

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

PAN AMERICAN DISASTER RESPONSE UNIT (PADRU)

22 December 2004

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 181 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.51/2004; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: 1 June - 30 November 2004; Appeal coverage: 32%; Outstanding needs: CHF 1,102,972 (USD 957,357 or EUR 714,765).

(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List (also available on the website).

Appeal target: CHF 1,622,621 (USD 1,282,518 or EUR 1,046,612)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Caribbean Annual Appeal (01.52/2004), Central America Annual Appeal (01.53/2004), South America Annual Appeal (01.54/2004), Haiti: Social Unrest Emergency Appeal (07/2004), Dominican Republic & Haiti: Floods Emergency Appeal (13/2004), Cuba: Hurricane Charley Request For Assistance (20/2004), Caribbean: Hurricane Ivan Emergency Appeal (21/2004), Haiti: Floods Emergency Appeal (22/2004), Bahamas: Hurricane Jeanne Emergency Appeal (23/2004); Colombia: Floods Emergency Appeal (24/2004).

Programme summary: Much of the work of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit during the reporting period, and particularly during the months of August, September and October, was focused on response to the disasters incurred as a result of the 2004 intense hurricane season. Prior to the hurricanes striking, PADRU instigated the pre-hurricane preparedness meeting which was held in July in Miami. At the onset of the hurricane season, PADRU was on standby with all members of personnel and resources at the ready, having activated the internal PADRU response plan. PADRU successfully coordinated with the Secretariat the use of global response mechanisms such as Field Assessment and Coordination Teams (FACT) and Emergency Response Units (ERUs), together with regional resources. All members of personnel trained as regional intervention team (RITs) were placed on alert, ready for deployment, and were mobilized to the field to support the setting-up of response operations. The Unit took responsibility for coordination of the emergency operations in the field. PADRU's Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) managed the shipment of more than 350 tons of relief goods by air and sea to assist over 30,000 families in the Caribbean affected by the hurricanes. Sites for follow-up and monitoring of the hurricane response operations were created on the disaster management information system (DMIS), as well as on the PADRU and Americas web pages.

In July, an evaluation of PADRU was finalized by experienced consultants. To this end, a total of 94 personal and telephone interviews were carried out with both individuals and organizations in order to compile information for analysis and presentation of the final report including conclusions and recommendations. These focus on the role PADRU has played in disaster response, emphasizing the efficient emergency response work of the Unit as a major achievement in helping the most vulnerable

affected by disasters.

PADRU worked closely with the National Societies in the Americas, ensuring response to all emergencies, including minor disasters, which took place over the reporting period. As a result of the experience gained during the hurricane season, RITs training modules have been adapted and improved and introduced during a course held in November in Argentina. Significant progress has also been made in the area of logistics, through the regional logistics unit, and in telecommunications.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

The Americas experienced a particularly active and deadly Atlantic hurricane season in 2004, with several major storms making landfall in the region. Hurricane Charley wreaked havoc in Cuba on 13 August, damaging more than 70,000 homes and destroying thousands of hectares of crops. Electricity, water and telephone networks were also severely affected; 798 schools, 312 health centres were damaged and a total of 215,532 people were evacuated, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands were also affected by Hurricane Charley, but to a lesser degree. The second major storm to hit the region was Hurricane Frances, which struck the Bahamas on 2 September, causing two deaths and significant structural damage to buildings. Hurricane Ivan followed shortly on the heels of Frances as it swept through the region, causing serious damage in the Cayman Islands, Cuba, Grenada and Jamaica. The most significant damage was in Grenada, where 39 people died and approximately 90 percent of the country's homes sustained damage. In Jamaica, 15 people were killed and there was extensive damage to roofs and roads. The storm caused one death and serious damage in the Cayman Islands before the storm passed the western tip of Cuba, destroying homes and crops. The fourth major hurricane to hit the region was Hurricane Jeanne, which caused extensive flooding in the Dominican Republic and Haiti before moving north towards the Bahamas, where rains and high winds compounded the damage already incurred by Frances.

Haiti, which is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, has suffered a succession of disasters in 2004, beginning with increased violence and insecurity in February as rebel groups clashed with government supporters. The crisis culminated on 29 February as President Jean-Bertrand Aristide fled the country. A transition government was formed on 17 March but the context remains tense. The Federation launched an emergency appeal for Haiti Social Unrest on 5 March (Appeal 07/2004) that is attempting to address the acute needs of the population. The situation in Haiti was complicated in late May by severe flooding that killed 2,000 people in the border region between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The Federation launched an emergency appeal for the Dominican Republic and Haiti Floods on 28 May (Appeal 13/2004). A third disaster struck Haiti in mid September when Hurricane Jeanne brought massive flooding to the northern region of the country. To date, there are some 1,800 confirmed dead, and an additional 800 people are missing and presumed dead. The Federation launched an emergency appeal for the Haiti Floods on 22 September (Appeal 22/2004)

In South America, 2004 has been characterized by a general situation of instability and social tension in several parts of the region. Venezuela emerged from an unsuccessful referendum to oust President Hugo Chavez without major violence. In countries such as Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, there were demonstrations by the indigenous populations and coca farmers, many of which ended in violent clashes between the police and civilians, causing injuries and increased insecurity among the general population. In addition, seasonal rains and droughts affected

Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru, and Peru was affected by a cold wave in June. Response to these minor emergencies was ensured by the respective National Societies and information bulletins were issued on the Federation's webpage.

Colombia is currently experiencing the worst rainy season in the last eight years. Heavy rains have affected the country since the beginning of October, causing 31 deaths and 72 injuries. A total of 469 houses have been completely destroyed and another 20,287 houses have been partially damaged. To date 345,314 persons (68,021 families) from 24 of the 32 departments (197 municipalities) in Colombia have been affected by the flooding in both agricultural and urban areas, and thousands of families from the Caribbean coast in the north of the country have been forced to flee their homes. The profile of the persons affected by these heavy rains is diverse: many are persons who have been displaced by the country's long internal conflict who were living in high risk areas near rivers; another group that has been seriously hit by the floods is small farmers, whose main income is their crops. In addition, people living in poor urban areas that lack basic infrastructure and public services have been affected.

In Central America flooding in the Caribbean region of Costa Rica caused two deaths and forced 2,056 persons out of their homes and into 24 shelters located in the region. Nicaragua was hit by a series of tropical waves in June and August, which caused flooding and landslides in several areas of the country. An operation is currently being carried out by the Nicaraguan Red Cross, with the support of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit, to distribute emergency relief items, construct temporary shelters and improve the sanitation conditions in the affected areas. Flooding also occurred in the Panamanian capital city in September when torrential rains caused flash floods in several neighbourhoods. Some 11 people died, 9 were reported missing and 11,650 were affected.

An external evaluation of PADRU was commissioned and completed in 2004. The evaluation produced a number of recommendations that are being incorporated into the Plan of Action for the Americas. The evaluation emphasized the added value that PADRU has brought to disaster management in the Americas, particularly in disaster response, and recommended that the Unit is retained in its role and further developed to meet its mandate.

During the reporting period, PADRU responded to emergencies in 18 countries in the region, including 7 countries during the hurricane season. In total, more than 150 thousand beneficiaries were assisted in the Americas. At least ten Regional Intervention Team (RITs) members were active throughout the year, and several RITs members were deployed during the hurricane season.

Disaster Response

Goal: PADRU, through the regional delegations, will support the network of Red Cross Societies in the Americas to attain a level of capacity in disaster management that successfully helps people to reduce risk, respond to and recover from disasters.

Programme Objective: The National Societies and the Federation, in a coordinated manner, will respond effectively and efficiently to disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean, working within a regional network with a strategy ensuring a transition from relief to rehabilitation as part of an integrated process from vulnerability to development.

Objective 1: The Federation responds appropriately to disasters, mitigating the effects and focusing on vulnerable groups.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

During the reporting period, PADRU was able to better coordinate its work in the field, using the regional response system tools, together with global mechanisms, such as Field Assessment and Coordination Teams. This coordination was particularly successful during the response to the hurricane season as PADRU responded from the outset of the emergencies. In support of the National Societies, personnel were pre-positioned in countries where hurricane strikes were anticipated, allowing time for preparedness measures. Over a period of 7 weeks, PADRU worked in one of the most severe hurricane seasons of recent years, resulting in the implementation of 7 operations in 6 countries; in addition, assistance was provided in Nicaragua, Panama and Colombia as a result of flooding.

Floods in the Dominican Republic and Haiti:

At the end of May, heavy rains caused serious flooding in the border region between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, specifically in Jimaní in the Dominican Republic and in Fonds Verrettes and Mapou in Haiti. PADRU responded to the situation immediately, deploying two delegates to assist the National Societies in their relief efforts. Some 140 tons of humanitarian aid were immediately purchased and sent to the affected areas. The Federation is currently working in the field in coordination with the French, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies, as well as with ECHO. At the time of this report, the operation was in its second phase, now focusing on capacity building and rehabilitation.

2004 Hurricane Season:

The hurricane season in 2004 was the most active for the past ten years. Preparatory measures for response facilitated the deployment of personnel in order to support the National Societies before the hurricanes struck, and resulted in a more rapid activation of the system and the implementation of response. Federation disaster response tools were coordinated by PADRU including resources such as emergency response units (ERUs), FACT and RITs, together with the disbursement of disaster relief emergency funds. PADRU contributed to the drafting of three emergency appeals and a request for assistance in the case of Cuba in response to Hurricane Charley. From the PADRU warehouse in Panama, some 350 tons of humanitarian aid were dispatched in 14 flights and several shipments were sent by sea in order to assist over 30 thousand families in the Caribbean.

Hurricane Charley:

In August 2004, Cuba was severely impacted by the passage of Hurricane Charley, which hit the south coast of the province of La Habana. The passage of the storm resulted in flooding in low lying areas. A Request for Assistance for 5,000 beneficiary families was issued in early September. PADRU is supporting the Cuban Red Cross relief department, as appropriate. All purchases for the operation are being carried out by PADRU's Regional Logistics Unit. Relief items for this operation are mainly zinc sheeting and nails for the reconstruction of roofs.

Hurricane Frances:

The passage of Frances in the Caribbean affected 250 families in the Dominican Republic. On 1 September, Frances hit the Turks and Caicos islands as a category four storm and several hundred people were evacuated. On 4 September, Frances hit the Bahamas as a category 2 storm, resulting in a total of 8,000 people affected. PADRU assisted the Bahamas Red Cross Society with a request for DREF funding of CHF 70,000 and the formulation of a plan of action to assist 4,000 families. Two disaster management delegates worked with the President and Secretary General of the National Society in the carrying out of an evaluation in the field. Both delegates were deployed to the island prior to Frances striking; some 70 Bahamas Red Cross Society volunteers worked during the emergency to distribute humanitarian assistance.

Hurricane Ivan:

Hurricane Ivan, the most powerful hurricane to hit the Caribbean in 50 years, moved across the region for several days in September, leaving death and destruction in its wake. A FACT team was deployed to Grenada, which sustained most damage from the Hurricane, supported by RITs trained members from Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Panama, Saint Kitts and Saint Lucia. A Logistics ERU was also deployed by the British Red Cross. The operation was coordinated by a PADRU disaster management delegate in the field during the initial two months and PADRU managed the procurement and shipment of relief items to Grenada. The operation focused on the distribution of emergency relief items, including food, to over 13,000 families over a four week period, covering most of the island and the needs of those most affected by the Hurricane. On 15 September, the Federation launched a revised emergency appeal for CHF 6,033,000 to assist 85,000 beneficiaries in the Cayman Islands, Cuba, Grenada and Jamaica for a six month period. Following the emergency relief phase of the operation, PADRU will be involved in capacity building efforts, particularly in the organization of National Intervention Teams (NITs) training sessions. Technical training courses in telecommunications will also be carried out by PADRU.



Part of the island of Grenada following the passage of Hurricane Ivan. 90 per cent of the island's infrastructure was damaged

Hurricane Jeanne:

Jeanne ripped through the Caribbean between 13 and 28 September, particularly affecting Puerto Rico, where two people died and 3,500 people were evacuated, whilst in the Dominican Republic, 13,216 people were affected. Tropical Storm Jeanne struck Haiti between 17 and 19 September 2004. Due to the high level of environmental degradation, rains caused severe floods and landslides throughout the northern region of the country and the town of Gonaives and its surrounding areas were the hardest hit. From the outset of the disaster, the Regional Delegation and PADRU worked closely with the Federation's delegation in Port-au-Prince. In Haiti, Jeanne left over 3,000 dead and 80,000 people affected. The Federation launched a revised emergency appeal on 5 October for a total of CHF 11,673,000 to assist 50,000 beneficiaries over a six month period. Given the gravity of the situation in Haiti, a FACT team was deployed, together with a health emergency response unit. Relief supplies and logistics support were also provided by PADRU. In order to support the operation, the American Red Cross sent a member of the international response team (IRT), particularly to assist with administrative issues.

Hurricane Jeanne made landfall in the Bahamas on 25 September, damaging 75% of houses and affecting 8,000 people. A disaster management delegate from PADRU travelled to the country and conducted a preliminary assessment and Bahamas Red Cross Society volunteers were mobilized. On 4 October, the Federation launched an emergency appeal for CHF 958,000 to provide assistance to 15,000 beneficiaries over a three month period. PADRU is supporting the relief operation, which consists mostly of distributions of food parcels, hygiene kits, tarpaulins, and kitchen sets. The appeal also includes a disaster preparedness component, consisting of training and logistics management, replenishment of relief supplies, installation of HF radio communications equipment, establishment of NITs and revision and implementation of shelter management training courses.

Hurricane Season 2004

Country	Beneficiary Families	National Society Human Resources	Federation Human Resources
Bahamas	4,000	20	3
Cayman Islands	1,000	30	1
Cuba	5,000 + 3,000	150	4
Dominican Republic	4,000	30	1
Grenada	10,000	80	14
Haiti	10,000	120	12
Jamaica	3,000	150	11
Total	40,000	580	46

Constraints

The operation in response to the social unrest in Haiti presented PADRU with a challenge since the role of the Unit during times of social or political conflict remains unclear. The instability of the government in Haiti has also been a constraint for PADRU, both for the social unrest and the two floods operations, since many government offices are not functioning. For example, sending relief goods to Haiti has been a serious challenge as goods are often held up in customs for long periods of time.

The current coverage of PADRU's annual appeal stands at only 29.3 percent. PADRU urgently requires additional funding to secure the continuity and consolidation of important disaster management initiatives. From the point of view of response to emergencies, PADRU seeks additional funding to ensure improved planning and mobilization of resources to facilitate coordination, communication and information flow in disasters.

Objective 2: PADRU, in coordination with the regional delegations, provides effective support to the National Societies in the Americas which, in collaboration with local partners and resources, achieve improved capacity in response to disasters at national level.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Floods and Mudslides in Nicaragua:

Nicaragua was hit by a series of tropical waves in June and August which caused flooding and landslides in several areas of the country. On 4 July, the President of Nicaragua declared a state of disaster in the departments of Matagalpa and the Autonomous Regions of the North and South Atlantic (RAAN and RAAS). A total of 5,751 people were affected by the disaster, including 21 killed and 7 missing. In the RAAN and RAAS, the rain caused river levels to rise, affecting several communities and causing serious damage to farmland in the area. In the department of Matagalpa, the municipality of Rio Blanco was particularly badly hit, with the heavy rains saturating the land and causing severe mudslides in the Cerro Musun, a mountainous area of natural reserve located northeast of Managua. The mudslides hit 6 communities, affected 2,414 people, cut off communications and resulted in the collapse and contamination of water systems. A decision was made to re-house the population of the Cerro Musun as the location is highly vulnerable to further, more serious mudslides. The majority of communities that were hit by the disaster remain cut off and the affected population has been moved to temporary shelters in 14 village schools in lower risk areas. The health and hygiene situation in the shelters remains critical. The response operation implemented by the Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) is supported by the Italian Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) together with a significant contribution from an emergency fund of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Italian government. This is a jointly administered fund with the Federation and the Federation is providing technical support throughout the period of the operation. Given delays in implementation as a result of difficult circumstances and the lack of land for construction of housing, the operation has been extended to cover a six month period. Some 40 NRC emergency disaster response units have been working in the Cerro Musun operation. The National Society has developed a plan of action in order to assist 500 families, providing them with food and non-food relief, as well as with shelter. PADRU has been involved in the development of the plan of action and its implementation and has deployed a water and sanitation delegate to the area who is working with the Federation team in Nicaragua.

Floods and Earthquake in Colombia:

As a result of heavy rains in Colombia, the Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) is carrying out an operation to provide immediate assistance to 4,000 families and to strengthen local capacities. Historically, in Colombia the second rainy season of the year begins in late October and ends in December. This year the rainy season has been particularly severe, with continuous, heavy rain storms since the beginning of October causing damage in many vulnerable communities from 21 of the 32 departments in the country, especially those in the north, bringing flooding and mudslides and affecting more than 95,000 people (20,000 families). The CRCS is managing two shelters in the department of Cordoba, where it is providing psychosocial support to evacuees in addition to other relief services. A telecommunications technician from the CRCS headquarters has also travelled to the affected area to deliver radio equipment and provide logistical support to volunteers. CHF 100,000 was allocated from the Federation's DREF fund to cover the immediate non-food relief needs of those affected by the floods in the departments of Cordoba and Sucre. On 5 November, the Federation launched an appeal for CHF 953,000 to assist 20,000 beneficiaries over a six month period. The Federation is supporting the plan of action developed by the

CRCS in coordination with Federation representative based in Bogotá and the Lima Regional Delegation; PADRU is providing expertise through its delegates specialized in logistics, disaster management and water and sanitation.

An earthquake registering 6.7 on the Richter scale struck Colombia on 15 November 2004, causing some structural damage and injuring nine people. Although the earthquake was one of the most powerful to affect the country in a century, there were no reported deaths. The earthquake was felt in the capital city of Bogotá, where it caused electricity outages in the neighbourhoods of Bochica and Villas de Granada, but the most affected departments were Valle del Cauca and Choco, both located on the Pacific coast. Choco is the poorest department in Colombia and is prone to earthquakes. The department is also affected by the country's ongoing internal armed conflict. A disaster management delegate from PADRU was deployed to Colombia to evaluate the damage and immediate needs and, together with the Federation representative in Colombia, is coordinating activities with the CRCS. DREF funds will be used to conduct damage and needs assessments, to mobilize personnel to the affected areas and to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to affected families, including food, water and shelter, in coordination with the National Directorate for Disaster Response and Preparedness.

Floods in Panama:

PADRU provided support and technical advice to the Red Cross Society of Panama following the floods which occurred in September and October. Personnel from both the Panama Regional Delegation and PADRU helped to staff the Emergency Centre which was set up in the headquarters of the National Society in order to develop plans of action and respond to the disaster. The floods mainly affected the east of the capital city, particularly poor residential areas close to river banks and the National Society identified 1,000 families in need of assistance; in the initial response phase, containers of potable water, kitchen sets and plastic sheeting were provided with support from PADRU. The Province of the Darién on the border with Colombia was also affected by flooding and emergency response was ensured; PADRU delegates are supporting relief work in conjunction with the Red Cross Society of Panama.

Floods and Earthquake in Costa Rica:

PADRU has worked together with the Costa Rican Red Cross following two disasters which occurred in November. Flooding and landslides took place in the region of Limón on the Atlantic coast caused by the swelling of rivers resulting from heavy rainfall. As a result, thousands of families were displaced from their homes located in high risk areas and some 1,000 people were accommodated in ten temporary shelters. The National Society plan of action includes the distribution of basic food rations for 1,000 families for one month.

In addition, an earthquake of a magnitude of 6.2 on the Richter Scale hit Costa Rica on Saturday, 20 November, killing at least eight people. Hundreds of houses were damaged and major highways were cracked; the epicentre of the earthquake was located 48 kilometres southwest of the capital city of San José. The hardest-hit areas were Quepos and Parrita on the Pacific Coast and the Central Valley regions, where heavy damage to infrastructure and water systems was reported. The Costa Rican Red Cross has been actively involved with the Emergency Operations Centre since the start of the relief operation, supporting the centre in the coordination of relief activities. Local branches provided first aid and supported search and rescue activities. The Costa Rican Red Cross has been maintaining close contact with PADRU and the Panama Regional Delegation since the immediate aftermath of the earthquake and PADRU has provided support to the relief activities.

Constraints

The limited funds in response to the PADRU Annual Appeal are hampering the Unit's ability to work more closely with National Societies in the region in order to provide relief in the event of disasters.

Disaster Response Preparedness

Goal: PADRU, through the regional delegations, will support the network of Red Cross Societies in the Americas to attain a level of capacity in disaster management that successfully helps people to reduce risk, respond to and recover from disasters.

Programme Objective: The National Societies in the region have effective mechanisms for disaster response and preparedness (DR/DP) programmes, which contribute to reducing the impact of disaster situations on vulnerable groups.

Objective 1: The regional network of the Red Cross including the Secretariat and Partner National Societies has increased its collective capacity to respond to disasters in a coordinated effort with governmental and non governmental agencies.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

During the emergency operations, cooperation has been strengthened with ECHO, resulting in improved communication between ECHO and the Federation. In the same way, close cooperation has taken place with organizations such as OCHA, UNICEF, the World Food Programme and the Pan American Health Organization during the implementation of emergency relief operations. PADRU's internship programme has also resulted in closer links with personnel from the National Societies of Cuba and Ecuador in the area of information, Ecuador and El Salvador in the area of disaster management and Mexico in logistics; five volunteers from the Ericsson Response programme also worked with PADRU, strengthening coordination.

RITS Workshop in Argentina:

In order to further strengthen the disaster response network, two RITs training workshops took place. In each workshop, 50 new volunteers are trained with a view to their acquiring knowledge and skills with respect to the disaster response system and its tools in order to respond to future emergencies. The first of these workshops took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, between 22 and 26 November and the second is scheduled to take place in Managua, Nicaragua from 6 to 10 December. The workshop methodology has changed; one reason for this is the successful role played by the intervention teams during the 2004 hurricane season, as well as during the floods emergency which occurred in the Dominican Republic and Haiti in May. Some of the changes introduced include the use of interviews to assess the knowledge which the participants are gradually acquiring, the inclusion of new subjects such as negotiation, complex emergencies and the use of practical exercises and simulations so that the course takes on a less academic nature. The revision and up-dating of contents have resulted in the inclusion of safe access in humanitarian operations and family linking in disasters, both of which are areas in which the ICRC works. Other sections of the course such as damage assessment, decision-making, coordination, health in emergencies and humanitarian cooperation were facilitated by OFDA, OCHA, PAHO and ECHO respectively.



Members of RITs teams were deployed to assist in emergency response.

Caribbean Pre-hurricane Meeting:

The meeting in view of the preparation of the hurricane season which took place in July in Miami included all Anglophone Caribbean National Societies, together with the Overseas Branches of the American and British Red Cross Societies. It was agreed in 2003 that an annual workshop would be held for the Caribbean islands, whereas a biannual meeting would be organized for Central America and Mexico. This year's workshop was an opportunity for participants to build on previous experience towards consolidation and strengthening of the capacity of the Caribbean network of Red Cross Societies for response during the 2004 hurricane season. The meeting also sought to define an agreed strategy for telecommunications for the Caribbean National Societies and improve connectivity between the different National Societies in the region, particularly those most vulnerable to hurricanes. Discussions also focused on existing National Society contingency plans and the development of plans in those National Societies which do not, as yet, have such a plan. In addition, there was a presentation and discussion relating to standard frequencies and the development of radio protocols, together with the presentation of a basic logistics training course tailored to small National Societies.

Meetings with the Caribbean, South America and Central America Disaster Networks:

PADRU took part in all the coordination meetings with the Americas disaster network which took place in Trinidad, Bolivia and Costa Rica to ensure coordination with the National Societies and the Regional Delegations, exchange information and facilitate the planning of objectives and priorities of the National Societies per region. This cycle of meetings has kept PADRU close to the 33 National Societies of the Americas, strengthening the response system.

Coordination of Contingency Plans with the Venezuelan Red Cross:

With the aim of improving the response capacity of the members and partners of the Federation and OXFAM and in support of the Venezuelan Red Cross, a contingency planning meeting was promoted in order to review response by both organizations in the face of possible scenarios of humanitarian crises and to ensure coordinated, rapid, effective and relevant actions. The meeting including a series of discussions with partner organizations and one of its main objectives was to raise awareness amongst governments as regards cooperation in the humanitarian sector.

Fact, Team Leader, Water and Sanitation and Telecommunications Workshops:

In 2004 much effort went into further improving the skills and capacities of human resources in the region and several RITs members were further trained through workshops in Field Assessment and Coordination, water and sanitation and team leader training. Similarly, the telecommunications team was strengthened through PADRU's participation in the Federation's standard HF equipment workshop held in Austria. PADRU's telecommunication's delegate, after finishing the training, was then able to replicate the training for the Spanish Red Cross Emergency Response Units.

Evaluation:

The Secretariat has long intended to carry out an evaluation of the PADRU experience in order to learn about this approach to disaster response which is unique at a global level within the Federation. In 2003 the Secretariat commissioned a scoping study to determine the exact nature of the evaluation and the key issues to be addressed, and the evaluation was carried out in June 2004. The evaluation primarily focused on assessing the performance and achievements of PADRU over the past three to four years, with three main objectives:

- i) To review the performance of PADRU and the fulfilment of its mandate;
- ii) To provide concrete recommendations on the future scope and structure of PADRU; and
- iii) To provide general considerations and recommendations for the Federation in terms of the application of the PADRU concept in other regions.

When assessing the performance and impact of PADRU the evaluation team looked at both quantitative progress towards meeting stated targets, as well as making a qualitative appraisal of impacts and identifying constraints and key issues affecting performance.

The evaluation team considers that it is in the area of disaster response that PADRU has been most effective and has had the greatest impact. Between 2001 and June 2004, PADRU responded to 28 requests for support in disaster response benefiting over 300,000 families. The findings of the evaluation were published before the hurricane

season and do not take into account PADRU's major undertakings to provide relief following numerous deadly storms in 2004.

According to the evaluation, logistics has been the strongest element within PADRU and the Unit has developed innovative and effective approaches to preparedness such as pre-agreements with suppliers and virtual warehousing. Over the past three years PADRU has steadily improved its capacity to respond to disasters by providing timely and effective support to National Societies. However, recommendations were made for PADRU to use more local resources in its emergency response operations, which will be addressed in PADRU's 2005 Annual Appeal.

Within the Red Cross there is increasing confidence in PADRU's response capacity and it is valued as an efficient provider of logistics services. The PNS see a major advantage in having a single source for procurement within the region, both in terms of cost-effectiveness as well as in bringing greater levels of standardization. In addition, PADRU has provided an effective coordination function, both for internal Red Cross management, as well as increasingly with external humanitarian organizations and other donors.

Constraints

The funding situation in PADRU is making it difficult for the Unit to implement disaster response preparedness projects in the region. More funds were expected after the evaluation of PADRU was completed, but were not forthcoming. In addition, the role of PADRU during social and political conflicts remains unclear, which is impeding the development of a programme focusing on family linking.

Objective 2: A logistics structure has been developed in PADRU which responds appropriately during times of disasters, provides services to National Societies: procurement, information, standardization, and is a resource for National Society training in logistics.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Colón Warehouse:

The Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) is working on the renovation of a new warehouse which will serve as a humanitarian logistics centre. This warehouse will have access to increased port facilities and customs import and export procedures will be facilitated since it is situated in the Colón Free Trade Zone. Work towards this project was started in 2002 in accordance with the focus of the logistics strategy. PADRU has signed a two-year agreement with the Free Zone in Panama to establish the warehouse in this area. The agreement was made in coordination with the Red Cross Society of Panama and will be managed by the National Society.

Work is also proceeding on the vehicle leasing programme, the transport of relief items during the hurricane season and other emergencies, and a member of staff has been assigned to work in the area of humanitarian logistics software (HLS). As regards transport and dispatch of relief materials in emergencies, the National Societies of Central America and the Caribbean, as well as a number of Overseas Branches, have benefited in particular, and assistance was also provided to the Suva Regional Delegation, Fiji.

Throughout the year, and particularly during the hurricane season, the Regional Logistics Unit has continued to provide services to the National Societies, PNSs and Regional Delegations, as well as to other organizations working with the Red Cross Movement. Principally, the RLU has procured and shipped supplies for the relief operations following deadly storms and flooding in the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru. The RLU has also been strengthening the cooperation process with UN agencies, Ericsson and ECHO, primarily by providing logistics services and consultancy for the projects being developed in the Americas. The RLU has also worked closely with National Societies in the region to increase their logistics capacities, including providing emergency goods to the Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaican Red Cross Societies, coordinated by the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office. Other shipments of goods were made to the National Societies of Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as part of the DIPECHO project which is ongoing in the Caribbean.

Constraints

The pace of projects to increase the logistics capacities of the National Societies in the Americas has slowed because of lack of funding. In addition, as delegates are often made available to the RLU for a few months only, it is difficult to carry out long-term logistics programming.

Objective 3: National Societies have defined and developed priority programming for public health in disasters, based on and linked to their longer term public health strategic planning.**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)***Haiti Social Unrest:*

PADRU supported the water and sanitation and hygiene activities in Haiti, in coordination with the public health activities carried out by OXFAM and Caritas.

Dominican Republic Floods:

The health and hygiene strategy adopted by the Dominican Red Cross (DRC) and partners following the flooding in 2003 has greatly reduced the number of deaths from waterborne disease. A specific indicator in this respect is the number of cases of dengue, which decreased dramatically between November 2003 and February 2004. As part of the strategy and with the support of PADRU, the DRC distributed various items, such as hygiene kits and information concerning vector control.

Objective 4: National Societies integrate and use new technology applied to information in disasters.**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)***Telecommunications Programme:*

In telecommunications, the Caribbean telecommunications network has been strengthened; in Haiti, in particular, in coordination with the ICRC and humanitarian partners, a radio communications network has been re-established facilitating liaison between the Haitian National Red Cross Society, Partner National Societies and humanitarian agencies working in the country. Radio communication is now ensured between PADRU and the Caribbean from the new PADRU telecommunications centre set up with the support of Ericsson Response.

Database:

As the focal point for disaster management in the Americas, PADRU has strengthened the process of updating the database of personnel trained in disaster response in the region. This database provides vital information about the human resources available in the region, helping to provide an immediate response in times of disaster. A new version of the database has already been developed, with simple, user-friendly software, and a users' manual is available. The entire database is also has been translated into English. This database is an improved version of that originally presented by PADRU to the National Societies during the Inter American Conference in Santiago de Chile.

Ericsson Response:

A Telecommunications Centre was created to coordinate with the field, test technology equipment and train people in the region. The family linking project in natural disasters is also linked to telecommunications capacities and PADRU has worked with the ICRC in order to incorporate family linking activities in all phases of disaster response. There has been progress in the distribution of equipment in the region and the signing of more country agreements; however, following the hurricane season PADRU has major commitment from Ericsson Response which led to the presence of volunteers in PADRU to ensure improved organization of the projects being implemented in the region.

Disaster response:

PADRU supported IT and telecommunications in the Hurricane Ivan operation carried out in Grenada. Two wireless networks were installed, one with a satellite 'phone and one with ADSL when telephone communications were re-established. PADRU also provided IT support to all computer users in the operation, installed a VHF repeater, and HF and VHF radio stations. Taking advantage of its presence in the region, PADRU also provided

support to the Port of Spain sub-regional office. The Hurricane Jeanne appeal for the Bahamas also includes a telecommunications component relating to the identification, purchase and installation of HF radio communications equipment for Red Cross branches on Grand Bahama and Abaco islands. PADRU intends to implement technical training sessions in telecommunications for the Grenada Red Cross Society headquarters, and refresher training courses in Jamaica Red Cross branches and headquarters and Cuban Red Cross branches in areas affected by hurricanes Charley and Ivan.

Response preparedness:

The pre-hurricane meeting in Miami with English speaking Caribbean National Societies which took place in July 2004 was important in view of the intense nature of the hurricane season; the Caribbean National Societies which were affected by hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne applied their technical knowledge when the islands were affected. A refresher course for the Spanish Red Cross telecommunications ERU took place in September 2004; the telecommunications delegate participated in this workshop as a facilitator for the programming and operation of HF CODAN NGT equipment, following the training which the delegate received a few days earlier in Vienna. Since November 2003 PADRU has been working on a proposal for the implementation of a project focusing on family linking in natural disasters, promoted by the ICRC. It is the first time that such a proposal has been presented at the regional level, and if the standard operating procedures are defined, the Federation could replicate this in other regions.

Information in Disasters:

For the hurricane season, up-dated sites were created for follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the hurricane operations, both on the PADRU web site www.padru.cruzroja.org and the Americas web site www.cruzroja.org. In addition, under DMIS a space was allocated to the technical and operational aspects of the hurricane season. Together, the Americas information team and the Media Service at the Secretariat ensured coverage by over 100 media during the hurricane season. More than 15 press releases were distributed and some 50 reports were produced on DMIS. The information team provided support for the launch of appeals and requests for assistance; four information specialists were deployed to the Caribbean at the outset of the emergency response.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

Pan American Disaster Response Unit

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.51/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

14/12/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					1,622,621	TOTAL COVERAGE 32.0%	
AMERICAN - RC				35,072	11.05.04		
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				35,000	29.01.04		
BRITISH - RC		29,340	GBP	67,071	07.12.04	RITS TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEV.	
CANADIAN - RC				11,708	25.03.04	LOGISTICS DELEGATE	
CANADIAN - RC		20,148	CAD	18,949	07.05.04	EVALUATION	
ERICSSON		25,539	USD	31,898	25.01.04	SHIPMENT COSTS PANAMA, TRANSPORT COSTS COLOMBIA, SERVICES & LOGISTICS	
ERICSSON		14,058	USD	17,776	19.08.04	TELECOM EQUIPMENT	
NORWEGIAN - RC		150,000	NOK	27,788	26.04.04	SALARY HOD	
NORWEGIAN - RC		75,000	NOK	13,687	15.06.04	EVALUATION	
SWEDISH - RC		500,000	SEK	84,500	30.05.04		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				343,449	CHF		21.2%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SPAIN	DELEGATES			131,600		
CANADA RC	DELEGATES			14,200		
SWEDEN	DELEGATES			30,400		
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				176,200	CHF	10.9%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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