

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

SRI LANKA

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.60/2004; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January to June, 2004; Appeal coverage: 78.5 %; Outstanding needs: CHF 210,361
(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List (also available on the website)).

Appeal target: CHF 979, 189 (USD 734, 392 or EUR 626, 681)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Programme summary: In spite of its challenges, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) continues to build its capacities in the core programme areas of health and care in the community, disaster management, the promotion of humanitarian values, and organisational development. The ICRC cooperation programmes have also continued to support the society to increase its capacities in assistance in time of conflict (as integrated components of relief and health, previously called 'conflict preparedness and response'), promotion of Red Cross law and the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement, and re-establishing family links (previously called 'tracing').

The SLRCS plans to give further change management skills to its governance, management, staff and volunteers. This accompanies the society's new priority of strengthening the services delivered at community level by implementing a new overall branch development strategy in 2004 and 2005. By further strengthening its branch network, services, and the roles and skills of the active volunteers, the society plans to increase its programmes and use them as the means to bring about organisational development.

The SLRCS community-based programmes have increased their emphasis on the long term reduction of risk and improvement of self-sustainability of vulnerable people. Two successful examples of this are the community involvement in assessing their own health needs in the health programme, and the disaster preparedness needs and plans identified by vulnerable communities themselves in the disaster preparedness programme. The community-based health and care in Kurunegala, which commenced mid-2002 with support from Canadian Red Cross, has extended its reach since September 2003 to the present, through funding from the British Department for International Development (DFID). The community-based disaster preparedness programme in districts prone to natural disasters has continued through the conduct of workshops in Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) and Better Programme Initiative (BPI), through funding from DFID, and the renovation of an additional water-reservoir in Hambantota district was completed through the reallocation of funds from the 2003 Floods and Landslides Relief action. Such programmes form part of the SLRCS plan to help vulnerable people better advocate for their own needs and access more effective long term services from all relevant institutions into the future.

Development of the national youth wing has made a steady progress. With the appointment of volunteer youth coordinators in all the 25 district branches, youth volunteers are now taking the lead in the service delivery in all programmes of the society. Youth camps have exhibited strong initiative among Red Cross youth at district level.

The SLRCS has introduced a new emphasis on advocacy and is further consolidating its networking with key governmental institutions in order to highlight the needs of the vulnerable. The flood relief operations in 2003 demonstrated both the strength and weakness of the society and the areas which require improvement to increase effective relief to vulnerable populations. Monitoring and preparedness for potential assistance during the heavy rains in southern districts, as well as raising awareness to

a risk of food shortage in central and western districts following an extended dry season in early 2004, were well advanced, and conducted in coordination with governmental, NGO and UN bodies in country. There will be continued need for an advocacy strategy to call for a national disaster management plan, which will define clear mandates for government, the Red Cross, and other humanitarian institutions.

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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

A general election took place in early April. The United People's Freedom Party (UPFA), which is led by the president, Chandrika Kumaratunga, won the most seats, but it failed to gain a majority. As a result, the political scene is expected to remain unstable. However, the new government has taken steps to re-open peace between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which have remained stagnant since April 2003.

For the National Society, the year began by hosting the inaugural meeting of Secretaries General from the region, a promising initiative for development and cooperation among the South Asian Partner National Societies. This was followed in April by the South Asia Regional partnership meeting, held in Kathmandu, during which a day was focused on partnership cooperation in Sri Lanka. This allowed the SLRCS to present a frank and transparent picture of achievements and constraints to date, with an aim to re-endorse partnership support and donor confidence in bringing humanitarian assistance to the people of Sri Lanka.

With the parliamentary elections held in April, and the appointment of a new government, the past six months had been a more or less of a 'preparation time' for people across the country, and political uncertainties have led to constraints for the SLRCS over fund-raising initiatives, as well as certain aspects of programme implementation. Revisions in management structures, and challenges in implementation of the new constitution, have all had an impact in programme implementation for the NS.

Positive developments have included the confirmation of the Federation's independent legal personality in Sri Lanka, following signature between the Federation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in early July. This will provide the Federation and its partners with a much enhanced national profile in its humanitarian work in Sri Lanka, with benefits in its role and responsibilities in advocacy and programme initiatives with the SLRCS.

This period has seen the Canadian Red Cross confirm a new bi-lateral partnership with the SLRCS in support of a three-year capacity building project, through joint funding from CIDA and the Canadian Red Cross, as well as consolidation of the Danish Red Cross support to uprooted people, through their school-based health and psycho-social programme in Jaffna District, co-funded through DANIDA and in partnership with the Federation and the European Union. Strong cooperation and consultation within the Movement has continued, with shared discussions over new ICRC integrated partnership proposals in support to its community-based Health and Care activities in conflict-affected areas in the north and east of the country, as well as coordinated planning for our respective support to SLRCS in preparation for the 2005 Appeals.

Funds remaining from the 2003 Floods and Landslides emergency appeal were reallocated to the Appeal 2004, and used to cover five core programme related positions at NHQ, as well as the rehabilitation of a damaged water reservoir in one of the flood affected districts.

The appointment of a new Director of Health at SLRCS NHQ has consolidated support to NS Health and Care initiatives in response to the 2004 Appeal, as well as strengthening links with the Ministry of Health, including support to the Ministry's countrywide measles and rubella catch-up campaign, with funding from the New Zealand Red Cross. A priority for the new SLRCS Director of Health will be the formulation of a National Society Health Policy at NHQ, which will lead to more focused support and better capacity building at community level through the branches.

Health and care

Overall Goal: Health and care in the vulnerable communities in Sri Lanka will have improved through motivated behavioural change in the community and government health policies.

Programme Objective: The health policies, practices and services of government and other institutions will be influenced by the Sri Lanka Red Cross' model of participatory community-based programmes and increased service delivery.

1. Community-Based Health and Care: The Ministry of Health and other health agencies will recognise the value of the Sri Lanka Red Cross (SLRC) community-based model and will adapt their services to respond to the needs identified.

Expected result:

- Ministry of Health and other agencies to recognise and adapt to the value of the SLRCS community-based model.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Following the trainings provided to 102 community health volunteers last year, they have now conducted home visits where key health promotion messages were imparted, and hygiene and environmental sanitation practices encouraged. Comprising of a leader and five members per team, the health volunteers have already made 13,600 visits during the period. The volunteers have also embarked on the promotion of healthy lifestyle in their communities through health promotion campaigns, environmental sanitation, as well as backyard vegetable and herbal gardening. These were done through the village health committees, as well as *samurdhi* animators, *grama niladharies* (village officials), elected government officials, welfare societies, village development societies, school principals and divisional health officials.

Through the volunteers, 10 school health clubs were also formed during the quarter. Comprising of students from class six to 13, these clubs organise health awareness activities on hygiene promotion and prevention of key diseases in the community.

During the period, 17 village health committees were also formed and are now support health volunteers in their work. Envisaged to be a critical support mechanism when programme support from SLRC ceases, the members of these committees are formal and informal heads in the respective villages. The programme integrated its activities with these committees.

Considering that the programme in Kurunegala just started last year, SLRC intends to ensure that health volunteers are further trained and are better positioned in working with communities and community-support systems in place. Additionally, it is envisaged that the experience in Kurunegala will be documented and shared with other districts where community-health programmes will also be undertaken. As a result, there will be no new districts covered during the year, and no health centres will be repaired as outlined in the Annual Appeal.

Early this year, the Ministry of Health had approached the SLRC for support in the national immunisation campaign to effectively eliminate measles and rubella. The campaign in September 2004 is a follow-up of a similar programme last year which vaccinated 10- to 14-year-old children regardless of immunisation status. In order to rapidly interrupt chains of transmission and/or prevent future outbreaks of measles and rubella by also protecting

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future parents from transmitting the virus through childbirth, the second phase of the campaign aims to vaccinate around two million 16- to 20-year-old young adults. The Ministry of Health has specifically requested SLRC support in social mobilisation to ensure improved vaccination coverage, taking into account its network of district branches and volunteers.

Taking this as an opportunity to strengthen its relationship with the Ministry of Health, as well as to show its unique island-wide capacity as a civil society player in the country, SLRC has taken up the challenge and has agreed to support the social mobilisation component of the campaign. Through planning meetings with the epidemiology unit of the Ministry of Health, SLRC has agreed to mobilise 3,500 volunteers in assigned areas where they conduct public information campaigns and motivate target populations to receive the vaccines during the immunisation and mop-up days. SLRC also intends to produce information materials (400,000 leaflets in Sinhala and Tamil, 10,000 stickers, 5,000 banners to be displayed at vaccination centres, as well as materials for pre-campaign print media press briefings) to complement public awareness and dissemination activities of the Ministry of Health. It has also negotiated with and enlisted support from the Independent Television Network (ITN), a television outfit with island-wide coverage, for free airtime for wider dissemination of the measles - rubella campaign.

SLRC, in ensuring that its actions are consistent with the overall campaign, has been participating in planning and coordinating mechanisms through its national headquarters and district branches. It has also agreed with the Ministry for its district offices to conduct orientation sessions for all SLRC volunteers who will be mobilised for the campaign. SLRC will also organise a workshop for its branches in July to guide them on the modalities of the campaign.

Impact:

Improvement was seen in terms of health promotion aspects: The villagers have started kitchen-gardens in their backyards and homes with the guidance of the nutrition coordinator and the district officer of the programme while the impact of healthy lifestyle activities and school health clubs will be incorporated in future programme updates.

The positive response of SLRC to the Ministry's request for support in the upcoming measles - rubella campaign has provided opportunity for the national society to be part in health planning and coordination committees. It is hoped that this opportunity will lead more sustained partnership with the Ministry as well as with other national health partners. Other impacts of the campaign will be reported in succeeding updates.

Constraints:

While community health volunteers carry out home visits and different activities in their communities, a reporting system still needs to be put in place to enable programme managers to systematically assess the effectiveness of volunteer work better. A workable monitoring system also needs to be adopted that will further empower the branch in managing the programme as well as enable the national headquarters to support other bilateral community-based health programmes.

2. HIV/AIDS: To alleviate the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) through public sensitisation and development of services for PLWHA.

Expected results:

- PLWHA receive proper care and support with reduced stigma and discrimination.
- Reduced transmission of HIV in the community.
- Increased community-based care and support to PLWHA.
- Trained SLRCS staff and volunteers integrate the HIV/AIDS component into existing programmes.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

During the period, four trainers' training programmes were organised for 82 teachers and 100 prison officers in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other relevant government agencies which provided resource persons and materials. These trainers are expected to conduct HIV/AIDS awareness-raising activities in schools and correctional institutions, as well as the training of peer educators in these institutions. Some of the follow-up

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activities were awareness-raising programmes aimed at youth prison rehabilitation camps at Gampaha, Pallansena and Bagambara branches, wherein different participatory educational methods were employed.

In preparation for the conduct of peer education trainers' training in 25 district branches, branch officials have already nominated more than 250 teachers from identified affiliated schools where relevant school-based HIV prevention activities will be implemented. Throughout the year SLRC, together with the education and relevant government agencies, will train these teachers who will be expected to train and support student-peer educators in respective schools.

The programme also trained 75 youth volunteers at a youth camp organised by Trincomalee branch. To support awareness and education activities in different branches, as recommended by the SLRC HIV/AIDS policy committee, the programme will adapt and distribute IEC materials and leaflets to different district branches.

To ensure the relevance and responsiveness of SLRC in the national HIV/AIDS response, it has networked with key government and NGO players through coordination meetings and workshops. A remarkable development during the period is the establishment of contacts with *Lanka Plus*, a network of HIV-positive people in the island. Discussions with network representatives are on going on how the national society can collaborate and support the strengthening of the network as well as in providing care and support to its members.

SLRC also participated in the regional HIV/AIDS stakeholders' consultation and meeting of the South Asia Red Cross & Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA) which discussed the collective commitment of regional national societies to scale up their contributions to the HIV epidemic in the region, and the opportunities for sustained interventions through regional partnerships. Recognising the comparative advantages of regional national societies in the areas of youth, blood donor recruitment and working with PLWHA, the consultation explored strategic and broad areas in controlling the epidemic in the region. These were done in the context of existing strengths and challenges faced by regional national societies.

A vehicle was also procured during the period to enable the programme to sufficiently support branches in the implementation of different activities, as well as in networking with key partners.

The period was also dedicated to adjusting the programme according to what can be realistically implemented considering current capacity and funds available. The programme will focus on prevention activities through youth peer education, on strengthening the HIV/AIDS unit within the national society, as well as developing relations with PLWHA network in the country. As a result, a number of activities will no longer be implemented during the year, such as the establishment of telephone hotlines and counselling centre, building of network of relevant organisations and community groups, and advocacy.

Impact:

With the trained trainers in place in their respective institutions, it is expected that the programme will gain support in the dissemination of key HIV prevention messages in schools and correctional centres, as well as in the training of peer educators in these institutions.

It is also expected that the development of a more realistic action plan and collaboration with relevant partners (especially working with the PLWHA network in the country) will enable SLRC to deliver more effective HIV prevention activities. It will enhance the image of the national society as a key civil society player in responding to the HIV epidemic in the long run.

Constraints:

Due to the election process schools were closed and teachers were engaged in election duty, therefore, some of the training programmes planned could not be implemented.

3. First Aid: To scale up first aid training and services at district and divisional levels in 17 districts of the country through a decentralised and self-sustaining first aid structure.

Expected result:

- Overall capacity of the SLRCS in first aid is upgraded and generates income.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

At the request of the national election commissions of the government, SLRC established first aid posts/watch at polling stations and counting centres across the country during the recent general elections. Some 240 first aid volunteers with sufficient equipment and vehicles for emergency transport were mobilised during the electoral

Activities under the first aid component in this appeal – training of first aid instructors and provision of first aid materials and equipment – are in line with the priorities of the first aid bilateral programme supported by the Korean Red Cross. As a result of discussions with the Korean Red Cross, these activities will be deleted from the appeal and incorporated in the bilateral programme.

Impact:

The training and mobilisation of first aid volunteers in different branches has enabled SLRC to assume critical roles in mitigating and/or immediately responding to injuries and suffering due to emergencies or accidents. This was exemplified in the recent elections where SLRC, through its reputation as a neutral humanitarian organisation, was requested to provide first aid services during the national electoral process.

Constraints:

Except for the shifting of the activities under this component to the bilateral programme, there were no concerns under first aid during this reporting period.

4. Safe Blood: To improve the quality and self-sustainability of safe blood donors recruitment campaigns across the whole country in three years.

Expected result:

- Community level blood donor recruitment programme contributes to the increase of voluntary blood donations nationally.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

A number of coordination meetings with the National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS) have reinforced the keen interest of the government to collaborate with SLRC in the area of voluntary non-remunerated blood donor recruitment. The NBTS has specifically expressed hope to collaborate with SLRC following the experience in Singapore, where the Singapore Red Cross plays a major role in the recruitment of volunteer blood donors.

To further this, the SLRC sent a health official to the International Blood Colloquium in Beijing in April to gather experiences of national societies in different parts of the globe in motivating and retaining voluntary blood donors. This was also attended by officials from the NBTS. The SLRC also played key role in observing in Sri Lanka the first-ever World Blood Donors' Day.

Impact:

A specific role awaits SLRC in the area of voluntary blood donor recruitment in an effort to supply the people of Sri Lanka with safe blood. Further impact can be reported in future updates.

Constraints:

SLRC has not been able to push this forward due to absence of funding. Further, this opportunity reiterates calls for the development of health policies and strategic, as well as the development of the national society capacity before engaging in voluntary blood donor recruitment at a national scale.

Disaster Management

Overall Goal: Reduced impact of disasters on vulnerable populations throughout Sri Lanka, as indicated by a reduction in the number of deaths and the amount of damage sustained during disasters, and an increased capacity of the population to recover.

Programme Objective: An improved and coordinated response by the SLRC to the needs of the most vulnerable disaster prone populations, before, during and following disasters.

1. Disaster Preparedness: To reduce the vulnerability of disaster-prone communities with increased capacity of SLRC branches and higher mobility of national headquarters at the time of disaster.

Expected results:

- Improved capacity of national headquarters and branches in response to any forms and magnitude of disaster.
- Disaster awareness of school children is enhanced.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The 6th Workshop on Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) was held from 19 to 22 February at Wellawaya. Twenty-eight volunteers participated from Ampara, Matara and Badulla districts. Out of 25 districts, 22 district branch volunteers have received the VCA training, with a total of 206 volunteers receiving training. Another workshop on VCA for those who could not attend was held in March at Wellawaya.

A Disaster Management Workshop was held in Polonnaruwa for north-east province districts, attended by 25 volunteers from Jaffna, Vavuniya, Mannar, Ampara, Trincomalee and Polonnaruwa. The first workshop was for the branch officials and some selected NHQ staff on relief management for three days and the desktop exercise was conducted for the same group for two days. Thirty-five volunteers participated in these workshops.

Two Better Programming Initiative (BPI) workshops were held in Jaffna and Dambulla for the volunteers of identified districts. Seventeen volunteers participated in the Jaffna programme and 23 from Dambulla. These workshops were held from February to March this year. A third BPI workshop was held in late April this year in Embilipitya, and was attended by management staff of the NHQ.

Impact:

- The capacity to respond to the needs of the vulnerable community will be increased together with the trained volunteers on VCA.
- SLRCS staff and volunteers are able to use the BPI methodology as a tool for programme planning and improved implementation.
- Practical knowledge has been gained to take part in relief operations.
- Information on disaster management terminology has been learned, and tools gained to apply them for successful response and preparedness.

Constraints

- Lack of participation of senior officials of the branches for training programmes.
- Insufficient training in country level and international level on disaster management, VCA, GIS and BPI.
- Lack of funds for disaster management division to implement the action plan prepared.

The disaster response capacity of the SLRC branches in the flood prone districts was high. This was shown during the floods and landslides which occurred in May 2003. The TOT volunteers and the CBDP team volunteers took part very efficiently and effectively at the time of disaster. The SLRCS branches were the first to engage in the disaster response operation.

Those who received VCA training, particularly the volunteers in the districts, have started awareness on vulnerability and hazards in their areas.

Constraints:

- Branch level volunteers in all the districts have not received sufficient training on disaster management. Disasters have become a regular event nowadays, with Ratnapura being flooded four times during the last

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three months. Strong winds caused damage to property in a number of places; therefore training on disaster management has become an important area.

- Some fields on vulnerability leading to disasters have been neglected. Training on search and rescue, including lifesaving at sea and fire fighting are some of the areas in which volunteers need training.
- Lack of sufficient staff for the disaster division is also another constraint. It has become a prime need to have a special fund to meet the minor disasters which occur in the country.

Funds remaining following the final report on the Sri Lanka floods and landslides Emergency Appeal 2003 (Appeal 13/03) have been reallocated to the disaster management programme in this Appeal 2004, to cover the renovation of a water reservoir in the Hambantota district, affected by the flooding. Completion of this project is expected at the end of July.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

When the concept paper was completed, SLRCS selected the project coordinator for the pilot project at Jaffna branch. However due to the procedural shortcomings the formal recruitment is not completed. A local NGO at Jaffna with a long experience of HIV/AIDS was recommended to conduct the initial assessment need and KAP studies. There are no local NGOs with the capacity to conduct the above studies. At the present, the focal person for the pilot project is identified. He is the SARNHA focal point and acting HIV/AIDS director in SLRCS, Mr. Premathilika.

Impact:

Since the implementation of the project has not really started, the impact of the project in the community is not measurable. So far the time and efforts have been invested in building the capacity of the SLRCS staff at the HQ and Jaffna branch.

Constraints:

It is important to know that Jaffna branch was considered to be one of the weakest branches in the north when the joint ICRC, SLRCS and IFRC assessment was done in 2002. Presently, Jaffna branch has one person in the management and there are no financial or reporting mechanisms. Lack of human resource at the HQ and Jaffna branch has been one of the main constraints in the implementation of the project. The roles of HQ and Jaffna branch are not clearly understood.

Organisational Development

Overall Goal: The needs of vulnerable communities in Sri Lanka will have been identified and addressed by stronger capacities in the national society to manage its national headquarters and branch human, technical and financial resources in a coordinated and sustainable manner.

Programme Objective: The delivery of well-planned services responding to the needs of the vulnerable through a coordinated branch network supported by a motivated and diverse human resource base and stronger human resource development, financial, and information policies and systems.

1. Branch Development: To strengthen the society's overall organisational development through a coordinated national headquarters and branch development strategy by identifying and implementing change processes in financial and technical systems.

Expected results:

- Coordinated national headquarters and branch strategy for implementing change process.
- Relevant and effective programmes are initiated by branches.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Activity: Retention of trained branch executive officers (BEOs) and support facilities

Progress

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1. Provision of office furniture for BEOs.
2. Coordination meeting for BEOs for their feedback on their working experience with branch executive committees after one month of their appointment.
3. A special joint meeting with BEOs and branch chairmen to discuss the practical problems of their working environment, to find solutions and raise their awareness in preparation of branch annual plans of action.
4. The OD department discussed the development plans of action of the BEOs in relation to their branch activities during their visits and provided the support the BEOs required in relation to branch development.

Remarks

At the beginning of the year, SLRCS identified the need for establishing a new branch within Colombo city limits to address increasing demands to assist the most vulnerable in the metropolitan area. There are now 26 branches in total. Adjusted support to BEOs from the appeal was approved by OBA in February (18 covered under Federation Appeal, eight under ICRC funding to NE).

Activity: Monitoring and supervision of BEO activities**Progress**

The NHQ OD section assisted the BEO of the newly established Colombo City branch to conduct a dissemination session for the interim panel on setting up a new branch as per Federation guidelines.

Remarks

Through the DG and HRM as per the decision.

Activity: Local resource mobilisation workshops at regional level**Progress**

1. The BEOs were informed to seek opportunities for local resource mobilisation for branch level programme sustainability. They also collected information on local level capacities for the programme.
2. The volunteer youth coordinators are to be given an induction exposure on local level resource mobilisation utilising the allocated funds.

Activity: Branch level strategic planning**Progress**

Initiated the process by conducting an awareness session for branch level plans of action under the CRC project.

Activity: National Strategic planning workshop**Progress**

Strategic planning committee was appointed and had a one-day workshop under CRC budget to have a preliminary discussion on the process. The activity is in progress.

Activity: Support planning for 2005**Progress**

Two-day workshop was held with Federation assistance and appeal 2005 is in preparation as an overall appeal for Sri Lankan National Society with a well developed marketing plan.

Activity: Support to SLRCS Annual General Meeting 2004**Progress**

SLRCS unit-, divisional- and branch- level AGM activities were successfully conducted and awaiting National AGM 2004.

Activity: National orientation and management skill development workshop**Progress**

Special emphasis was made on the JD of the BEOs with the concurrence of the branch, instead of utilising the funding assistance for the proposed objectives, taking the prevailing situation as a prioritised need at that time.

Activity: Constitutional and management review**Progress**

SLRCS is currently conducting a review of its constitution and management systems, in order to identify any defects in their present structure and function. The consultancy board appointed to undertake this task has conducted

interviews and collected information, with the aim to conclude a report on the first phase, “Suggestions for a better Constitution”, by end July.

Impact:

No text was provided

Constraints:

The delayed selection and appointment of BEOs, which occurred only in February this year, meant a need for catch-up on activities in 2003, and resulted in a slow progress over the implementation of 2004 appeal. Activities are expected to increase over the second half of the year.

2. Youth and Gender Development: To increase the gender and youth diversity in staff, volunteer and membership base enabling the SLRC to assess the needs of specific vulnerable groups in society and to develop sensitive and relevant programmes to specific vulnerable groups.

Expected results:

- Coordination mechanism for facilitating youth secretariat is established based on the adopted youth policy.
- Active youth units working at community level in 25 districts.
- Solidarity of motivated youth volunteers enhanced.
- Youth staff/ volunteers benefit from the youth programmes of other societies in the region.
- Greater gender diversity in SLRCS structure is achieved.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Activity: retention of Youth coordinator: This activity has been achieved, with the active participation of the youth coordinator at NHQ and with representation on the central governing board (CGB).

Activity: Regional youth camps**Expected result: Active youth units and greater gender diversity**

The youth division, in collaboration with Trincomalee Branch of SLRCS, organised a three-day youth camp from 27 to 29 February 2004, at Mahadivulwewa Lake, Morawewa, Trincomalee. Sixty participants from all three ethnic communities from Kandy, Matale, Trincomalee, Ampara and Batticaloa branches of SLRCS participated in the camp.

The youth members were trained in awareness of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and its mandate, leadership, communication and negotiation skills, interpersonal skills, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. Sessions also introduced SLRCS youth policy in the Constitution and rules and regulation.

Objective

1. Promote ethnic harmony among youth volunteers of Red Cross.
2. Promote friendship among youth volunteers from various branches.
3. Promote Red Cross Principle, IHL and volunteerism.
4. Increase the capacity of youth volunteers.
5. Introduce youth policy, constitution, and rules and procedures.

Achievements

The above objectives were successfully met and the volunteers promised to commit themselves for the humanitarian work of the Red Cross Society and also committed to establish youth committees in the unit, division and branch level.

Constraints

No text was provided

Expected result: Active youth units and greater gender diversity

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The youth division is in the progress of establishing five school circles in each district. At the end, there will be at least 250 active volunteer Red Cross junior members in every district and altogether there will be 7,500 active Red Cross junior members is land-wide.

Objective

1. Promote volunteer capacity of branch.
2. Attract youth members to Red Cross activities.
3. Promote the Red Cross Principle, basically humanity among the youth in society.

Achievements

The youth division has recruited about 1,800 volunteer members in schools. Teachers in charge of school circles in five districts have provided TOT on HIV/AIDS. They will educate the children on HIV/AIDS, and the teachers of other school circles will be trained in future.

Constraints

The major constraints in maintaining the youth circles in schools are that the youth division has inadequate funds to promote further school circles. In addition, the youth co-ordinators of the branches who are supposed to encourage the function of school circles find it difficult to spend their own money for travelling and other expenses. The Federation has agreed to pay an allowance to the youth coordinators from the month of May 2004.

Activity: Launch of youth bulletin.**Expected result: Printing of newsletter and invitation Leaflet for Youth in the society.**

The youth division has prepared the leaflet and forwarded this to the Youth Policy Committee for comments.

Impact:

1. Attract youth members to Red Cross activities.
2. Dissemination of Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.
3. Promote the Red Cross/Red Crescent Principles among Youth.

Constraints:

Possible delays, pending approval by the Youth Policy Committee, which met in the month of May 2004

Activity: Launch of youth web-page: Not achieved in this half.

Activity: Participation in two international programmes: Not achieved in this half.

Activity: Appointment of gender programme officer: Not achieved in this half.

Expected Result:

3. Financial Development: Develop human resources and an automated system to enable proper financial management to support the society's programmes and projects, and the society as a whole in terms of financial evaluation, monitoring and control.

Expected result:

- Financial system of the society works in timely and transparent manner.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

A visit from the SARD regional Finance Development manager in February concluded a refresher training course on the use of the new financial management software package (Navision), which had been installed in the SLRC Finance unit in 2003. Discussions are under way to increase the network of users from the two currently connected, giving a total of five network users in 2004. A local IT software company has been engaged to support the SLRC in its use of the programme. The former Director of Finance at NHQ resigned in January, and has been replaced by a finance controller, who has taken steps to harmonise procedures with Federation standard requirements. This resulted in the signature of a Cooperation Agreement between the SLRCS and the Federation in March, which defines and strengthens the procedures for financial reporting and accountability.

Impact:

- Accounts from January 2004 are being entered into the computerised financial software, removing the need to maintain manual accounts.
- Activity-based financial reports are easily accessible, enabling the processing of quicker reports.
- Two computers were purchased and given to two branches in the first half of 2004

Constraints:

- Branch treasurers and clerks are not trained on the use of the financial software, since the software is installed only at NHQ level.
- Local software support is unsatisfactory.

4. Human Resource Development: Equip staff and volunteers with sound knowledge on the RCRC movement and the skills for planning relevant programmes to address the needs of the most vulnerable.

Expected result:

- Staff and volunteers motivated and equipped with administration and planning knowledge and skills.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

- Funding for the position of SLRCS Director of Volunteer Management has been provided during the period of this report, which has been the focal point in the organisation of HR and Volunteer training workshops. One workshop to introduce the SA Regional HR Manual on Volunteers was carried out in the district of Polonnaruwa, covering five branches (Polonnaruwa, Batticaloa, Annuradhapura, Trincomalee and Ampara).
- Funding is being provided to support the external training of the SLRCS Librarian, who is attending an Open University course to graduate as an MSC. In addition, the SLRCS HR Officer was supported to attend a Diploma in HR Management through the National Institute of Business Management.
- The Director of Volunteer Management has convened regular meetings with the Federation and the ICRC to define agreed procedures for Volunteer Management in the SLRCS.
- Pending the outcome of the management review, and an agreed restructure, no Management Development workshops have been convened in this half.
- Pending the selection of the SLRCS constitutional implementation committee, no activities in support of this were carried out in this half.

Impact:

- There is a greater awareness of the role of Volunteer activities in the SLRCS .
- A revised draft of the SLRCS HR and Volunteer manual is under preparation.

Constraints:

A decision by the CGB to reduce the compulsory retirement age of staff from 65 to 60 years of age will mean that the current Director of Volunteer Management is due to retire in July.

5. Information and Reporting Development: Develop stronger information management, knowledge sharing and reporting systems to enable branches and national headquarters to plan more effective and relevant programmes and report more systematically.

Expected result:

- Systematic information management, knowledge sharing and reporting flow.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

An SLRCS information officer was recruited in January, who was assigned to work with the fundraising division. To aid the officer, a new information and communications manager, with extensive experience in working in media and communications with ICRC and the United Nations, was appointed to work at NHQ in June. A key priority will

include the establishment of clear reporting systems at branch and NHQ, as well as increase networking and visibility of NS within national media at national and provincial level.

Impact:

- 2003 Annual Report completed
- With confirmed appointments of BEO in February, an orientation workshop with BEO and branch chairmen was held in June, during which the requirements of increased dissemination, communication and public awareness was presented.

Constraints:

- Due to the absence of qualified resources, and the delayed appointment of the BEOs, no workshops were conducted in the first half of 2004.
- A newsletter was drafted, but owing to a lack of information and reporting from branch level, and inadequate resources at NHQ, this has not yet been finalised, and publication has been delayed

Humanitarian Values

Overall Goal: Increased tolerance and harmony in the community through an appreciation of Red Cross Red Crescent principles and actions.

Programme Objective: Orientation of government and other key institutions and the public in the Movement's principles and mandates and the offer of more support to the work of SLRCS to improve the lives of the vulnerable.

1. Red Cross Image Building: Improve public support for the Red Cross principles and the activities of SLRC through the messages on Red Cross work and its impact on the most vulnerable.

Expected results:

- Humanitarian values and fundamental Principles are promoted through mass media and other communication channels.
- Increased advocacy on humanitarian challenges by SLRCS.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

SLRCS initiated activities country-wide in celebration of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, on May 8, during which a wide cross-section of youth and volunteers were engaged. Activities at Colombo level included a voluntary blood donation campaign, held at the town hall, attended by the SLRCS president and directors, as well as officials from the MoH. This was followed by a presentation and lecture on humanitarian issues at one of the leading hotels in Colombo, attended by members of the diplomatic community, representatives of the government, the UN and NGOs. This included the screening of a video made by SLRCS information office at the time of the floods in 2003, which demonstrated the breadth of relief and assistance activities performed by SLRC in the affected areas. At branch level, youth volunteers were also engaged in raising awareness for voluntary blood donations, as well as the promotion of humanitarian values (HV) through means of school-based drama groups, painting competitions and sports. Earlier in the year, SLRC Trincomalee district branch held a youth camp, to which five branches covering each of the three main ethnic groups in the country sent participants, and with a balanced ratio of male and female youth attending.

Impact:

There is greater awareness of SLRC activities, and heightened advocacy for humanitarian needs in the form of blood donations, dissemination of HV, and the promotion of gender and ethnic diversity in youth activities.

Constraints:

- Board level approval and subsequent dissemination of the SLRCS guidelines on youth and volunteer management to standardise practises across all branches,
- To retain youth and volunteer resources.

2. Better Knowledge: To equip Red Cross members and volunteers with knowledge and skills for better programme planning and dissemination on Red Cross through peer group mechanisms.

Expected result:

- SLRCS staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge and skills to deliver RCRC messages.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

SLRCS held three BPI workshops from January to April 2004. The first workshop was held in Jaffna district for Jaffna branch staff and volunteers. The second workshop was held for four branches along the border line districts in Polonoruwa. Recently the third workshop was held in Hambantota district for HQ senior managers.



Impact:

SLRCS has three BPI trainees now. There is a better understanding and knowledge of BPI and its added value since the country is going through a post conflict phase. All the departments in SLRCS see BPI as an essential tool to be used for their existing programmes and future ones.

Constraints:

To implement BPI as a tool in the existing SLRCS programmes, external support is required. One of the key SLRC training resources at NHQ is due to retire at the end of July.

Representation, Management and Implementation

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The period of this report coincides with the appointment of the new Federation representative in Sri Lanka. Priorities have been to assist the SLRCS in monitoring implementation of the new Constitution, in support of their change process, including reorganisation of management; to coordinate Federation resources and communicate externally strategic information on the humanitarian environment in country and the SLRCS role in response to it; achieve strategic coordination with the ICRC on mutually reinforcing capacity building support to the national society, and to establish an effective representational relationship with the government of Sri Lanka and with the external UN and non-governmental humanitarian agencies.

Discussions have been held at all levels in governance and management to look at optimum means to implement the change process at NHQ and to ensure its dissemination and consequent implementation at district level within the branches. Following the appointment of the new BEOs, workshops have been held with participation of the Federation representative and the SLRCS director general to identify the optimum means to achieve this, to be followed-up with a series of workshops involving BEOs, branch chairpersons and branch/NHQ programme managers, with the participation of the regional OD delegate throughout the next quarter. The Federation and ICRC have been in discussion with SLRCS over the mechanisms and composition of an independent committee to monitor the change management process, with an aim to have a process agreed and active by the end of July.

A Sri Lanka partnership cooperation meeting was held preceding the SA partnership meeting in Kathmandu on 27 April, attended by 11 PNS. A frank and open presentation was given by SLRCS on their current financial situation, and a proposed recovery plan was described. A Cooperation Agreement signed by the SLRCS and the Federation was presented, which is seen as an important tool in assisting the NS and all partners to have clearer mechanisms covering financial and project management. Some PNS, including the Canadian Red Cross, have chosen to make this agreement an integral part of their own bi-lateral activities with SLRCS, and the Danish Red Cross has

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incorporated a similar text into its own Agreement in support of SLRCS psycho-social project in Jaffna. One of the focus areas of discussion during the meeting concerned the SLRCS difficult financial situation and a presentation of the figures and background to this was given, including a discussion on a proposed plan for recovery. Partners requested that a detailed spreadsheet with figures and a supporting narrative be sent by SLRCS in consideration of additional support. SLRCS HQ had submitted their financial statement and recovery plan to the Federation and ICRC at the end of May but incomplete data and unclear narrative support meant that this has not been forwarded to partners. Other issues for follow up from the meeting have been addressed. Following presentation of the joint Movement review of the SLRCS Constitution compiled in 2003, the SLRCS has commissioned a follow-up to this. An external consultant from the University of Manchester was engaged to conduct this review last April. Interviews for this first phase, focusing on the effects and implementation of the constitutional reforms, have been completed, and the conclusions are expected to be available by the end of July. Once these have been shared with partners, then procedures for the implementation of the next phase, focusing on a management review, will be agreed upon.

The Federation has pursued measures to confirm its independent legal personality in Sri Lanka and the final text of the Legal Status agreement with the Government has been agreed at all levels, with signature between the Federation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concluded in July. This will provide the Federation and its partners with a much enhanced national profile in its humanitarian work in Sri Lanka, with benefits in its role and responsibilities in advocacy and programme initiatives with the NS.

The Federation office has supported the SLRCS in liaison and contacts with the UN agencies, notably in raising awareness of needs of vulnerable groups affected by droughts, and at risk from floods and landslides. A coordination link has been established to ensure complimentary activities in case of any response to urgent humanitarian needs, through contact with UNDP, FAO and WFP offices in the country. The Federation Representative has maintained contact with the EU, UN, NGO and donor missions.

An event in celebration of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day was well attended by government and donor representatives, with speeches given by the Chief Justice for Sri Lanka, and the Minister of Social Welfare.

Close coordination is maintained with the ICRC, through regular informal meetings on a daily basis, and a formal Movement Coordination Meeting which is held on a monthly basis with SLRCS Director General, National Secretary, ICRC HOD and the Federation Representative. The Tri-partite movement MoU has been extended for a further 12 months to March 2005.

Impact:

The conclusion of the Federation Legal status agreement will have significant impact on the work of the Federation and its support to build the capacity of the SLRCS, including a strengthened profile for representation and advocacy initiatives, as well as cost efficiency in its operations through access to fiscal privileges.

Constraints:

The revision and restructuring initiated by the change management process within the NS has led to some constraints over securing a focus on long-term strategic direction as well as the timely production of programme related reports and documentation requested by partners in support of SLRCS financial recovery plan.

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