

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

PAKISTAN

5 May 2005

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. 05AA049; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: 1 January to 31 March, 2005; Appeal coverage: 37.6%; Outstanding needs: CHF 1,343,831 (USD 1,072,156 or EUR 876,749).
(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List (also available on the website).

Appeal target: CHF 2,153,375 (USD 1,793,732 or EUR 1,407,895).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: none

Programme summary:

In its 2005 annual appeal, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has identified its main goal to be strengthening its capacity to become the leading disaster response agency in the country, with special focus on remote, disaster-prone and politically unstable areas.

A successful fundraising campaign for the victims of the tsunami disaster, as well as a relief assistance to the population affected by floods and harsh winter conditions throughout the country, have shown the actual strengths and potential of the national society in imposing itself nationally. Its image has been considerably strengthened and improved, and its volunteer base increased. However, the same events have had a negative impact on the implementation of ongoing development activities, delaying a number of important initiatives, such as the establishment of new district branches, vulnerability and capacity assessment of the disaster-prone districts, and the development of human resources policies and procedures. A revised implementation schedule for these activities has been approved and it is expected that they will be successfully carried out in the coming months.

Limited donor support to date represents a considerable limitation in the Federation's efforts to support the national society's development. At this time, only 27 per cent of the operational budget has been funded. If this situation continues, some planned activities will have to be cancelled. In that context, it is hoped that a number of partnerships that are currently being discussed between PRCS and some national societies (the Danish, Finnish and German Red Cross societies) will materialize in the coming months. Further funding is sought for all four programmes elaborated in the appeal.

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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

Since the beginning of the year, there has been a tense security situation in the western part of the country. Bombs and rockets continued to target power installations and gas pipelines in Balochistan, causing loss of life and damage to property.

Following the tsunami disaster that occurred on 26 December 2004, PRCS launched a national appeal to assist the affected countries and received an excellent response. Provincial branches played an important role in fundraising.

Pakistan has faced a series of natural disasters of its own. In February, heavy snowfall, avalanches and floods hit parts of the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and the northern areas. The province of Balochistan, in the southwest of the country, was hit by severe floods which led to dam bursts sweeping away entire villages, affecting over 40,000 people. More than 500 people died across the nation as a result of severe weather. PRCS provided swift relief to the affected people, making coordinated efforts with the army to deliver goods by air where land access was not possible. To date, PRCS has distributed 218 tonnes of relief items worth PKR 25.6 million (CHF 500,000) to the affected areas, using its own resources as well as considerable contributions from a number of private and institutional donors, both domestic and international, including the International Federation's disaster relief emergency fund (DREF)¹. The national society has now entered into a rehabilitation phase and is taking measures to cope with the mid- to long-term effects of the disaster, with support from the Federation's delegation.

PRCS and the Federation have finalized and signed programme contracts (memoranda of understanding) on all four programmes. These contracts define particular responsibilities of the national society and the Federation in all aspects of programme management and will be renewed annually.

Health and care

Background

The programme is mainly focusing on providing basic health care at community level, especially in underserved and conflict-prone areas, on first aid and on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. Community-level health care is provided through basic and mobile health units in areas vulnerable to conflicts and natural disasters. Presently, the units are operating in Balochistan and NWFP, targeting refugees and vulnerable local populations. A community-based first aid (CBFA) component has been included in their work. It is planned to extend health and care facilities to some of the underserved areas of Sindh, Southern Punjab and the northern areas.

The year started with activities at a good pace, but a high turnover of PRCS staff has slowed down the implementation of some programme components. The provinces are in the process of developing detailed programme proposals and site selection for the establishment of new basic health units. The newly established HIV/AIDS voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) centre in Lahore was formally inaugurated in January 2005 and the number of beneficiaries is increasing gradually.

To date, the programme is still considerably under funded, with only one quarter of the budget covered, which includes the funds carried over from 2004.

Goal: The national society has the capacity to successfully plan, implement and manage programmes which have a positive effect on the health of the community, with focus on conflict- and disaster-prone and underserved areas.

Objective: To enhance the capacity of the national society's health and training programmes to deliver health services to the most vulnerable communities.

¹ For more details on this operation, refer to information bulletins posted on www.ifrc.org – 'where we work' section.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: Primary health care units with outreach services in conflict/disaster-prone areas along the western border, tribal areas and urban centres are maintained and expanded; emergency response services are established to serve those affected by road traffic accidents and other threats in major cities.

The basic health units and mobile health units in Balochistan and NWFP are conducting activities according to plan. Their first quarter statistics are below:

Balochistan	Beneficiaries	Health Education	NWFP	Beneficiaries	Health Education
Basic health units (Chaman & Quetta)	1,856	2,463	Basic health units (Torkhum)	617	-
Mobile health units (Qilla, Saifullah, Mastung, Quetta)	2,758	3,960	Mobile health units (Tajabad/ Sethi Town)	483	865
Total	4,614	6,423		1,100	865

Approximately 13,000 people living in remote areas have benefited from the health units. The units continue to provide health care to local communities and refugees through health education, CBFA training and general health care. Comprehensive reproductive health services were provided to 2,748 beneficiaries through the health outlets of Balochistan during this period.

The procurement process of medicines for mobile and basic health units has been initiated. Reproductive health training is also planned in Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh provincial branches within the next six months. A major planned activity for the year is the purchase and maintenance of five ambulances for the provision of emergency health services in Peshawar and Karachi. However, it is likely that this activity will have to be dropped unless the funding position improves.

Expected Result 2: Strengthened primary health/reproductive health and outreach services in underserved areas.

During the first quarter, the primary health care and reproductive health and outreach services were provided by the existing health units as mentioned above. To further strengthen these activities the establishment of one health unit in southern Punjab and another in rural Sindh is planned in the next quarter. The programme proposal has been developed and the initial work started, including the selection of the target community and identification of the location of health units.

Expected Result 3: A sustainable community-based first aid programme, which increases health awareness in the community.

The PRCS first aid training centre in Islamabad continued to conduct first aid courses for various sectors. Training was carried out for British Petroleum, Medecins Sans Frontieres, International Tubular Services, the Girl Guide Association and Directorate for Workers Education. A total of 155 people were trained in the first quarter of the year.

In addition, CBFA training was provided to 1,577 people by the basic health units of Balochistan and NWFP. Seven more courses are planned for the next six months and they will be carried out at each provincial branch.

A first aid training-of-trainers course was conducted between 28 February and 5 March at the PRCS national headquarters' health and training centre. It was facilitated by the Nepal Red Cross' first aid trainer and was attended by 16 participants.

The assistant director for first aid at the Japanese Red Cross visited the national society for just over a month to evaluate the Japanese Red Cross' bilateral first aid project and assist in the first aid training-of-trainers course.

Expected Result 4: PRCS acquires the status of key stakeholder in the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS.

As part of the safe blood promotion component of the HIV/AIDS project, training was held at the national headquarters in January for 15 PRCS staff members from the blood donor centre and other departments. The main purpose of the session was to set up a strategy for the recruitment of non-remunerated blood donors.

The VCT centre in Lahore is providing quality services to the local community. A total of nine awareness sessions were held on the prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS, targeting 450 people, mainly students, working women and drug users. They were held in educational institutions, the Women's Welfare Foundation and other non-government organizations (NGOs). The centre provided counselling to 55 people during the period, out of which 39 (69 per cent) agreed to be tested. All 39 of them tested negative for HIV/AIDS.

It is still hoped to establish a VCT centre in Karachi as per the work plan, but this activity may be deferred until 2006 depending on funding.

The PRCS attended the 6th South Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA) meeting in Sri Lanka in April. Several one-day awareness sessions on HIV/AIDS for women health visitors, journalists, public and educational institutions and high-risk groups are also planned over the next six months.

Outputs

A total of 155 people from various organizations have been trained in first aid at the national training resource centre which conducted 10 sessions during the first quarter. A gender balance was maintained among participants.

The health outlets of NWFP and Balochistan province provided health care to 5,714 people of local communities and refugees and more than 13,000 received services via the clinics. Men and women motivators played an important role in providing health education and CBFA training to communities. This ongoing work achieves significant positive changes in the lifestyle of people in the community based on feedback through clinics.

Constraints

A significant setback in the timely and effective delivery of health services has been a number of resignations of doctors and health staff in the Balochistan and NWFP provincial branches. These resignations were caused by job openings in the government sector, which offered better incentives to medical officers. Vacancies for the posts of men and women doctors will be advertised and their selection carried out in April. Activities in Balochistan were further slowed down following the resignation of the branch secretary. Presently, the provincial programme officer is the acting branch secretary and it is not yet confirmed as to when the new secretary will be hired.

The low initial funding of the appeal has led to reprioritization. Major planned activities such as the VCT centre in Karachi and the five ambulances (for Karachi and Peshawar) have been put on hold and may not occur in 2005.

Disaster Management

Background

Disaster management is one of the main priorities for PRCS. This is due to the country's susceptibility to natural disasters and the increasing threats of technological disasters in major cities. The national society, realizing the change in the environment, decided to merge all its human, material and financial resources to revise its priorities, giving more attention to disaster mitigation.

The main focal areas of the disaster management programme for 2005 are:

- prioritization of the disaster-prone areas;
- disaster response and preparedness capacities;
- coordination amongst the stakeholders; and
- integration with other core areas.

As of 31 March, the programme was funded only 16 per cent against the appeal. More financial support is needed in the coming reporting period in order to initiate all planned activities.

Goal: Vulnerability of communities to disasters is reduced.

Objective: Develop the national society's capacity to improve and equip the vulnerable communities to establish effective disaster preparedness and coping mechanisms.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: Disaster-prone areas (both natural and technological) are prioritized at each administrative tier in the provinces, such as districts, union councils and villages.

PRCS decided to prioritize the most vulnerable districts on the basis of the frequency of disasters, remoteness of the areas and absence of its organizational structure in those particular areas. A great deal of work was undertaken in the last quarter of 2004, focusing on collection of baseline data, after which 38 districts were prioritized. However, those activities had to be put aside in early February 2005 as the national society had to respond to heavy rains and snowfall in the southern and northern parts of Pakistan.

With the relief operation coming to an end, the PRCS management is planning to continue its disaster management capacity building work in April, with the planned survey of relevant capacities and resources in all provincial branches. This survey will be used to formulate a disaster management plan and highlight the major activities that the national society plans to perform in selected districts. The study will be undertaken by the PRCS disaster management department, along with the senior management.

Expected Result 2: Enhanced PRCS disaster preparedness/response capacities in the areas of human resources, infrastructure development, equipment support and training etc, for the benefit of the vulnerable communities.

The recent floods and snowfall in most parts of the country had forced PRCS to divert its resources to respond to the needs of the disaster-affected population. Therefore, the activities planned for the first quarter could not be started. In addition to that external element, there has been a realization that the existing operational budget for the disaster management programme is not sufficient to carry out all planned activities. Subsequently, the national society has revised its priorities and agreed with provincial branches on the time line for their implementation. Accordingly, the following activities are planned for the next six months:

- vulnerability and capacity assessment of the disaster prone districts;
- community-based disaster preparedness training of trainers;
- community awareness meetings in the disaster prone districts;
- simulation exercise for the PRCS national staff; and
- simulation exercises for the communities.

Expected Result 3: Enhanced coordination and networking with the stakeholders to ensure better practices before, during and after disaster.

The first quarter saw excellent PRCS coordination with local authorities, other agencies and donors, as part of its relief operation to the population affected by floods and snowfall throughout the country. Considerable resources were gathered both nationally and internationally, with some outstanding contributions. The external partners include the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the German, Chinese, Turkish and United Arab Emirates (UAE) Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Federation's DREF and a number of private donors.

In future, PRCS plans to take up cooperation projects with other agencies as well. In this context, the national society is expecting two separate visits from the German Red Cross to consider a long-term partnership in the area of health and disaster management.

A simulation exercise for all disaster management staff from provincial and district branches is planned for September this year, as part of efforts to improve preparedness at local level and internal coordination in disaster response.

Expected Result 4: Activities in other core areas of PRCS such as health, humanitarian values and organizational development are coordinated with disaster management where possible for optimum effect.

PRCS has carried out activities in close coordination with other core areas. In the first quarter, a training-of-trainers in CBFA was conducted for the staff from provincial branches. That will help intensify training activities in selected districts.

PRCS and the Danish Red Cross have finalized a cooperation agreement for the establishment of mobile health units in the Federally Administrative Tribal Areas (FATA) over a period of four years (2005-2008). In 2005, two mobile health units will be established in Mohmand and Khyber districts. The locations were selected on the basis of a vulnerability and capacity assessment which was conducted in October 2004.

The Danish Red Cross has recruited a consultant to work at the PRCS national headquarters, helping the national society to develop a detailed project proposal and to market it to international donors.

Outputs

The activities carried out in the first quarter were mainly related to disaster response in the areas affected by floods and snowfall. The PRCS relief operation enhanced the national society's profile, which will hopefully lead to greater national donor support and increased coordination and cooperation with other actors. The disaster-affected areas of Kohistan, Mansehra and Swat had already been included in the PRCS national disaster management plan, as areas selected for the establishment of district branches, for strengthening of a volunteer base, training of volunteers in community-based disaster preparedness, first aid and VCA. These activities will be implemented through the relief operation.

An analysis of the PRCS emergency response is underway, and the national society is considering the preparation of an emergency appeal for the rehabilitation phase of the operation.

Constraints

Some planned activities were not achieved due to resources being diverted to the floods and snowfall relief operation. The national society mobilized all its available resources to respond to this disaster. The position of disaster management programme manager has also been vacant for the past five months. However, the revised schedule of activities has been done and they are due to start in the second quarter.

Humanitarian Values

Background

The humanitarian values programme focuses on disseminating information about PRCS activities through its quarterly magazines and the local media. This builds a positive image of the national society. It also focuses on public education against the misuse of the Red Crescent emblem and on raising awareness about international humanitarian law (IHL) at the national level. The programme is partly supported by ICRC.

In future, PRCS plans to concentrate on image building, with a view of establishing a strong network in the country. This will be done through distribution of promotional material, involvement of local media and dissemination sessions.

At the end of the first quarter, 64 per cent of the programme budget is covered. Further funding is sought to enable realization of all planned activities.

Goal: A positive change in the behaviour of people: increased tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for human beings through dissemination of humanitarian values and the Movement's Fundamental Principles.

Objective: To increase the capacity of PRCS to promote the Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: Within PRCS: There is greater understanding of humanitarian values and the Movement's Fundamental Principles within the national society.

During the first quarter, the planned activities included creating a greater understanding of humanitarian values and the Movement's Fundamental Principles within the national society. However, they could not be conducted due to high turnover of staff. Still, the relief operation was used as an opportunity to sensitize branches on the Movement's role and values.

The humanitarian values department plans to hold an internal dissemination session in the coming quarter. As a result of this session, participants will have a better understanding on the core area of humanitarian values and IHL. The national society's website (www.prcs.org.pk) will be regularly updated and will contain a humanitarian values component.

Expected Result 2: Outside PRCS: The profile and image of the national society is further increased as a country-wide humanitarian organization and its message on humanitarian values is widely respected.

PRCS relief activities in the early months of the year received wide national coverage. PRCS activities also received international coverage. Articles were published in English and Urdu, creating greater awareness amongst the public of the national society's activities.

In the coming months, both internal and external dissemination sessions will take place, involving media coverage to create a better understanding among the public. To improve the understanding of the national society and media-handling of humanitarian issues, a journalist's workshop is planned for over the next six months. Approximately 50 journalists from leading newspapers, news agencies and television networks in Pakistan will be invited to attend.

PRCS is also in the process of finalizing a documentary, produced by Pakistan Television, covering the history of the Movement and activities carried out by the national society. This video will be broadcasted by Pakistan Television and will be used as an important dissemination tool.

The humanitarian values programme officer plans to start his monitoring and evaluation visits in the next quarter.

Outputs

The redesigned website is up and running with a variety of interactive features and a comprehensive outline of the national society's goals and objectives. The emergency operation was used to promote the role of PRCS and branches were sensitized to the Movement's Principles and values. A voluntary media advisor and the new principal information officer are resources for strengthening the national society's image, disseminating principles and values, and continuing the promotion of humanitarian values.

The Red Crescent youth club project (funded by ICRC outside this appeal) will be revived this year in schools and colleges. The project is expected to contribute to the local capacity building process at district level.

Constraints

Due to the recent relief operation, the planned activities of the humanitarian values programme could not be given priority. The principal information officer resigned at the beginning of the year and there was a period where the post was vacant until a replacement was recruited.

Organizational Development

Background

Through its organizational development programme, PRCS endeavours to acquire the status of a well-functioning national society in order to deliver effective and relevant services to the vulnerable population. This is an ongoing process and requires a systematic approach towards capacity building and organizational development integrated with other programmes.

For further progression towards a strong foundation and strengthened organizational capacity, the organizational development department plans to undertake the following projects:

- branch development;
- volunteer and membership development;
- human resource development;
- institutional capacity building;
- finance development;
- resource mobilization;
- dissemination.

The organizational development programme is mainly engaged in restructuring of the national society through revision of its legal base, standardization of policies, systems, structures and procedures. It is working with the management of PRCS to finalize the long-term strategic development plan (2005-2008). The standardization of PRCS policies is also in the pipeline and is targeted to be completed this year.

So far the funding has been secured for 16 per cent of the programme budget.

Goal: PRCS has a well-functioning organization base in order to provide quality assistance with greater impact and relevance to the most vulnerable people in all core areas of PRCS work.

Objective: PRCS strengthens its foundation and organizational capacity in order to deliver effective and relevant services to the vulnerable population.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: Branch development – PRCS provides effective and efficient services to vulnerable communities through its network of branches.

The plan for establishing/strengthening district branches in the disaster-prone areas has been finalized and the process will start in the next six months. Orientation sessions for the district governance will also be imparted in the months to come. Two coordination meetings of district secretaries with the provincial secretaries will be held in the next quarter.

Expected Result 2: Volunteer and membership development – recruitment, development and retention of skilled volunteers ensuring gender balance, and their effective utilization in providing assistance to vulnerable communities.

A volunteer database has been developed this year. It will contain a complete record of volunteers and will be beneficial in compiling reports on future activities. PRCS volunteers played an important part in tsunami fundraising activities. Donations were collected by students going door to door. All students/volunteers were briefed about the Red Cross Principles, the Movement and PRCS' relief efforts.

As part of the membership drive activity, PRCS had a stall at a spring festival organized at a local school in Islamabad in March. The stall promoted PRCS' activities and was aimed at attracting youth towards the Movement's humanitarian goals and objectives. The event was successful with many new volunteers and youth members registered. PRCS branches throughout the country have been able to attract a large volunteer base for fundraising efforts for the tsunami and the Pakistan rains/floods operations. Around 1,500 new volunteers have joined the national society in this quarter bringing the total to more than 50,000.

A meeting was held in February with the new ICRC cooperation delegate to discuss issues on youth and volunteerism and strengthening the volunteer base.

During a visit to Pakistan in February, a Japanese Red Cross representative was briefed about the activities of volunteers at PRCS. Two PRCS volunteers participated in the international youth and exchange programme organized by the Japanese Red Cross last year. The main objective of the programme was to promote understanding among youth in Asia Pacific.

In the coming months, PRCS plans to develop and review its volunteer manual, to carry out campaigns at district level, conduct a workshop for volunteers, develop cooperative programmes with civil defence and boy scouts/girl guides, develop core volunteer group at district level and produce and distribute souvenirs to volunteers, such as caps and badges. Monitoring and evaluation visits by the youth and volunteer officer are also scheduled in the next six months.

However, some activities have been slashed due to budget constraints. These include the development/review of volunteer recruitment, management and development plan, youth summer camps and development of volunteer policy.

Expected Result 3: Human resource development – PRCS has appropriate staff policies in practice and all staff members are managed and developed to better enable them to reach the most vulnerable.

The human resources software has been completed by an external software company. Online registration for volunteers has now been included in the PRCS website. Additional information required for employee records is being maintained with the assistance of the networking group. The features of the human resource software were also discussed and further amendments in the developed software were proposed.

Staff job descriptions have been revised, which will result in greater clarity on each position. However, other activities planned under this expected result were not carried out. The management has plans of hiring a human resource officer in the coming months.

Expected Result 4: Institutional capacity building – strengthened institutional capacity of PRCS to deliver effective and efficient services to the vulnerable communities.

The management was unable to focus on capacity building in the period covered. However, for the next six months, the planned activities include six-monthly provincial branch secretaries and national headquarters planning and coordination meetings, strategic development plan review meeting, and monitoring and evaluation visits by the organizational development manager. Some activities had to be slashed due to budget constraints. These activities are development, standardization and review of organizational structure, computer networking at provincial headquarters, development of email exchange server and development of standardized reporting formats. The management and leadership training courses represent an ongoing activity.

Expected Result 5: Finance development – PRCS demonstrates improved and standardized financial policy and procedures at the national and provincial levels.

For standardized financial policy and procedures at the national headquarters, financial software has been installed and is fully operational. The software will be used to generate reports and other related information.

In the coming months, it is planned to further expand the network to the provincial branches in order to standardize reports and processes.

Expected Result 6: Resource mobilization – PRCS resource mobilization policy, strategy and plan for the self-sustainability of the programmes of PRCS are developed and implemented.

As part of fundraising efforts, the PRCS auditorium was rented out during a film festival.

Through the PRCS' provincial branches and youth volunteers' active campaigning, by organizing concerts, fun fairs and other fundraising events, the national society was able to collect cash donations of PKR 12.4 million (CHF 250,000) and in-kind donations worth PKR 5.2 million (CHF 105,000) for flood-affected populations. A donation of PKR 11 million (over CHF 220,000) was handed over to the president of Pakistan in his capacity as the president of PRCS for forwarding to tsunami-affected countries. Prior to this, relief consignments were handed over to Sri Lankan and Indonesian ambassadors in Pakistan.

A youth and gender committee meeting was held at the PRCS national headquarters with the main objective to improve the national society's image and develop a strategy for collecting donations for the victims of the tsunami. The committee is expected to meet on a regular basis.

The management was unable to focus on developing a comprehensive fundraising policy, strategy and development plan, as the position of fundraising manager at the national headquarters is currently vacant.

Expected Result 7: Dissemination – PRCS advocacy and communication campaigns developed and implemented.

The PRCS advocacy and communication campaigns were developed by advertising agencies. The management has been using professional assistance from private companies to prepare a documentary, as well as television clips about students from a local school who are also PRCS volunteers. The documentary on volunteerism has also been completed and will be presented in the forthcoming executive committee meeting in the next quarter.

An article on youth and volunteerism was published on the Federation's website in the first week of March. The article mainly focused on the participation and activities of PRCS youth and volunteers.

The national society has developed a media plan for the coming months. In addition, the PRCS youth department plans to publish a youth and volunteer newsletter which will create awareness among the general public of its activities. This will act as an effective dissemination material and will also enhance the image building of the national society.

Outputs

In the first quarter, PRCS was successful in increasing its volunteer base. The national society used the volunteers for fundraising campaigns and their efforts were also illustrated in television coverage. National headquarters staff capacity was enhanced with computer training. The new financial software is operational at the national headquarters and will greatly contribute towards the efficiency and effectiveness of the national society. The management has given priority to its strategic development plan, which will be finalized by mid-year. PRCS has received extensive media coverage in the first quarter, helping boost its profile and understanding in the public about its activities.

Constraints

Due to the focus on disaster relief activities in response to the floods and heavy snowfall, the process of establishing new district branches was not initiated. The position of human resource manager has continued to remain vacant for the past two years. However, PRCS management is giving this issue priority as it realises this position needs to be filled to advance the human resources expected result under this programme. The manager will be tasked with developing human resource policies and procedures and will also be responsible for staff training and retention and for conducting monitoring and evaluation visits. A number of activities planned in the 2005 appeal are currently under review and may have to be cancelled depending on the funding situation in the coming months.

Implementation and management

The Federation's overall goal to strengthen and support PRCS to maximize the impact and effectiveness to respond to disasters and improve the lives of the vulnerable was put to a test in the first months of this year.

Although without a disaster management programme manager, the delegation managed to rearrange the team and provide technical assistance to PRCS in their fundraising and relief efforts. The assistance included interagency

coordination, issuance of information bulletins on the relief operation, financial support through DREF and mobilization of support from international donors.

Other programme activities at the provincial level have slowed down during the relief activities. Yet, lessons learnt from the operation will be a valuable point of departure for further planning and strengthening of the cross-sectoral approach, especially in relation to the health programme and branch capacity development.

In order to advocate for the national society, the head of delegation and PRCS secretary-general paid a number of joint visits to foreign missions in Islamabad. The objective has been to introduce the national society, its activities, the Federation's 2005 appeal for Pakistan as well as the World Disasters Report 2004. This year, the focus has naturally been on disaster response and the ongoing relief operations.

A positive working environment and cooperation with the national society has been maintained and new programme contracts for 2005 have been signed. Good cooperation with the ICRC offices in Islamabad and Peshawar further contributes to a positive dialogue within the Movement.

Regular contacts have been maintained with partner national societies, particularly the Danish, Finnish and German Red Cross societies, which are considering closer and long-term cooperation with PRCS.

The delegation continues to assist the national society in upgrading its technical capacity. With the recently installed financial software at the headquarters, financed by the Federation, one of the national society's weakest areas has been addressed. The national society already has indications of substantial improvement in financial control and reporting. However, the system, as well as the relevant training, will have to be extended to the provincial branch level to be fully efficient.

In support of the tsunami disaster response, the delegation contributed to the regional disaster response team by releasing the disaster management manager for a short-term mission in the Maldives. The mission was later extended for an additional three months.

The delegation's major challenge this year will be to live up to the commitment of extending not only technical, but also financial support to the national society, as elaborated in the 2005 appeal. To achieve that, increased and consistent donor support to the annual appeal is essential.

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

APPEAL No. 05AA049

PLEDGES RECEIVED

07/06/2005

CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	2,153,375			TOTAL COVERAGE	
				37.6%	
OPENING BALANCE	345,769				
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND	40,000	18.01.05		ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT	120,000	01.01.05		DISASTER PREPAREDNESS	
FINNISH - GOVT/RC	50,000	EUR	76,875	30.05.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT	300,000	SEK	51,300	29.03.05	HEALTH, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT	600,000	SEK	102,600	29.03.05	HIV/AIDS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH	736,544	CHF		34.2%	

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			73,000		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				73,000	CHF	3.4%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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