partners will then agree on the next immediate steps in the capacity building process.

Constraints

The regional OD programme has effectively been without a dedicated full-time delegate since the departure of the previous HoRD in mid-2002. As the programme is seen as a cornerstone to further capacity building efforts, it is essential that this position be re-opened and filled as a priority.

Regional Cooperation w

Overall Goal: Effective cooperation exists between NS of the region and RC partners

Programme objective: To have good coordination and understanding among all NS, PNS, ICRC and Federation.

Expected results:

- *Four inclusive CASs will be formulated and formally agreed upon*
- *A Pacific Partnership meeting will take place under a new format by the end of 2003*

Progress against expected results

A Pacific partnership meeting is scheduled to take place in Brisbane in July 2003, bringing together representatives from all Pacific NS with key partners. One of the main expected outcomes will be an adaptation of the “Manila Action Plan” to the Pacific context. It should provide the general framework for the collective RC work in the Pacific region in the next few years, with clear and measurable targets and indicators, and mechanisms for follow-up. This would then become the basis for the regional Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS).

Much effort has gone into promoting more effective coordination at national levels, with a first CAS-meeting for PNG scheduled to take place in early July, and ongoing discussions regarding the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Representatives from the Australian RC, New Zealand RC, ICRC and Federation met in Suva in March to discuss common issues, and will do so again in Wellington later this year. A web-based calendar is now available to better coordinate training events, meetings and missions.

International Representation

The regional delegation is further developing its relationship with key institutional partners in the region. One of the main challenges is how to prioritise limited resources on those areas that are of most direct relevance to the work of the Federation and Pacific NS. The regional delegation is now formally represented on the PIRCCM (see above), and has also formalised its cooperation with SOPAC, OCHA and OFDA/Asia Foundation in the PEMTAG mechanism for better coordination of DM-related training. Over the next few months, the regional delegation intends to define which other partnerships should be strengthened through a more formal agreement or MoU.

Coordination and Management w

At the moment the regional delegation comprises three delegates (HoRD, health and DP) and four local staff, with further finance support provided by the regional finance unit (RFU) in Kuala Lumpur. Since February 2003 the PNG country delegation reports formally to the regional delegation, allowing for better integration of programmes and more flexible use of resources. In accordance with the main directions of the Asia and Pacific regional implementation plan to realise 'Strategy for Change', the basic infrastructure of the regional delegation will be discussed with key partners, and reviewed and adapted accordingly during the remainder of the year. Given the huge demand for OD support, it is likely that a regional OD delegate will be added to the team. In addition, there is a need to develop basic capacity in information, communication, reporting and IT. It is hoped that this can be achieved through a mix of local staff, internships, trainee delegate postings and closer cooperation with key PNS working in the region.

Outstanding needs

The appeal is not yet fully covered, and especially the health programme is in urgent need of further support. In addition, the position of regional OD delegate will be opened as a priority.

For further information please contact:

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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>.

APPEAL No. 01.71/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

23/07/03

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|

CASH

| | | | | | TOTAL COVERAGE | |
|--------------------------------|--|---------|-----|-----------|----------------|---|
| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> | | | | 1,353,390 | | 65.2% |
| CASH CARRIED FORWARD | | | | 290,924 | | |
| AMERICAN - R C | | 28,739 | FJD | 19,410 | 24/01/03 | EMERGENCY MGT TRAINING COURSE |
| FINNISH - GOVT/RC | | 33,000 | EUR | 48,692 | 17.03.03 | HEALTH & CARE |
| JAPANESE - RC | | 166,362 | USD | 214,191 | 13.06.03 | HEALTH & CARE, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, COORDINATION, INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION |
| JAPANESE - RC | | 135,647 | USD | 183,259 | 26.06.03 | DISASTER MANAGEMENT |
| NEW ZEALAND - RC | | 3,125 | NZD | 2,356 | 15.05.03 | |
| NEW ZEALAND - RC | | 75,000 | NZD | 56,550 | 15.05.03 | TRAINING FOR INSTRUCTORS FIRST AID |
| NEW ZEALAND - RC | | 10,000 | NZD | 7,505 | 01.06.03 | PARTNERSHIP MEETING |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH | | | | 822,887 | CHF | 60.8% |

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| FINLAND | DELEGATE(S) | | | 59,959 | | |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES | | | | 59,959 | CHF | 4.4% |

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
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Pacific regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.71/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

23/07/03

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|--------------------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| | | | | | | |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED | | | | 0 | CHF | |