

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

REDUCING DISCRIMINATION

31 December 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.97/2004, Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: July to December 2004; Appeal Target: CHF 666,845; Appeal coverage: 32.3%;

[Click here to go directly to the attached contributions list.](#)

Related Annual Appeals: N/A

Programme summary: The “Reducing Discrimination” Global Programme provides for a real focus on changing behavior as described in the Strategy 2010 core area “Promotion of the Movement’s Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values”. It’s all about appreciating peoples differences, building an environment of mutual understanding, tolerance, non-discrimination, and respect for diversity. Concretely, it’s also about changing actor’s behaviour which means changing our own behaviour. This Global Programme was initiated in 2001 as part of the so called “Global Local Action to Reduce Discrimination and Violence in the Community”.

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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 (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Overall Goal: national societies work at the community level and develop effective action and communication with the community and public authorities in order to influence behavior to reduce discrimination and violence in the community and promote a culture of tolerance, non discrimination and respect for diversity.

Objectives 1 and 2: to capture, develop and share knowledge on best and good practices in reducing discrimination and promoting a culture of tolerance, non discrimination and respect for diversity, as well as monitor and reinforce the Global-Local Action to reduce Discrimination and Violence in the Community.

Progress/achievements

Integrating Human Rights components within the Action to Reduce Discrimination pack:

Based on the outcomes of the pilot phase engaged in March 2004 (pilot in Poland – see programme update 1) a number of tested exercises have been integrated in a specific module addressing human rights issues as part of the updated version of the training tool “Action to Reduce Discrimination”.

Case Studies from a Community Based Integrated Approach:

The process engaged in early 2004 (see programme update 1) has been reinforced. Based on the fact that Reducing Discrimination is not an isolated agenda, a number of national societies has developed programmes and actions utilizing gender, health or population movement agendas as entry points addressing Action to Reduce Discrimination and Violence in the community. 32 national societies have been identified during the second semester for their specific approach through existing programmes. Some case studies have been developed (Canada, Sierra Leone, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Nepal, France, and Belarus) as a basis for sharing knowledge, know-how, and practice. Those case studies are made available to humanitarian values actors and focal points.

Focus on Central Americas - Exploratory process – phase 2:

In June 2003, the Panama Regional Delegation, as well as the Americas Department of the Federation’s Secretariat, looked for technical assistance to enhance the involvement of national societies in the region in the field of reducing discrimination. A first phase was engaged in early 2004, focusing mainly on national societies of Nicaragua, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic. Phase 2 (October 2004) combined a number of consultations of several targeted national societies (Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala) on the “Promotion of respect for diversity and fight against discrimination and intolerance” agenda, in order to ensure that national societies in the Americas engage themselves in the “promotion of respect for diversity and fight against intolerance and discrimination” through ways and means relevant to their local contexts and in line with their identified priorities. Several issues have been particularly explored such as: how do national societies in Panama, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Central America in general perceive discrimination in their context? What role do they see themselves playing in this area? How can recommendations from phase 1 be integrated in national societies and delegations respective plans of action related to the reducing discrimination agenda, and be taken into account by national societies and delegations respective implementation of the Santiago de Chili Plan of Action?

Based on an “open dialogue” methodology, individual interviews, and field visits were undertaken, combined with formal presentations and updates on the reducing discrimination global programme. Outcomes of phase 2 have been consolidated in late 2004 to be shared with national societies visited during Phase 1 and Phase 2, as well as with other national societies in the region. These outcomes cover topics such as: learning lessons to contribute to the creation of a conducive environment; identification of good practices to be shared through the global data base; use of identified best practices to develop case(s) study; recommendations to be integrated within the national and regional plan of action, along national and regional needs and cultural reality, as well as within the Federation’s Global Programme; identification of concrete options, such as training modules addressing respect for diversity.

Advocacy matters

Specific attention was given to the follow-up of the 60th session - Commission on Human Rights (April 2004; see programme update 1); Item 6 - “Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination”, based on the fact that the International Federation has always acted on its strong basis and firm commitment to challenge discrimination in all its forms.

During important meetings and fora such as the United Nations General Assembly, the OSCE meeting, the Third World meeting of Religions and Cultures or the Parliament of the World’s Religions (Barcelona 2004), important contributions were made to reinforce the positioning of the Federation on the “Respect for Diversity” agenda. A mainstreaming approach has also been engaged on the same issue, including this important agenda in, for example, the area of disaster preparedness. A number of statements were delivered during the second semester where non-discrimination and human dignity are key common elements that bind together human rights law, international humanitarian law, and the principles and values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Follow-up of 2003 Movement statutory decisions addressing Non-discrimination and Respect for Diversity:

As part of the implementation of the 2003 Council of Delegates, Resolution 9 to “Promote respect for diversity and fight discrimination and intolerance” an Expert meeting of key actors who are not part of the Red Cross and Red Crescent family was organized in Geneva, jointly with ICRC. Those experts were identified based on their broad experience and expertise in the field of applied social psychology, multicultural education, and academic research, Treaty Bodies, reducing prejudice and discrimination and respect for human dignity. The objectives covered three aspects: i) reach a better understanding of the factors that underlie discrimination, including emerging ones, and find more efficient ways of identifying them; ii) take a closer look at the complementarity that exists between various organizations active in the field of prevention and assistance for victims of discrimination and intolerance; iii) draw up guidelines based on case studies with a view to defining the conditions for action in this field and the principles that should govern such action. The outcomes of this important expert meeting will be implemented in national society consultation (Semester 1 -2005).

As part of the effort deployed to implement the Federation Pledge at the 28th International Conference (“Non discrimination and respect for diversity” PO 34), links have been made with the Secretariat Diversity Action Group to facilitate the global cohesiveness in addressing Respect for Diversity in the work place. Specific approaches such as “targeted recruitment” and “targeted training” have been endorsed by the Federation’s Governing Board and shared with national societies interlocutors engaged on the same agenda.

Fed Net

The existing Action to Reduce Discrimination tool kit, already available through the Federation Web site, as well as research papers and information kit related to Humanitarian Values & Human Rights, have been regularly updated and made available, specifically to national societies via FedNet.

“From Principles to Action” CD ROM launched on the 8th of November 2004 , anniversary of the publication of Henry Dunant’s book “A Memory of Solferino”:

The first generation of “From Principles to Action” CD ROM was launched in 2002. More than 10,000 copies were ordered, while the Arabic, Spanish and French versions were developed (CD-Rom and/or handbooks). The main users in the past few years have been Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers and staff, people from other NGOs, universities, schools, the armed forces and the media. Based on the outcomes of the users’ consultation, a new version was developed. This 2005 edition is multilingual (English, Arabic, Spanish, French), allowing each language to benefit from specific aids and tools. It comprises documents, presentations, the Movement’s reference texts (Federation General Assembly, Council of Delegates, International Conference, etc.), videos, photos and bibliographies of reference works. Some specific current issues (for example “Reducing Discrimination”) are largely developed and offer new opportunities of collecting tools and information.

Constraints

The low coverage of this appeal continues to be an obstacle in terms of delivery speed. However, the development perspective of the programme ensures its sustainability, although the hoped for critical mass has yet to be reached. A lack of available funds has reduced the speed of the scaling-up phase.

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

Reducing Discrimination

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.97/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

25/01/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				666,845		32.3%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				6,496		
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT 2004				175,000	29.01.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT		200,000	SEK	33,800	24.05.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				215,296	CHF	32.3%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<p>Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.</p>						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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