

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

SOUTHEAST ASIA: REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

23 September 2004

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.

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In Brief

Appeal No. 01.66/2004; Programme Update No. 2, Period covered: April to June 2004; Appeal coverage: 76.7%; Outstanding needs: CHF 954,482 (USD 760,136 or EUR 617,300).

[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List](#)

[Click here for the weekly updated Contributions List \(also available on the website\)](#)

Appeal target: CHF 4,816,294 (USD 3,835,920 or EUR 3,114,797); The Southeast Asia 2004 regional appeal budget has been revised ([see attachment](#)) to take account of adjustments to the organisational development programme (now incorporating finance development), the regional health programme (reallocation of HIV/AIDS funds) and realignment of budgets in Vietnam.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Programme summary: In the second quarter, a mid-term evaluation showed that OPEC funded HIV/AIDS programmes in Southeast Asia had a significant added value at the community level. The programming was especially effective in prevention of further infections and the reduction of stigma and discrimination. The Myanmar Red Cross launched its first international appeal for disaster victims following the Rakhine cyclone. The Myanmar society and the Cambodian and Timor-Leste Red Cross have developed strategic plans in disaster management. As a result of support from the organisational development unit, Red Cross societies in Lao and Philippines have boosted their fundraising activities in district chapters. Also during the quarter, the regional management team revised its regional strategy for 2004-2005. The information unit has developed a photo archive of Red Cross and Red Crescent activities in the region.

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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. 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

To an extent, Red Cross activities were influenced by the socio-political scenario in Indonesia and Philippines in the lead up to the elections in the two countries. In the Philippines, the Red Cross had an interim reorganisation at the headquarters (effective till end September) while awaiting the nomination of a candidate as secretary general. This too influenced the work dynamics at the management level between the regional delegation and the national society. Apart from the Rakhine cyclone in Myanmar there were few major disasters in Southeast Asia during the period. Bird flu still remained a threat to many countries in the regions, especially Thailand and Vietnam. Other developments that affected programme work, in the areas of health and care, disaster management, organisational development and humanitarian values, are mentioned under the appropriate headings.

Health and Care

In 2003, the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak in the region threatened to become a worldwide pandemic, warning of the potentially catastrophic consequences of the emergence of a new infectious disease. Again in early 2004, both the public healthcare and social welfare system in Southeast Asian countries were put to the test during a rise in poultry and human deaths due to the avian flu virus. The second quarter of 2004 has not seen any new outbreaks, but the emergence of two new diseases in the region within one year has certainly led to a renewed focus on strengthening the capacity of the national societies for dealing with public health emergencies. HIV/AIDS was also very much in focus during the second quarter with the evaluation of the OPEC programme and preparations for the 16th Asian Regional Network on HIV/AIDS (ART Network) meeting and the 15th International Conference to be held in Bangkok in July.

Overall goal: There is a sustainable improvement in the general health of vulnerable communities in the region.

Programme objective: The region's national societies deliver quality health and care programmes that address the needs of the most vulnerable communities.

Progress/achievements

Health Strategic Plans – Vietnam Red Cross is now approaching the finalisation of the health strategic planning process. After undertaking a branch survey earlier this year, staff from the health department, with assistance from a consultant from the Ministry of Health, produced two documents; one a situation analysis of the current health situation and trends in the country and the other mapping present health and care activities and capacities of Red Cross branches and chapters nationwide. These two documents were presented and discussed in a three-day workshop held in Hanoi in early June and formed the basis for the development of a draft health strategic plan. The workshop was attended by the Vietnam Red Cross leadership, health department staff, representatives from the second office in Ho Chi Minh City and several branches, as well as the regional health unit, the Federation country office and several bilateral partners (including the Danish Red Cross and the Australian Red Cross). With the inputs from the workshop, the strategic planning committee will now continue its work and aim at finalising the health strategic plan by September 2004.

A consultant has been identified to assist the Lao Red Cross in undertaking a similar process with the aim of finalising the health strategic plan for Laos before the end of 2004.

Health in Emergencies – As a follow up on the 'SARS lessons learnt' forum held in Bangkok in February 2004, Myanmar Red Cross, with assistance from the country delegation, organised a similar workshop in Yangon in June. The workshop was attended by participants from Myanmar head office, township branches, ministry of health, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the regional health unit, and the country delegation. The findings from the 'SARS lessons learnt' forum were shared with the participants and it was interesting that local level experiences to a large degree matched those from the region. Emergency health managers from Indonesia, Philippines, Hong Kong and Singapore national societies were invited to attend a Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) workshop in Manila in August, as a first step in integrating health in emergencies with disaster management activities and in setting up a regional 'consultant' group for health in emergencies.

HIV/AIDS – The second ART management meeting was held in May 2004, with participation from ART members from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand national societies, in addition to the ART chairperson, the ART project officer and the regional health delegate. The meeting focused on finalising the new ART structure for presentation and discussion at the 16th ART meeting in July, as well as preparing for that meeting and for the 15th International HIV/AIDS conference in Bangkok. As part of the preparation for the conference, a large number of promotional materials were produced in June, including ART folders, brochures, stickers, country fact-sheets, and a poster for presentation during the conference.

A mid-term evaluation of the OPEC funded HIV/AIDS programme took place during April to June to assess the impact of the activities on the Asia Pacific HIV/AIDS programmes, jointly implemented by the Federation, Australian Red Cross and relevant partner national societies. The evaluation also aimed to provide a clear understanding of the added value in HIV/AIDS work accomplished by including OPEC funds into existing programme work. A draft report is currently being circulated for comments.

National societies in the region observed World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day with the theme of stopping discrimination against HIV/AIDS affected people.

Blood Donor Recruitment – In April 2004, the International Federation, the Red Cross Society of China and WHO conducted the 9th International Colloquium on recruitment of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors. From Southeast Asia, staff from the regional health unit and blood donor recruitment managers from several national societies participated in the colloquium in order to learn and share experiences from the region. Led by the Singapore Red Cross, national societies from Southeast Asia contributed to the preparation of a poster illustrating blood donor recruitment activities from throughout the region which was presented at the colloquium. In Laos, the national society is still awaiting the final report from the evaluation of their blood programme, conducted by the Japanese Red Cross in March. Although the national government has agreed to contribute funds from 2005 onwards, the future of the programme still remains uncertain. On 14 June 2004, for the first time, the world celebrated the World Blood Donor Day. Many national societies including those of Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Lao Red Cross, celebrated the day with a wide range of events. Given the scarcity of funds within the blood programme in Laos, the regional health unit contributed the necessary funds for their celebration.

Water and Sanitation (WatSan) – After the discussions in March (mentioned in *Programme Update 1*), the Lao Red Cross proceeded to prepare a project proposal for a community-based first aid, water supply and sanitation programme. The aim of the programme is to:

- Improve the capacity of the Lao Red Cross health staff at headquarters and branches.
 - Construct and repair 28 water supplies and 500 latrine systems.
 - Improve the health situation of vulnerable people in target villages through the Red Cross volunteer network.
 - Raise community awareness and encourage individuals to practise hygiene measures.
- A project contract was signed in June and project implementation is now about to start. The project is supported by the New Zealand Red Cross. A new WatSan delegate was selected in April and started his mission in July.

First Aid – The next step in the development of minimum standards for an Asian certificate for first aid training is to re-establish a small working group that can move this forward. Some members have been identified and the first meeting is scheduled for August or September.

Coordination – In terms of coordination, the second quarter of 2004 was relatively quiet. In May the regional health officer participated in the ‘United Nations Regional Task Force on Mobility and HIV Vulnerability Reduction’ meeting in Dili, Timor-Leste. The purpose for participation in the meeting was to:

- Share and learn from UN, GO and NGO experiences from working in the field of HIV and mobility.
- Explore the possibilities of the ART network for working with mobile populations in the region, by integrating mobility issues into the existing national society programmes, or by contributing to the existing UN Regional Task Force on Mobility.

Impact

As mentioned above, a mid-term evaluation of the OPEC programme was conducted in the second quarter of 2004. The general findings of the evaluation point to significant added value achieved at the community level, especially in the areas of prevention of further infections, and the reduction of stigma and discrimination. The programme is producing notable outcomes in care and support activities which will likely expand as the programme becomes fully embedded among its target communities. So far, the strengthening of national societies has mainly taken place at programme level. The evaluation team found that OPEC funding enabled national societies to gain an understanding of what works and what does not in communities, providing them with a solid platform for future HIV/AIDS work, often in partnership with government and other strategic stakeholders such as national AIDS authorities and other key sector actors. Funding also enabled significant scale up in both programme activity and geographical coverage, but through this expansion some concerns have developed regarding the longer-term sustainability of programme work once funding starts to wind down. The draft evaluation report lists a number of recommendations and concludes that the added value in HIV/AIDS work accomplished by including OPEC funds into existing programme work has been considerable. Perhaps, the most important finding of the evaluation is the real difference the partnership between OPEC and its Red Cross partners has made to the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and their families as can be seen throughout the case studies in the evaluation.

Constraints

The regional health unit was still without a WatSan delegate in the second quarter of 2004, and for this reason WatSan activities were low key. However, the most important tasks were completed and everything is in place to receive the new delegate in July.

Disaster Management

The quarter has seen considerable activity in all aspects of regional support to national society disaster management programme work. The unit also assisted with international appeals for disaster response operations in the Philippines and in Myanmar. The focus has been on helping national societies with the development of important tools – strategic plans (for three national societies), policy documentation, and better defining the disaster management roles and responsibilities of a national society vis-à-vis the government (as with Vietnam and Cambodia). The programme has continued to enjoy support of the Australian, British, Danish, Swedish, Netherlands national societies, as well as from DFID.

The period has been challenging in terms of staff changes and shortages within the unit. Recruitment of new staff for the regional disaster management unit, now called the regional disaster risk management unit, took place following the approval of a new structure for the unit. The staff will now comprise a head of unit, a disaster management programme officer, a senior emergency and response preparedness officer, an emergency response and preparedness officer and two further disaster management programme officers – one covering assistance to the Mekong delta countries (to be appointed) the other (based in the Philippines) for Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Malaysia and with a watching brief for Singapore and Brunei. It is expected that all programme staff will be from the region.

Overall goal: National societies are well prepared, able to respond to disasters in a timely, efficient and coordinated manner, clearly linked to the Federation's response system and are improving the ability of communities at risk to cope with disasters.

Programme objective: The disaster preparedness and response capacity at national and regional level is substantially improved and the linkages to the Federation's global response system assured through a comprehensive, integrated regional disaster management approach.

Progress/achievements

Expected result 1: All national societies are systematically addressing their disaster management development needs, based on well developed plans and through strengthened regional cooperation.

During the quarter, three strategic planning workshops in Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Cambodia were facilitated by the staff of the disaster risk management unit. These three-day events in each country were attended predominantly by national society staff from the headquarters and disaster prone provinces experienced in disaster management. Whenever possible, the workshops also included delegates from the Federation and partner national societies (PNS)

as well as staff from other departments/sectors such as health. In Myanmar, staff from the ICRC participated actively during the planning workshop. In each case they developed a brief but comprehensive strategic plan generally comprising no more than four to five strategic aims, strategies and in some cases outline activities. The event in Timor-Leste was supported by the Australian Red Cross.

The Federation assumed further work on the development of disaster risk policy documentation for the Cambodian and Vietnam Red Cross societies facilitated by the Institute for Disaster Risk Management, Manila. The Institute also helped develop a draft memorandum of understanding/framework agreements between the national society and the national disaster management committee. These agreements comprehensively define the roles and responsibilities of national societies vis-à-vis the governments in a broad range of tasks in disaster management. The agreements are essentially working drafts and should be reviewed in the light of experience. These activities were supported by the Netherlands Red Cross society.

Following up on concerns expressed by the Lao Red Cross during various meetings and a strategic planning workshop, as well as those of the regional delegation for further information and guidance, the DRM unit supported a brief study on situations facing ethnic minority groups in Laos. This is very much seen as a discussion document for limited circulation. The work was supported in part by the Australian Red Cross.

As part of its increased level of support to Timor-Leste Red Cross, the unit facilitated a five-day community-based disaster management training event for over twenty staff and volunteers of the national society. It was supported by the Australian Red Cross. This was the first event of its kind and was conducted prior to the strategic planning event and a further one planned by the Bali chapter of the Indonesian Red Cross in July for disaster response team training.

In Vietnam, the national society and Federation office received additional support from the unit during the final implementation phase of a project supported by DIPECHO. Despite challenges faced throughout the project (due primarily to limited capacity within the national society and support from the country office) the project was set for completion by the end of June. Specifically, the unit helped with a gender relations study (examining the roles of men and women in disaster prone areas of the country) and two short training events for the provincial/national trainers, disaster preparedness centre directors and staff. The national society hosted a visit from the disaster preparedness and policy department focal person for Asia Pacific, based in Geneva Secretariat. This significantly improved the officer's knowledge and understanding of the disaster management programme work of the national society that is undertaking innovative programme work in terms of hazard, vulnerability and capacity assessment, disaster risk reduction activity and others. DFID and the Australian Red Cross are also programme donors.

Following the 'Essentials of Humanitarian Practice' course facilitated by the Registered Engineers for Disaster Response (RedR) in Bangkok, the DRM unit initiated discussions with RedR to explore the possibility of 'tailor made courses' for the regional disaster response team or other national society staff.

Expected result 2: The disaster response and response preparedness capacity within the region is further strengthened, at both individual national society and regional level, and the understanding and linkages of the Federation's global response system are assured.

During the period, the unit provided ongoing support to the disaster response operation being implemented by the Philippine National Red Cross in Southern Leyte. The operation has been beset by numerous problems ranging from human resource capacity in the headquarters to significant challenges at the disaster site such as heavy rainfall and difficult access. The unit stationed a relief delegate based in the Leyte areas to support the society with the response operation.

In mid-May, the north western state of Rakhine in Myanmar was hit by a typhoon. Over 2,500 families were directly affected by the storm and subsequent flooding which resulted in 220 dead, 18,000 homeless and considerable loss of property and livelihood. The national society, supported by the Federation delegations in country and in Bangkok, launched its first international appeal. Throughout the still ongoing implementation period, the delegations have maintained a high level of support to the national society. An interim review was planned for late July to assess progress/challenges to date.

Also during the period, the Philippines and Indonesia were affected by small scale disasters for which the unit provided some support to the national societies and the delegation.

Expected result 3: The linkages and mechanisms for disaster management information and knowledge sharing between the national, regional and global level are substantially improved.

Almost 30 DMIS entries were recorded during the period by the national society focal persons in Timor-Leste, Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The tool is increasingly well utilised and appreciated by the national societies both for alerting readers to emergency events and also as an ongoing monitoring tool. A further training event is planned partly as a refresher for the focal persons and also for new focal persons and others within the disaster management and health sectors of the national societies.

Expected result 4: The Federation's regional disaster management cooperation framework is further developed, maintained and sustained.

The '7th Regional Disaster Management Committee Meeting' was held in Hanoi during May and attended by all 11 national societies from the region as well as representatives from the Australian, Danish, Spanish and American Red Cross. Two senior officers from Geneva also attended the meeting. The five-day event ensured that participants had opportunity for in-depth discussion on thematic issues (climate change, urban disaster risk reduction, and community-based disaster management and population movement) as well as furthering understanding of the work of the various national societies through programme updates and information sharing.

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (Bangkok) and the DRM unit co-facilitated the '3rd Southeast Asia Disaster Management Practitioners' Workshop' held in Bangkok in May. This was the third such collaboration for this event that has grown considerably in size and scale since its humble inception in 1999 in Vietnam. This meeting, which was attended by over 50 representatives from INGOs, UN agencies, major donors and government bodies and the private sector, also included representatives from the national societies in Cambodian, Thailand and Vietnam Red Cross. National society representatives were each given an opportunity to present different aspects of their DRM work. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for networking and evaluation reports were extremely positive. The event was partly sponsored by UNDP and DIPECHO. The consultant for the DIPECHO supported project in Vietnam was the main facilitator for the workshop.

Staff from the disaster management department of the Lao Red Cross undertook an exchange visit to examine the community-based disaster management programme work of the Cambodian Red Cross society (another similar visit is planned for July to Vietnam). The visit notably strengthened relationships between the disaster management staff of both societies through an increased understanding of the common challenges that the societies face in implementing truly community-based disaster management projects in the rural areas.

Impact

The strategic planning workshops undertaken with three national societies have now better equipped these societies with an essential tool that will assist them with the development of annual appeals and with donor negotiations. Each plan comprehensively defines the strategic aims of the national society for the next three years or so and will, it is hoped, provide clear strategic direction for the society and clarity for other stakeholders on the society's programme priorities.

Constraints

The unit faced some challenges after the departure of the disaster response delegate in early May. This was particularly felt during response operations in the region. However, the new structure of the unit is taking shape and, with staff in place, the unit will improve programme implementation and support to national societies. Particular challenges were met in the support of the Vietnam Red Cross during the implementation of the DIPECHO supported project in Vietnam, discussed in the separate report for Vietnam.

An application is pending with EU for support to the region in climate change/disaster management. Furthermore, positive discussions have taken place with a number of PNS over increasing the level of support to the unit.

Humanitarian Values

The main priority for the quarter was to make the most of the upcoming opportunity for visibility offered by 20,000 delegates from all over the world attending the International AIDS Conference from 11 – 16 July. The Cambodian Red Cross seized the chance to showcase their HIV prevention work with the police, a group that can spread the virus from high risk groups to the general population. Other projects undertaken ahead of the conference are outlined below.

A positive development during the quarter was the growing demand for stories and photos from donors. The regional information unit was able to respond swiftly with high quality images and captions, largely due to the work of a visiting documentary photographer and a new archive that allows fast access to photos. The unit hopes this trend of demand will continue because it offers a chance to showcase the Movement's work in Southeast Asia, a region with many humanitarian needs.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society appointed a new communications manager, a public relations professional who began raising the profile of the national society and fundraising for it.

Overall goal: The awareness and application of humanitarian values is enhanced across the region.

Programme objective: National societies in Southeast Asia are motivated and able to generate a high degree of visibility, credibility, cooperation and support for Red Cross and Red Crescent activities.

Progress/achievements

Project 1 - Visibility – Expected Result - The Red Cross and Red Crescent is the primary source for humanitarian issues.

The major achievement for the quarter was establishing a photo archive with a new program, *FotoStation*. The program was bought and used immediately to archive and catalogue hundreds of photos taken by an Icelandic Red Cross volunteer and documentary photographer, whose trip to Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam (much of it with the information delegate) ended at the beginning of the period. The photographer's work in April was funded by the Japanese Red Cross. These photos are used widely, particularly by PNS. For example, the British Red Cross used photos from the database in a report on community-based healthcare in Cambodia.

The delegate visited the offices of New Zealand's Aid and Development Agency (NZAID) in Bangkok twice with stories and photos, some of which are to be used in NZAID publications. A recent development is that NZAID has committed a significant figure towards the cost of the Myanmar country delegation.

Much of the latter part of the quarter was spent preparing for the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok. Work included researching and commissioning a video news release on the work of the Cambodian Red Cross on HIV/AIDS (that was shown on BBC, CBS, Spanish TV and other broadcasters in the week of 5 July, as well as becoming the basis of several print or internet news items). The video required visits to Cambodia to discuss the project with the Cambodian Red Cross, visit potential interview subjects, and return with a film crew. In preparation for the conference, the information delegate project managed a redesign and reissue of several ART Network publications including a newsletter, leaflet, letterhead, folder and posters. The delegate edited the newsletter, which also carries her stories and photos. The unit also worked with the media service and anti-stigma campaign manager on a conference booth to highlight the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

At the end of June, the delegate returned to Cambodia to shoot a New Zealand television news item on preventing dengue fever in Cambodia, in collaboration with national society colleagues (the item was shown on One News on 11 July to an audience of up to a quarter of all New Zealanders).

Project 2 – Integration – Expected Result – Programmes in all four core areas reflect a communications component. The regional information unit worked very closely with the regional health unit this quarter in preparing for the International AIDS Conference.

Project 3 - Skills development – Expected Result – A stronger bond is developed between the regional information team and national societies.

All the web stories published on the Federation website from Southeast Asia were written in collaboration with or by the regional information unit. They include:

- *A Volunteer Responds to Myanmar Cyclone*
<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/04/04062401/>
- *Ending the Silence on Sex in Indonesia*
<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/04/04051901/>
- *Thai Red Cross Responds to Clashes in South*
<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/04/04042901/>
- *A Gateway to Cambodia's Past*
<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/04/04042701/>
- *Mending East Timor's (now Timor-Leste) Broken Families*
<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/04/04041501/>

The information unit issued another edition of *Southeast Asia Link*, with a growing number of stories and photos submitted by national societies.

Impact

Through informal one-on-one coaching and mentoring by the unit, information practitioners in communications departments have an improved ability to raise the profile of their national society programmes. This quarter, the delegate was able to work particularly closely with staff from the Cambodian Red Cross, who are growing in their confidence and more able to take the initiative required to produce good photos and stories.

Constraints

The major difficulty faced this quarter was uncertainty about the future management of the unit, which is still being addressed. The delay in deploying the staff-on-loan recruited from the Myanmar Red Cross was an immediate consequence, now resolved.

Organisational Development

The regional organisational development delegate joined the unit in the second quarter. The organisational development unit continues working closely with the national societies without country delegations and with organisational development delegates in the region. The essential regional events still carry on with concentration on tailor made activities. However the focus slowly shifted from regional activities to direct support to national societies.

Overall goal: A greater number of people in the region have access to humanitarian services and relief interventions through the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Programme objective: Southeast Asian national societies are aligned with the criteria defined in the document

Progress/achievements

Regional Cooperation and Coordination

Nine national societies in the region attended the 4th Regional Organisational Development Forum meeting co-hosted by the Malaysian Red Crescent Society. National societies discussed issues around governance and management and identified areas for internal and external assistance. The forum proved useful for sharing information and tools, and in boosting initiatives of new organisational development work/processes in national societies. Significant developments as a result of the regional organisational development forum are as follows:

- Following the organisational development forum in 2003, the Lao Red Cross organisational development department developed an operational plan for fundraising in 2004 and has started new fundraising activities. The society successfully raised USD 12,000 on 8 May using plans formulated with the Thai Red Cross. Also, the society adapted a Myanmar Red Cross branch development survey format and has used it for strengthening the capacity of its branches. In responding to their needs, which is an ongoing process, the national headquarter organisational development department has the support of leadership. The society is also developing a database of human resource specialists at its headquarters and in the branches. In another initiative, the organisational development focal point presented a report with recommendations on leadership and management to the leadership.
- Learning from the Cambodia Red Cross update in the last forum, the Malaysian Red Crescent has come up with a draft strategic plan. The plan will be finalised shortly and be presented to the board for approval. The fundraising and income generation project is boosted with the appointment of a new head of the communication and fundraising department. This was recommended at the second organisational development forum in Bangkok through consultations.
- The Philippine National Red Cross has produced a branch development manual, which the society has tested in one of the regions. The society is now focused on decentralisation and working towards sustainable development of branches. The society is developing a human resource policy, training need assessment tool for human resource development and a code of conduct for staff.
- The Thai Red Cross has restructured its youth bureau and amended youth activities to achieve gender balance among the youth volunteers.

The organisational development unit reviewed the progress of the regional organisational development programme and priorities, and subsequently revised the organisational development part of the Southeast Asia Plan 2004-2005 in a two day meeting with the Asia-Pacific organisational development coordinator. The plan is framed in direct response to most of the requests for support from national societies, which were collated at the 4th Regional Organisational Development Forum.

The organisational development unit has provided technical support to the strategic planning process of the Vietnam Red Cross through the organisational development delegate in Cambodia. A third meeting/workshop was organised in April; the previous two were held in the south and north of the country where representatives from the branches/units participated and shared their challenges and thoughts in various sectors and programmes. The fourth draft of the society's strategic plan is on its way, and the English version will be circulated for feedback from stakeholders.

Ten newly selected and other comparatively older governance members of Timor-Leste Red Cross attended a two-day governance workshop organised by the Federation Timor-Leste delegation. The regional organisational development unit provided technical support to the Timor-Leste delegation in finalising workshop modules and facilitation of the sessions in the workshop. Interim draft rules on conducting governance meetings have been developed in a participatory process which will be submitted to the board for further discussion and approval.

Human Resource Development in the Region

Key staff members from the Myanmar Red Cross and Indonesia Red Cross were sent to the Federation's 'Basic Training Course' with the support of regional organisational development unit.

Direct Support to National Societies

Since the Federation office in Laos closed at the end of last year, the regional organisational development unit has been working closely with the Lao Red Cross on the development of organisational development work and capacity building in various areas. As planned, the Lao Red Cross has been implementing its organisational development activities since February. A committee group comprising the president, secretary general, directors, staff and volunteers is conducting a revision of statutes. A gender advisory committee group was formed and a training-of-trainers was conducted in the headquarters and at the branch levels. The society had a volunteer management training event for the Vientiane branch with a newly developed tailor made course curriculum. Activities of the youth department kicked off with youth volunteers giving public education on the community-based first aid in Vientiane and several branches. New activities in the youth department in cooperation with the fundraising unit such as on the income generating project are being implemented. The society plans two major joint fundraising

activities at the headquarters and provincial chapter and these will be implemented at the end of this year to celebrate the society's 50th anniversary. The funds raised from these two events will go to support the provincial chapters with negative income to enable them to provide services to the communities.

With support from the regional organisational development unit to the financial resource development project since December 2003, all chapters in the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) raised 50 percent more funds than last year. The national headquarter no longer subsidises the regions as in the past, and the fund generation department and income generating chapters support some financially challenged chapters to expand their services. The society has developed course curricula in resource generation development and planning and the manual is now being used nationwide. The headquarters reviewed its fund generation policy in consultation with all departments and chapters.

In the past, there was no monitoring system to link fund generation with service delivery. Currently, a monitoring system is in place and the process is monitored every month. This enables the PNRC to link fund generation to increase in service delivery. Statistics show that there was a 48 percent increase in activities as a result of the resource mobilisation project from the beginning of 2004 to June 2004. The numbers also indicate that the headquarters and some chapters have reached their target for this year already and some have a very small percentage to go to reach targets. Overall, services to the community have improved and expanded 50 percent more than last year. The PNRC is working towards long-term financial sustainability by changing mindsets at headquarters and chapters towards diversification of funding sources through the diversification of fundraising activities. The society's fund generation network has expanded and is based on the Federation code of ethics for fund generation.

In the past the planning and development for Thai Red Cross youth development was undertaken by the government's education department and the target group was junior students (8-15 yrs of age) in school. The activities were very limited and there was an issue of gender imbalance – the image of Thai Red Cross youth bureau was more that of 'girl activities'. Currently, the target group is expanding to college, university and public under Federation guidelines using the participatory method with youth volunteers. Youth volunteers, together with the community, suggest plans to assist the target community. Gender issues are addressed by changing the activities and through the dissemination of Red Cross principles. The new activities carried out at the community level (including school, small villages and prisons) include dissemination of the Red Cross services, the International Humanitarian Law, health education (HIV/AIDS, drugs), recreation, personal hygiene and environment protection. Youth volunteers conducted fundraising and income generating activities and contributed to 70 percent of the overall budget of the Red Cross youth activities in their community. The bureau gathered information from the first Southeast Asia youth directors' meeting to develop its activities and to adapt models from other national societies. The Thai Red Cross found the Singapore and Philippine Red Cross model most suitable and they are now in the process of further developing new approach to youth volunteerism.

The regional organisational development unit provided technical support to the Philippine, Malaysian and Vietnamese national societies to develop proposals and submission for the capacity-building fund. The applications of two societies have been accepted; with the Philippines submission on hold. Both societies will start implementation of the project from the next quarter. The Philippines will also start implementation of their volunteering project, with the support from regional organisational development funding.

Regional Finance Development

The final three workshops for provincial accountants of the Vietnam Red Cross were held in Hanoi, and in total 61 accountants participated. The second level of training for provincial accountants – including customised *MS Excel* with accounting and reporting – started in June. The first workshop was on special request from Quang Ninh province and 15 participants came from the districts. Since participants were very positive for both types of workshops, the Vietnam Red Cross decided to continue the second level training in selected provinces.

The regional finance development delegate made a first short assessment visit, for needs and requirements in the Myanmar Red Cross for financial management in April. Recommendations were specified and a second and longer visit in August was agreed upon. A similar needs assessment for financial management in Timor-Leste Red Cross and Indonesian Red Cross was done in June. Again, recommendations were specified, and in the case of Timor-Leste a longer visit in October was agreed, to continue to work with the national society. The assessments will be

the basis for decisions on how to continue finance development within the organisational development programme. The regional finance budget has been incorporated into the regional account, as per the revision attached to the programme update.

Impact

The direct support to national societies had a significant impact at the national level and can be linked with services at the community level in Laos, Philippines and Thailand. Regional events that began last year started to demonstrate impact at the national level. Furthermore, there was a need to follow up closely on the process by the regional organisational development unit. The societies showed greater ownership of processes at both regional and national events/activities. Newly initiated activities have been implemented across the region. Both cases serve as an example of partnership and use of resources from within the region.

Relations and reporting between Vietnam Red Cross headquarters and the society's provincial accountants have improved. Relations between headquarter finance and non-finance staff have also started to improve, which hopefully will result in improved quality in reporting and understanding or responsibilities. The Vietnam Red Cross leadership are very supportive and encourage their staff.

It is still too early to see the impact of finance development in Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Indonesia but the heads of finance seemed to have potential to work on improvement.

Constraints

Moving towards direct support to national societies is the sustainable way of improving organisational development work. However a unit with only two persons has limitations in its resources. As a result, sometimes it becomes difficult to provide support in person to national societies or delegations, when requests come at the same time. Utilising regional resources instead of external consultants is ideal but this requires huge coordination, communication efforts and flexibility.

In terms of finance development, a lack of interest and willingness from a few of the Vietnam headquarters accountants can delay the process. Restructuring of the headquarters finance department is still needed. Societies in Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Indonesia need to have audits, procedures, training and tools for financial management.

Representation, Management and Implementation

In the second quarter, the allocation of funds for the core costs of the Regional Delegation was reduced by 38 percent from the beginning of year. Consequently a massive budget revision was undertaken to secure the availability of funds to cover legal expenses such as salaries, office rent, etc. This, however, left the management with very slender resources to cope with unavoidable variations of real costs compared to anticipated expenses as shown in the budget. In order to keep administrative and support services to programmes at the required standard, the management had no alternative than to place expenses directly under some programmes such as communication, support staff salaries and maintenance. In spite of serious efforts, the situation is far from being satisfactory and it is imperative to find additional sources to sustain expenses and to avoid or at least keep deficits to a minimum.

Following up on the recommendations of an internal risk assessment exercise in March, the regional finance delegate helped revise the office financial procedures. With some of the new procedures, monitoring of programmes and other financial transactions will become easier and more effective. During the second quarter a workshop on the Federation financial management cycle was organised and attended by delegates and local staff, most of whom have little or no training and experience in financial management.

During April the work on the formulation of a regional strategy for 2004-2005 continued and priorities for the 11 societies in the region were defined. Following this meeting the head of delegation visited four societies where there is no country-specific Federation representation (Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand) to discuss their strategic objectives and needs for support.

A new Federation representative took office in Vietnam in May. The attachment of representative to the Vietnam Red Cross was perceived as highly important by all stake holders but complications related to securing the funding

of this position and finding a suitable person kept delaying the process for several months. Following this appointment the regional programme coordinator was able to hand over the responsibilities of managing the Vietnam office out of Bangkok.

It has been reported previously that the Federation is striving to enter into a more formalised manner of cooperation with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Following preliminary discussions earlier this year, the Secretariat's head of external relations and the head of the regional delegation met with the chief of the social issues division to discuss in detail professional areas that would be beneficial for both parties and procedures which would lead to achieving a positive cooperation. The head of regional delegation completes his two year assignment in September.

At the end of the second quarter the regional programme coordinator visited Laos to attend the second Cooperation Agreements Strategy (CAS) committee meeting (the first was in March - for details see *Southeast Asia Programme Update 1, 2004*) to monitor the progress of the newly formed cooperation office of the Lao Red Cross. During the CAS meeting the PNS present gave positive feedback on recent developments in cooperation and coordination with the CAS office.

It was stated that the division of labour between the CAS manager and CAS advisor has considerably improved and office resources are used more effectively. The office reported completing the set up of a monitoring system for internationally supported programmes in the blood and health department and was moving on to install a similar system in other departments. The staff also completed their financial system training that started in the first quarter. During the same trip the programme coordinator held initial discussions with the secretary general to host the next Secretaries-General forum scheduled for August. The forum is an information sharing and decision making body of the leadership of the 11 societies in the region (the last meeting was held in October 2003 - for details see *Southeast Asia Programme Update 3, 2003*).

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

South East Asia Regional Programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.66/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

21/09/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	5,036,470	TOTAL COVERAGE 76.7%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD	910,693		
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT	55,826	USD	71,905 20.05.04 DISASTER PREPARENESS MEKONG DELTA PROVINCE
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT	146,705	AUD	136,656 13.05.04 DISASTER PREPARENESS MEKONG DELTA PROVINCE
AUSTRALIAN - RC	3,598	USD	4,550 28.06.04 DISASTER MANAGEMENT
BELGIUM - RC	4,000	EUR	6,144 21.06.04 VIETNAM COOPERATION, COORDINATION
BRITISH - RC	10,000	GBP	22,865 05.02.04 DISASTER MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004			595,500 29.01.04 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, NS DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, VIETNAM CBDP
DANISH - GOVT/RC			50,156 01.07.04 ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH, DISASTER MANAGEMENT
DANISH - RC			45,860 06.09.04 BANGKOK RD
GERMAN - RC			60,000 09.08.04 PROGRAMME COORDINATOR
JAPANESE - RC	343,637	USD	434,529 18.08.04 MANGROVE PROGRAMME
JAPANESE - RC	37,000	USD	46,787 02.09.04 DISASTER MANAGEMENT
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	20,535	EUR	32,035 05.01.04 VIETNAM FED. REPRESENTATIVE
NEW ZEALAND - RC	280,000	NZD	235,760 23.02.04 MEASLES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN
NEW ZEALAND - RC	100,000	NZD	84,400 30.01.04 COMMUNITY BASED FIRST AID
NEW ZEALAND - RC	100,000	NZD	79,450 06.07.04 LAO RC CBFA & HEALTH
NEW ZEALAND - RC	100,000	NZD	79,450 06.07.04 LAO RC WATSAN
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC	700,000	NOK	128,800 30.03.04 ART HIV/AIDS NETWORK
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC			30,000 25.05.04 COOPERATION & COORDINATION COSTS VIETNAM
SPANISH - RC	3,000	EUR	4,608 19.05.04 IFRC REPRESENTATIVE, VIETNAM
SWEDISH - GOVT	1,047,500	SEK	176,504 26.03.04 ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT	300,000	SEK	50,550 26.03.04 DISASTER MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT	350,000	SEK	58,975 26.03.04 FINANCE DELEGATE PROJECT
SWEDISH - GOVT	152,500	SEK	25,696 26.03.04 FINANCE DELEGATE IN-COUNTRY COSTS
SWEDISH - RC			25,339 01.01.04 VIETNAM: BAL. 02 FOR IN-COUNTRY COSTS DELEGATE
SWISS - RC			3,000 25.05.04 IFRC REPRESENTATIVE, VIETNAM

South East Asia Regional Programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.66/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

21/09/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				3,400,212	CHF	67.5%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATES			11,800		
AUSTRIA	DELEGATES			9,200		
DENMARK	DELEGATES			73,200		
FINLAND	DELEGATES			26,600		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATES			120,600		
GERMANY	DELEGATES			73,200		
NETHERLANDS	DELEGATES			34,600		
NEW ZEALAND	DELEGATES			51,200		
SWEDEN	DELEGATES			61,200		
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				461,600	CHF	9.2%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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

BUDGET 2004

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.66/2004

Name: South East Asia Regional Programmes

PROGRAMME:	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	22,700	0	0	0	0	22,700
Clothing & textiles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seeds & plants	0	122,040	0	0	0	0	122,040
Water & Sanitation	83,000	0	0	0	0	0	83,000
Medical & first aid	80,000	0	0	0	0	0	80,000
Teaching materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utensils & tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other relief supplies	0	550	0	0	0	0	550
SUPPLIES	163,000	145,290	0	0	0	0	308,290
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	4,183	0	0	0	0	4,183
Computers & telecom	5,874	0	0	10,830	2,600	0	19,304
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	1,526	0	0	6,825	0	8,351
CAPITAL EXPENSES	5,874	5,709	0	10,830	9,425	0	31,838
Warehouse & Distribution	0	49,834	0	0	0	0	49,834
Transport & Vehicules	0	4,254	0	513	3,507	0	8,274
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	0	54,088	0	513	3,507	0	58,108
Programme Support	109,617	109,054	19,174	48,718	26,498	0	313,059
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	109,617	109,054	19,174	48,718	26,498	0	313,059
Personnel-delegates	264,000	220,800	109,620	257,545	226,630	0	1,078,595
Personnel-national staff	427,702	99,653	96,820	29,172	40,575	0	693,922
Consultants	19,433	111,250	0	42,611	0	0	173,294
PERSONNEL	711,135	431,703	206,440	329,328	267,205	0	1,945,811
W/shops & Training	390,779	747,451	0	231,077	0	0	1,369,306
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	390,779	747,451	0	231,077	0	0	1,369,306
Travel & related expenses	162,244	58,942	44,365	70,891	21,027	0	357,468
Information	118,276	30,299	25,000	37,257	0	0	210,832
Other General costs	25,486	95,212	0	20,889	79,994	0	221,581
GENERAL EXPENSES	306,006	184,453	69,365	129,037	101,021	0	789,881
TOTAL BUDGET:	1,686,411	1,677,748	294,979	749,503	407,656	0	4,816,294