

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 والقمر الأحمر

BANGLADESH

27 June 2005

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In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA046; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: 1 January to 30 April, 2005; Appeal coverage: 45.5%; Outstanding needs: CHF 1,736,497 (USD 1,369,973 or EUR 1,126,951).
([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\)](#)).

Appeal target: CHF 3,187,767 (USD 2,515,388 or EUR 2,068,701)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Bangladesh Floods 15/2004](#);
[Tsunami Emergency and Recovery Plan of Action 2005-2010 \(28/2004\)](#)

Programme summary:

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) continues with the implementation of its change process, and significant progress has been made in the area of organizational development, particularly the strengthening of branch capacities. However, with no financial support for the health and care and humanitarian values programmes during this reporting period has virtually put most planned activities at a standstill. The pledges announced so far, particularly the German Red Cross's support to the mother and child health centres, and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) funding for the regional HIV/AIDS programme, will see the activities pick up in the second half of the year.

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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

Bangladesh is primarily a ruraleconomy, with two-thirds of the labour force and 35 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) coming from agricultural sector. This heavy reliance on agriculture makes Bangladesh vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones, floods and droughts, as well as to world commodity prices. In spite of a steady growth in agricultural sector in recent years, the country's development programme is still largely donor-supported and food aid forms an important element of external assistance.

Working as an auxiliary to and in cooperation with the government, BDRCS has long supported an extensive range of relief and rehabilitation activities, which include a number of programmes in the fields of refugee relief and rehabilitation, disaster response and preparedness, health and blood services, institutional development, fund raising, tracing and dissemination.

In the first quarter of the year, the national society saw a number of changes at the senior management level. In January, the president of Bangladesh appointed a member of parliament as the new BDRCS chairman for a three-year term. Upon completion of his contract in early May, the secretary general left the national society, leaving the deputy secretary general to be acting secretary general.

BDRCS had finalized its second four-year strategic development plan (2005-2008). The plan is designed to focus towards six key strategic directions, which are critical to strengthening the foundation of BDRCS and thus building the overall capacity and enhancing performance throughout the organization. Key strategic support for the national society over the next four years will be in the area of constitutional reform, human resources reform, resource mobilization, management skills development, branch development and volunteer management and development.

Following the necessary approvals at the national society and Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement levels, the final BDRCS draft constitution has been submitted to the ministry of health and family welfare, for processing and a final approval by parliament.

Health and care

Background

Through its comprehensive health and care programme, BDRCS seeks to contribute to the implementation of the national health policy by promoting the provision of essential health service packages (ESP), with special focus on areas with no access to government health services. Curative and preventive aspects of health care are currently the main focus of the programme; they are implemented through five general hospitals, nine health clinics and five blood centres.

BDRCS also runs a nationwide network of 57 mother and child health (MCH) centres, located in remote and rural areas of the country providing essential primary health care services at community level, including treatment for simple ailments, preventive and maternal care (ante-natal, obstetric and post-natal). As part of efforts to increase community involvement in BDRCS activities, special focus will be put on the development of community self-management of MCH centres, in order to render them as self-reliant as possible.

BDRCS is actively coordinating its activities with the ministry of health and family welfare, international centre for diarrhoeal disease and research in Bangladesh, the United Nations and other agencies, in order to share experience more effectively, improve public health technical knowledge and develop client-centred, quality community health care services.

No funding has been received for the health and care programme during this reporting period.

Goal: To improve the health status of communities with a special emphasis on vulnerable sections of the population through preventive, promotional and curative measures.

Objective: To consolidate existing BDRCS health services to ensure quality and sustainability of healthcare services as well as establish an integrated and coordinated HIV/AIDS programme.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: Basic health care is provided on a sustainable basis through community-managed MCH centres

Due to the lack of donor support in the first four months of the year, the only activities planned in the annual appeal that were carried out included the supervising and monitoring of eight MCH centres in the BDRCS Dhaka division, out of the total of 57 centres.

The German Red Cross continues its support for 13 MCH centres as part of the south eastern community health project (SECHP). Each centre provides all five components of ESP in varying degrees, while 12 centres provide expanded programme of immunisation (EPI) services at least once a month. All 13 centres conducted workshops in January 2005 to finalize their annual plan of action. The training of trainers on adolescent health was also conducted in Khulna-Barisal primary health care area in January 2005.

As part of the efforts to increase the financial sustainability of the south eastern community project, 13 MCH centres earned a total of BDT 4.65 million (CHF 92,000) during the reporting period. The income came from service charge, medicine sale, income-generating activities and bank interest on fixed deposits.

The German Red Cross has agreed in principle to extend its current level of support to cover the total MCH project for the next five years (July 2005 to December 2010). In this regard, the BDRCS health department will organize a planning meeting to finalize a health and care component of the BDRCS four-year development plan.

Expected Result 2: An appropriate, integrated and well coordinated HIV/AIDS programme using BDRCS existing network to raise awareness and provide preventive measures is established.

Due to the lack of initial funding, as well as a delay in starting up the regional HIV/AIDS programme in Bangladesh, the activities planned for the first reporting period could not be implemented. However, as the five-year funding scheme for the regional HIV/AIDS programme has been confirmed by SIDA, the Bangladesh project will start in the second half of 2005. The main aim of the project will be to increase awareness and knowledge of the population, and, at the same time, to build networks for better coordination and cooperation to achieve maximum impact in the long run. The first year of the programme focuses on operational set-up, baseline studies, and training of trainers.

In spite of poor funding so far, BDRCS has continuously been taking a proactive approach in addressing HIV/AIDS-related issues, through its involvement in prevention and counselling on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STD).

In November 2004, BDRCS received a grant of USD 20,000 (CHF 25,000) from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the implementation of a six-month long HIV/AIDS awareness programme. During the project period, a HIV/AIDS coordination office was set up, and two stakeholders meetings held. Material on the behavioural change communication (BCC) was developed and distributed. Additionally, BDRCS carried out extensive networking with 18 non-government organizations collaborating with UNICEF. The project was completed outside the reporting period.

The national society is also maintaining close coordination with the South Asia Regional Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA). A three-person delegation, consisting of BDRCS treasurer, HIV/AIDS focal person and an assistant director from training department participated in the sixth SARNHA meeting at Colombo, Sri Lanka in April.

Outputs

The MCH project is part of an integrated primary health care programme under ESP, which emphasizes quality health care for rural communities, community management with financial sustainability through cost recovery, and local resource mobilization. The recovery of costs has been an important strategy of the programme to achieve sustainability.

The project implementation is built on a community-based participatory approach ensuring future sustainability of the health services with the aim of providing quality health care through these facilities and attracting more clients. In this respect, the community participation in the management of MCH centres increased, and the concept of community midwives developed further, contributing to self-reliance of MCH centres.

The MCH programme is recognized as being an excellent sustainable community owned model and deserves an extended level of financial support. There was increased awareness among beneficiaries of the BDRCS primary health-care programme in HIV/AIDS prevention.

Despite limited funding support, BDRCS established a firmer platform from which to be more proactive in addressing issues relating to HIV/AIDS. These limited activities increased awareness about HIV/AIDS among youth volunteers, service providers and policy makers, while a confidential approach and free access are already showing results in behavioural changes in the community. To build the capacity of the national society's HIV/AIDS programme further, anti-stigma awareness material was developed, ensuring integration of HIV/AIDS awareness in all life skills, first aid and other training programmes.

Constraints

The lack of donor support to the annual appeal programme in the first four months of the year has considerably delayed the implementation. However, the German Red Cross announced its financial support to the entire MCH project – starting July 2005 – for a period of five years. Similarly, as the regional project is set up, the implementation of the HIV/AIDS component will accelerate in the second half of the year.,

Disaster Management

Background

The BDRCS disaster management strategic plan 2005-2008 has been translated into the disaster management programme of the 2005 annual appeal. The implementation started in February, following initial delays caused by the involvement of key staff in the 2004 floods relief operation, and their deployment in the tsunami affected countries.

The total budget of the disaster management programme for 2005 amounts to CHF 2 million. So far, 27 per cent of the annual programme budget has been funded. However, transferring of funds was delayed in the first three months due to problems with the settlement of old working advances, and funds were only transferred after closing of all previous financial accounts. Considering these constraints, BDRCS has started implementation on priority basis for all eight expected results of the programme. The total expenditure of the programme is about 19 per cent of the first operating budget of CHF 1 million.

During this reporting period, BDRCS faced difficulties in addressing all priorities due to the lack of proper human resources. In this respect, a draft disaster management organigram has been developed, and is expected to be finalized in the coming months. Necessary allocation of officers and staff will be made following the finalization of the organigram.

Under the disaster management plan, the cyclone preparedness programme (CPP) and the former community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programme for cyclone in the coastal areas have been integrated into a new programme called community-based disaster management (CBDM) programme for cyclones (expected result 2). The orientation workshop with CPP managers on the implementation of the new disaster management strategy was held in March, with a view to initiate the start-up of the integration process.

However, it has been noticed in the workshop that CPP officers are reluctant to take additional responsibilities for the family and community-level mobilization activities. Instead, they have proposed to create another CBDM programme for cyclone and tsunami focusing on family level preparedness and response. CPP is essentially a stand-alone structure which is jointly implemented by BDRCS and the Bangladeshi government. The employees are paid by the government and therefore tend to do only the tasks officially assigned to them relating to dissemination of early warning messages for cyclone, and in the future, dissemination of tsunami warnings through their existing radio network systems.

Those developments impose the need for the national society to revise some project areas, and include the tsunami preparedness, through family-level community mobilization in the coastal belt of Bangladesh, as a separate expected result of the disaster management programme. The review of the existing disaster management strategy and the necessary revisions will be carried out in the next quarter.

During the reporting period, Bangladesh has been included in the tsunami recovery plan. Under this programme, BDRCS is seeking a total amount of CHF 449 million for the next five years for the implementation of disaster management and organizational development activities, including the capacity building of 11 Red Crescent branches in high-risk coastal districts focusing on cyclone and tsunami disaster. Activities include strengthening and expansion of early warning systems, dissemination and awareness raising, Red Crescent and disaster preparedness training, including search and rescue, first aid and household-level disaster preparedness and response.

Goal: The vulnerability to disasters of people in Bangladesh, particularly women, is reduced.

Objective: The capacities of high-risk communities to mitigate the impact disasters have on life and property, particularly in flood, cyclone, conflict and earthquake-prone areas of Bangladesh, is enhanced and sustained.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: High-risk communities and women at household level in flood-prone areas are prepared in managing severe floods.

Preparatory work is ongoing to launch the CBDM flood preparedness programme in ten flood-prone districts. Based on an analysis of the flood map prepared by the government of Bangladesh, World Food Programme (WFP) and the Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), the newly formed CBDM programme has selected ten out of 12 most severe flood prone districts, namely Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Tangail, Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Munshiganj, and Chandpur. The remaining two districts, Rangpur and Gaibandha, will be included at a later stage, depending on the funding situation of the programme.



The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society staff orientation for conducting a vulnerability and capability assessment at community level

Following the identification of the districts, ten project officers and ten support staff were selected on the basis of their experience in earlier CBDM programmes. An appropriate division of responsibilities has been made through a tripartite agreement with the branch, the community and the implementing agency. Subsequently, a five-day long orientation workshop was conducted in February 2005. A total of 33 participants (branch secretaries, project officers and support staff, CBDM national headquarters staff and representatives from the Federation) attended the workshop.

In the workshop, risk profile was developed and simulation exercise carried out at community level. The vulnerability and capability assessment (VCA) module, developed last year, was introduced to the participants and underwent a simple exercise transforming the data collected through risk assessment format into a VCA module.

During this reporting period, each of the ten selected districts has chosen eight communities most prone to severe river flooding, based on vulnerability maps and in coordination with the CBDM national managers. About 30,000 households (210,000 individuals) will be direct beneficiaries of the project. With support of the local Red Crescent branches, each community has formed a community-based disaster management committee (CBDMC). Additionally, during the next reporting period, micro group formation will be completed in parallel. An average of 40 families in close proximity will form each micro group.

Expected Result 2: High-risk communities and women at household level in 11 cyclone-prone districts are better prepared to deal with cyclones.

During the reporting period, CPP volunteers carried out nine mass awareness rallies, encouraging the population to take appropriate preparedness measures for the upcoming cyclone season. A preparatory meeting of volunteers was organized in 31 sub-districts (*upazilla*) prior to the cyclone season.



Bangladesh Red Crescent Society officers engaged in group work at a cyclone preparedness programme orientation workshop.

Three field demonstrations on the topic of cyclones were organized in different sub-districts. About 17,000 people – including local leaders, school and college students – witnessed the demonstration which reflected the potential impact of cyclone awareness, preparedness and maturational issues.

A three-day orientation workshop was conducted in March-April, at Cox's Bazar, and attended by 32 participants (sub-district officers and team leaders, national headquarters officials and representatives from the Federation). The purpose of the orientation was to familiarize the field staff with the new integrated CBDM programme for cyclones. However, as mentioned above, it has been noticed that the CPP officials are not ready to take on extra work and preferred to carry out their normal duties focusing on dissemination of warning signals as before.

The implementation of the earthquake preparedness project supported by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office Disaster Preparedness Programme (DIPECHO) was finalized in March. In the last phase of the project, the remaining 97 mass awareness rallies on earthquake and cyclone preparedness were conducted with spontaneous participation of volunteers and local people. About 97,000 community members witnessed the rallies, bringing a total number of rallies completed during the project to 117.

Two day-long first aid refresher training courses were conducted in 72 centres, where 2,106 volunteers participated and successfully completed the training. As planned, a total of 110 first aid refresher courses have been conducted under this project, with the participation of 3,436 volunteers.

Two day-long search and rescue training courses were conducted in 49 centres during the reporting period. A total of 1,512 volunteers participated and successfully completed the training. As planned, 55 search and rescue training sessions were completed with a total of 1,652 participants.

As reported in the 2004 annual report, procurement of additional early warning equipment (25 VHF radios, ten antennas, 45,000 cyclone/earthquake preparedness leaflets, 35,100 posters and 468 first aid bags) from the programme budget savings was completed during the first quarter of 2005.

Expected Result 3: A policy, including a sustainable financial plan for the maintenance of BDRCS cyclone shelters, is developed and operational.

BDRCS is responsible for 177 cyclone shelters along the coastal region of Bangladesh. In the past, there was a CBDP programme, supported by the Japanese and German Red Cross Societies and the Federation Secretariat, covering all cyclone shelter areas. However, the programme was lacking clear division of roles and responsibilities for the maintenance of shelters. For this reason, BDRCS intends to establish a systematic approach to ensure shelter repair and maintenance on a sustainable basis. In this regard, BDRCS has planned to organize an exchange programme with the Indian Red Cross Society, involving the disaster mitigation programme in Orissa, supported by the German Red Cross, where the corpus fund was developed and managed by the national society and the community. It is expected that an exchange programme will take place in next quarter and BDRCS will use the knowledge gained in India to develop its own shelter repair and maintenance policy for a better management of cyclone shelters by the communities.

Expected Result 4: High-risk communities in nine sub-districts (*upazilla*) of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) are supported to live in harmony with each other on a sustained basis.

Although the Chittagong Hill Tracts development programme (CHTDP) has been running since 1998, there was no formal review of the programme before its inclusion in the new BDRCS disaster management strategy.

In this context, CHTDP had planned and organized a four day- long review and orientation workshop in March 2005. It was attended by 30 participants from all levels of BDRCS structure, as well as the Federation delegation representatives. The outcomes of the workshop were as follows:

- Reorganization of working areas (inclusion of disaster preparedness working area funded by the British Department For International Development (DFID));
- Development of programme organization;
- Reallocation of staff with new job descriptions; and
- Restructuring of community mobilization including the creation of micro-groups at the community level instead of the union development committee (UDC).

As part of 2005 programme plan, CHTDP has conducted a baseline survey in nine sub-districts. Although BDRCS has planned to develop a UDC as a central body, CHTDP initiated the formation of village/community development committee (VDC as an apex body at community level) which was recommended in the workshop. A total of 144 communities have been identified with about 36,000 households (180,000 individuals) in nine sub-districts. Each of the community consists of 200 to 250 families.



Chittagong Hill Tract development programme field office constructed by the community on their own initiative.

Some 157 trained traditional birthing attendant (TBA) volunteers were continuously discharging their duties in all programme areas under three CHT districts. During the reporting period, TBA volunteers provided services that included 4,727 home visits, distribution of medicines and health counselling to 3,278 patients, ante-natal care to 251 women and post-natal care to 141 mothers. They also helped with 116 deliveries, with ten infant deaths during delivery time, as well as providing first aid to 214 people.

Expected Result 5: Disaster preparedness and disaster response capacity for earthquakes is established within the disaster management division at national headquarters and unit level in four high-risk cities and towns (Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, and Rangpur).

Earthquake preparedness is one of the evolving activities that BDRCS incorporated in its disaster management strategic plan 2005-2008. As it is a relatively new disaster preparedness activity in Bangladesh, very little knowledge exists at all levels of the society, making the general population vulnerable, especially in the urban areas.

The BDRCS fundraising department helped raise BDT 2 million (CHF 40,000), as a donation from Grameen Phone, the leading mobile phone company in Bangladesh, to implement the activities. BDRCS regularly maintains liaison with the government and other national and international agencies involved in earthquake-related activities.

During the reporting period, BDRCS, in collaboration with the government of Bangladesh and other national and international organizations, participated in the earthquake mock exercise, organized by the ministry of food and disaster management and relief on 12 April in Dhaka. BDRCS took the lead role in designing and preparing the script of the mock exercise.

Expected Result 6: Strengthening of the Red Crescent branches response capacity.

Activities towards strengthening response capacity of BDRCS branches have originally focused on ten CBDM districts (flood-prone areas), with possible expansion to include areas prone to cyclone and tsunami. However, during this reporting period, none of the activities were carried out, because of funding constraints and limited human resource capacity at national headquarters level. It is expected that the CBDM programme will start the process to implement the response activities in the next quarter.

Expected Result 7: BDRCS national headquarters response capacity is further strengthened.

Due to the lack of human resources, as the head of the BDRCS relief department was deployed on a three-month mission in Sri Lanka, no planned activities were carried out during this reporting period. Considering the importance of the activities, BDRCS is planning to start implementation of the activities in the next quarter.

BDRCS and the Federation have completed the 2004 floods emergency relief operation in a rapid and efficient manner, providing timely and appropriate assistance to more than 1.4 million beneficiaries affected by floods and river erosion in 43 most severely affected districts. For more details, refer to operations updates on the emergency appeal no. [15/2004](#).

Two new mobile medical teams specialized in waterborne diseases were deployed on the Zodiac boat for two weeks in January to provide medical assistance to the flood affected population living in remote islands and char.

While almost 8,000 family kits from BDRCS buffer stocks were airlifted to Sri Lanka for emergency distribution among beneficiaries in tsunami-affected areas, some family kits and blankets were maintained in stock. They have been used in several smaller emergency relief operations (tornadoes, flooding, boat capsized) conducted during the year. Procurement of 26,000 family kits and 45,000 blankets for the buffer stock has also been completed during the reporting period.

The national society provided swift response to a number of small- to mid-scale disasters that occurred in the reporting period. Among them, a violent tropical storm, which lashed northern Bangladesh on 20 March, killed at least 56 people and left thousands homeless. The storm severely damaged 30 villages in the districts of Gaibandha and Rangpur. BDRCS and the Federation delegation dispatched an assessment team to the affected areas. Relief items, including 900 family kits, 300 T-shirts and 60 cartons of BP-5 high-protein biscuits, were distributed to the severely affected people.

A garments factory near Dhaka collapsed in the early hours of 11 April. BDRCS deployed their two youth first aid teams at disaster site, assisting the survivors. The BDRCS blood bank was kept on standby and has given alerts for donor, while the BDRCS Holy Family Hospital offered emergency beds.

Expected Result 8: Disaster preparedness and disaster response capacity of BDRCS in population movement, arsenic poisoning, river erosion, accidents and other common disasters is established.

No action has been taken by BDRCS due to lack of human resources. BDRCS is in the process of developing a disaster management cell to gather knowledge and skills on preparedness and response in relation to different types of conflict, arsenic poisoning, river erosion, accidents and other common disasters.

Outputs

Following the orientation workshop, the intrinsic idea of high risk has been successfully grasped by all stakeholders. Through this process, the CBDM programme has succeeded in identifying the most vulnerable communities with involvement of Red Crescent branches and without any external interference.

Development of tools, such as risk-analysis profile and VCA format, restored the confidence of the national society's CBDM department. The flood preparedness programme has included high-level of interaction between Red Crescent units, and has developed into one of the most effective help lines for gathering and sharing information about high-risk communities.

There was notably great participation and interest of the general public in BDRCS rallies organized at community level.

Constraints

Apart from the funding constraints, the involvement of the key staff members of the disaster management programme in the 2004 flood relief operation, and their deployment in tsunami-affected countries, have caused a month-long delay in the initiation process of the programme.

Humanitarian Values

Background

The humanitarian values programme is a core area that is traditionally struggling with limited funding. This situation has continued throughout the reporting period. However, humanitarian values are promoted through all programmes where possible. Additionally, there have been indications that limited funding of the programme will be secured through the regional humanitarian values programme supported by DFID.

The main focus of the BDRCS humanitarian values programme is on active application of cross-cutting issues of anti-discrimination and tolerance into the ongoing programmes and projects in 2005. Potential areas for intervention would

be in HIV/AIDS, gender and ethnic conflict. In the next reporting period, the original programme plan will be reviewed, and necessary prioritization made in view of the limited time left for the programme implementation.

During the reporting period, BDRCS implemented activities related to dissemination of Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles and values, with ICRC support.

Goal: BDRCS effectively promotes humanitarian values through dissemination of the Movement's Fundamental Principles, anti-discrimination, tolerance, mutual understanding, and behavioural change in the community, ensuring respect for all people both inside and outside of the national society.

Objective: To enhance knowledge and better understanding of humanitarian values through integration into all existing programmes and projects.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: BDRCS staff and volunteers are aware, motivated and skilled in promoting humanitarian values, which is reflected in their field of activities.

Expected Result 2: BDRCS potential stakeholders are knowledgeable about humanitarian values related issues such as anti-discrimination, tolerance, mutual understanding, attitude and behavioural change through campaigns and motivational drives.

No planned activities took place during the reporting period due to lack of donor support for this programme. At this stage, BDRCS focal point for humanitarian values is carrying out consultations with all programme departments, in order to integrate the humanitarian values agenda into the ongoing programmes.

Organisational Development

Background

BDRCS is continuously working on developing its capacities for programme management, leadership, volunteer and youth recruitment and retention, communications and advocacy, branch development and financial resource mobilization. The change process has enabled the introduction of more coherent management policies and strategies, and facilitated decentralization of the decision making process at national level. In 2004, considerable progress was achieved on all these fronts.

BDRCS completed the formulation of the second four-year development plan (2005-2008) outside of the reporting period. The intended result is to have a realistic four-year development plan that is prepared and owned by the nationally society, rather than the old, centrally planned, model. The new plan will focus on six key strategic directions critical to strengthening the foundation of BDRCS:

1. Continued constitutional reform support;
2. Human resource reform (including: organigram, staffing review, job descriptions, appraisal system, and downsizing strategy);
3. Resource mobilization (national headquarters and branches);
4. Management skills development;
5. Branch development;
6. Volunteer management and development.

The organizational development programme intends to continue to facilitate the development of the national society in these strategic directions through focused interventions in all departments (based on their annual plans) in the areas of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

BDRCS observed World Women's Day on 8 March. On this occasion, the planning and development department organized a day-long workshop at the BDRCS training room. The workshop was attended by all female officers and heads of departments of the national society. The BDRCS chairman hosted the occasion as chief guest. The workshop generated a great deal of awareness on women's rights and privileges in all aspects of life.

Goal: BDRCS is transformed into a well functioning national society, effective and efficient in reducing vulnerability by mobilising the power of humanity.

Objective: To provide strategic support and coordination to all departments to improve their capacity to plan, implement, monitor, evaluate and report on programmes and activities in their respective field of operation.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: Strategic planning skills development: Strategic planning skills of management focusing on long-term, sustainable planning are increased.

A two-day long orientation workshop on the formulation of BDRCS monitoring cell was held in April, organized by the planning and development department. The objective of the workshop was to ensure timely implementation of activities along with quality control of the planned activities, optimal utilization of human and financial resources and measurement of impact and constraints of the planned activities. Thirty-six participants from different departments at the national headquarters participated in the workshop. As a result, it was recommended to finalize development of effective monitoring tools, standard monitoring format and terms of reference for the monitoring cell.

Expected Result 2: Programme management skills development: Programme management skills are strengthened enabling departments to effectively implement plans, monitor and evaluate programmes and report on results.

A three-day workshop on the modification and standardization of training methodologies was organized at the national society headquarters in February. Some 28 officers and volunteers who are involved in conducting training attended the workshop. The workshop reviewed the existing training modules and recommended their revision and adopting a training policy for BDRCS.

In March, the training department conducted an orientation session entitled 'Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Fundamental Principles, emblems and the mandates and activities of BDRCS', targeting students of the Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College. Ninety-six students attended the orientation session in six groups. The objective of the training was to raise the awareness of medical students about Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Principles and BDRCS humanitarian work.

During the reporting period, the training department conducted three basic first aid training sessions and five training sessions on disaster, rescue and relief activities for external organizations. The training department earned a total amount of BDT 46,400 (CHF 900).

Expected Result 3: Leadership training: BDRCS members of the governing board and branch executive committees are well informed of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and values and are highly motivated.

No planned activities were implemented during the reporting period. They will be re-scheduled for the next quarter.

Expected Result 4: Volunteer management development: A volunteer base which is gender diverse, well trained, highly motivated, well organised with revitalized volunteers, and with a significantly increased membership.

The planning and development department has organized a two-day long gender sensitization workshop at the BDRCS Feni Red Crescent branch in April. The objective of the workshop was to create an environment of gender equality and equity, particularly in motivating and inspiring the local potential female personalities towards their active involvement with the Red Cross and Red Crescent activities at branch level. The enthusiastic participants formulated a number of innovative ideas and expressed sincere efforts to strengthen the gender equality and integrate it in the gender mainstreaming of the branches. Through the strengths – weaknesses – opportunities - threats (SWOT) analysis exercises, the workshop developed a strategic annual work plan, with the aim to implement it in a participatory manner with other stakeholders of the branches.

Expected Result 5: Finance resource development: BDRCS has enhanced capacity to access financial opportunities through effective and optimum use of available human and financial resources.

On 11 February, a fundraising concert was held at Narsingdi Town Hall in collaboration with the planning and development and the fundraising departments. A total of BDT 120,000 (CHF 2,400) was raised through the sale of tickets.

The BDRCS Barguna Red Crescent unit has earned an amount of BDT 130,000 (CHF 2,600) by staging fundraising dramas in February. A cultural team from Jessore performed the shows during the events.

BDRCS signed an agreement with City Cell (mobile phone operator) on 12 March to carry out fundraising appeal through its SMS service. The national society's secretary general and chief executive officer of City Cell have signed the agreement on behalf of the respective organizations.

During the reporting period, the fundraising department has further developed different souvenir items such as Red Crescent vest, training bag, Red Crescent mug and flower base, etc. The department has sold souvenir items worth BDT 73,792 (CHF 1,400).

In March, the fundraising department procured 11 collection boxes for installation at different strategic places in Dhaka.

Expected Result 6: Communication and advocacy development: BDRCS established network with non-governmental organizations, government and civil society enhancing their overall coordination and effectiveness through communication and advocacy.

The publication of a monthly newsletter has continued throughout the reporting period. The newsletter is circulated to various stakeholders, including partner national societies (PNS), Federation secretariat and others at regional and national level.

The implementation of the national society's special 'branch development package programme' continued with the active participation of the branch-level office bearers and volunteers. The district-level stakeholders in most of the districts have enthusiastically supported the package programme in developing the branches. Many of the branches have mapped out comprehensive plans of action, including membership drive and resource mobilization through fundraising. The planning and development department produced a bi-monthly 'package bulletins' published and circulated to all concerned on the basis of monitoring results and reports obtained from the branches.

Expected Result 7: Youth programme development: Red Crescent youth skills and knowledge are developed to provide key humanitarian services at community level.

Youth volunteers in BDRCS branches located throughout the country actively participate in social mobilization campaigns, including dengue fever prevention campaigns in urban slums, national immunization days for polio and triple antigen measles, neo-natal tetanus and polio campaign. They also actively participate in disaster relief medical operations.

A BDRCS delegation, led by the director of planning and development department and accompanied by the vice-chairman of the Sylhet Red Crescent unit and a senior Red Crescent youth volunteer, visited the United Kingdom in February-March, at the invitation of the British Red Cross. The visit was part of the humanitarian values activities under the BDRCS - British Red Cross partnership initiatives.

Outputs

Programme management capability of BDRCS departments is gradually increasing. Quality of training attracted the outside organizations and income is being generated through sale of training courses.

The awareness of branches in addressing gender issues in their own activities has increased. A branch-level women volunteer forum has been formed and demonstrated the women's enthusiastic support in performing humanitarian tasks in collaboration with the branches.

The youth volunteers are becoming the focal group to conduct different youth programmes in the schools, colleges and other organizations in the country. Regular communication on Red Crescent youth (RCY) Movement has established with 68 BDRCS branches, including the 20 branches under the pilot project. The youth leaders in the

branches are now more confident and ready to contribute to the national society's development. The level of the commitment towards the Movement has increased a lot. The national society will have a disciplined young force to serve for the distressed humanity.

The fundraising department, with the help of an external consultant, created a wide range of resource mobilization tools, and has accessed the corporate sector of the country. The initiatives of the department have been able to generate enough spirit and enthusiasm in raising funds and in networking with the local stakeholders at the national level. Special stress on branch development programme has continued to be the top priority in fundraising efforts.

Constraints

During the reporting period implementation of planned activities was delayed due to various reasons, including late transfer of funds caused by late clearance of old working advances, lack of donor response, as well as a frequent absence of the programme director.

Implementation and management

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

The Federation delegation has continued to solicit and coordinate support from UN agencies and diplomatic missions for humanitarian emergency operations and capacity building initiatives undertaken by BDRCS. Regular contact with the ministry of foreign affairs regarding the administration of the delegation was maintained. The Federation/BDRCS continued to take part in regular coordination meetings organized by various UN and government agencies.

The Federation Secretariat has advised and assisted the national society in its operational management, and is guiding it through an ongoing process of organizational change. Traditionally good cooperation with ICRC has been maintained.

Effective representation and advocacy

DFID has approved the application to include BDRCS and the Federation as partners in emergency relief to major disasters in Bangladesh.

The head of delegation visited Teknaf from 11 to 15 January, accompanied by the Swiss Ambassador in Bangladesh, to assess the essential humanitarian needs of unofficial Rohingya refugees currently living in a makeshift camp. During the visit, the head of delegation met the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) and local administration to coordinate and explore ways to provide basic humanitarian assistance to camp residents.

The BDRCS secretary general participated in a workshop on disaster reduction and mitigation held in January in Kobe, Japan, organized by the UN. The BDRCS secretary general also took part in a Red Cross forum in March in Hong Kong, aimed at setting out a long-term plan of action for post-tsunami rehabilitation and risk reduction programmes.

The Swedish crown princess visited Bangladesh in April and observed BDRCS CPP field demonstration at Noakhali. She was accompanied by the Swedish Red Cross chairperson and the head of the international department, as well as the Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh.

Delegation management

The Federation continues its long-term presence in Bangladesh, with additional support provided by the South Asia regional delegation. The main focus is on promotion of external funding, knowledge sharing and skills transfer to the national society.

Due to continuing tense political situation and deteriorating law and order, the delegation is maintaining strict security regulations. No specific security incidents have been reported in the first four months of the year.

The delegation has seen a high turn-over of expatriate staff in the reporting period, including the departure of the head of delegation and a temporary gap in his replacement. Support to BDRCS has, however, continued without any interruptions.

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

APPEAL No. 05AA046

PLEDGES RECEIVED

21/06/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					3,187,767	TOTAL COVERAGE 45.5%	
OPENING BALANCE				209,715			
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		40,000	GBP	87,240	04.04.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT				64,500	01.01.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
BRITISH -RC/HARAMEAD TRUST		100,000	GBP	226,000	03.06.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT	
GERMAN - RC				50,000	19.01.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT	
ITALIAN - RC		50,000	EUR	75,825	15.12.04	DISASTER MANAGEMENT CHITTAGONG HILLS TRACKS	
SWEDISH - RC		1,400,000	SEK	239,400	29.03.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,300,000	SEK	222,300	29.03.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,190,000	SEK	203,490	29.03.05	HIV/AIDS	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,378,470	CHF		43.2%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			72,800		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				72,800	CHF	2.3%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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