

# 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

## SOUTH ASIA

3 June 2005

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### In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA051; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: 1 January to 30 April 2005; Appeal coverage: 61.7%; Outstanding needs: CHF 1,395,600 (USD 1,093,396 or EUR 907,857).  
([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\)](#)).

Appeal target: CHF 3,642,801 (USD 3,034,403 or EUR 2,381,694).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Tsunami Emergency and Recovery Plan of Action 2005 – 2010 \(28/04\)](#).

#### Programme summary:

The 26 December tsunami has had a significant impact on most programmes under the annual appeal. Due to resources being diverted to deal with that disaster (with India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka severely affected in the region) there has been a low level of implementation over the first four months of the year as per the annual appeal work plan. This has led to a corresponding low level of expenditure (see below). However, whilst many planned activities have not taken place, the regional delegation has been exceptionally busy applying its resources to the tsunami emergency response.

One of the highlights of the first quarter was the confirmation of long-term funding of the regional HIV/AIDS programme by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) through the Swedish Red Cross. This five-year programme is expected to receive a total funding of CHF 15 million (CHF 8.5 million from SIDA and the rest from other various fundraising efforts).

Programme implementation will pick up over the remainder of the year with tsunami-related demands levelling out, and re-distribution of activities between the annual and tsunami recovery appeals completed.

In the first four months of the year, low expenditure on most programme budgets has been recorded. As it will be elaborated further in the report, this is linked with low level of activities, with resources diverted to the tsunami operation.

The South Asia regional programme is currently undergoing a significant review in light of many activities being assimilated into the consolidated tsunami emergency and recovery plan of action 28/04 issued on 6 May. This will lead to a revision down of the annual appeal budget and this will be reflected in the next programme update.

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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**

The 26 December tsunami was unprecedented in South Asia in the breadth of the disaster. In the region it severely affected India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives with an official death toll of almost 42,000, over a million people displaced and half a million made homeless. There have been other disasters in the region with greater death tolls (the 1970 Bangladesh – then East Pakistan – cyclones claimed half a million lives) and where more people have been affected (last year's monsoon flooding affecting over 70 million in three countries in the region). But the sudden, unexpected and destructive nature of the disaster created complex and varied humanitarian challenges on a unique scale.

Naturally the focus of the regional delegation was heavily on the tsunami relief operation, especially for the first three months of 2005. This has led to a slowdown in implementing the several programme activities in the annual appeal. This is being reviewed and revised and several activities have been assimilated into the consolidated tsunami emergency and recovery plan of action launched on 6 May 2005. These changes are reflected in this report.

Natural disasters struck elsewhere with severe winter conditions in Afghanistan (which launched two emergency appeal operations, [05EA003](#) and [05EA005](#)) and Pakistan. Bitter conditions, avalanches and resultant flooding with the onset of spring resulted in hundreds of deaths.

The political situation in Nepal remains complex and tense. In February the king sacked the interim government (installed by the monarchy in the first place) and declared a state of emergency. The country has been hit by increased levels of national strikes while the armed conflict has continued, affecting large areas of the country. Through the national society and ICRC, the Red Cross Movement is the only humanitarian organization able to operate unimpeded in conflict affected areas. This is due in large part to recognition of the Movement's impartiality and neutrality.

There has been an upsurge in political/terrorist violence in Pakistan with an increasing number of bomb blasts. The security situation in Afghanistan has failed to improve, with the rising level of criminality. Combined with terrorist activity, this country remains in the grip of violence and disruption. Whilst progress is being made by the national society with the assistance of the country delegation, Afghanistan remains a country in dire need of continued support through Red Cross and Red Crescent programmes.

The normalization of relations between India and Pakistan has continued with the relationship between the two nations as good as they have been for some years. The serious diplomatic freeze of 2002 has been largely overcome, providing a welcome stabilizing factor in the region.

The increasing operational difficulties associated with the lack of a legal status agreement in India have hampered the work of the South Asia regional delegation (SARD). The dominant management issue during this period was the continuing uncertainty surrounding the future location of the SARD office. Key problem areas have been: staff recruitment, retention and contract extensions, office and house contract renewals, vehicle purchase, and administrative issues. As of May, a decision had been made by the Federation Secretariat in Geneva for SARD to remain in its current location, and the situation will be reviewed before the end of 2005.

Highlights for the regional delegation during the reporting period have included:

- The extensive technical support able to be provided to tsunami affected countries (particularly Sri Lanka), especially in the area of disaster management.
- The successful deployment of RDRT members to the Maldives and Sri Lanka. The RDRT concept, which began as an idea five years ago, is now up and running with enormous potential to be expanded and extended.

- The finalization and acceptance of the regional health programme HIV/AIDS project. The project will coordinate and facilitate significant scaling up of HIV/AIDS programmes amongst all six national societies in the region. It is the biggest such Red Cross and Red Crescent HIV programme outside of Southern Africa.

## Health and care

### Background

The regional health unit revisited its earlier goal, objectives and expected results from the previous year. Developed based on findings of the regional health mapping in 2003, these objectives proved to be still relevant in the current context. This year's expected results dwell on the regional health programme providing technical support to national societies for delivering better community health programmes, developing and reinforcing regional ways of working, and building partnerships within and outside the Movement.

The regional health unit staffing is beginning to increase to accommodate the rolling out of the five-year CHF 15 million HIV/AIDS project which will support the scaling up of national society interventions in this area. The team will be expanded from the current three to nine members in order to be able to sufficiently support and coordinate in-country activities. This is largely as a result of needs identified during the development of the proposals for the regional HIV/AIDS project. During the reporting period, a regional HIV delegate was recruited. The former senior health manager was appointed to a delegate's position with responsibility for primary health care, first aid, and public health in emergencies. Interviews for the regional health and care coordinator were conducted but the recruitment process is still ongoing. The Swedish Red Cross representative will join in August, while regional advisers in blood and HIV/AIDS, and a monitoring and evaluation officer will be recruited in the coming months.

The regional health unit carried out planned development activities during the reporting period, mostly in the area of HIV, but also in primary health care, first aid, and blood services. Stretched capacity at the start of the year limited the ability of the regional health unit to deliver substantial support to the health sector response in the tsunami operations in India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. (Activities related to the tsunami are reported separately.) Health units in the affected countries are being strengthened as part of the tsunami operation while the regional health unit will provide support on a needs basis. On that basis, the regional health programme will continue as originally planned and has not been altered due to the tsunami response.

Funding over the first four months has been satisfactory (33 per cent against the appeal). Priority activities were carried out using contributions from the Japanese and Swedish Red Cross carried over from 2004. It is anticipated the regional health programme will receive similar support to 2004, including funding from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) as well as from the Swedish Red Cross/Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) for the regional HIV programme. Expenditure to April was 15 per cent of confirmed funding, which is in line with planned expenditure for the year.

**Goal: Community vulnerabilities related to poor health in the South Asia region are reduced.**

**Objective: Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies in the region deliver quality and sustainable health and care programmes that address the health needs of vulnerable communities.**

### Progress/Achievements

**Expected Result 1:** South Asia national societies have increased technical and organizational capacity to effectively and efficiently design, implement, monitor and evaluate public health programmes.

All planned activities during this period were undertaken. Attention was focused on putting in place regional mechanisms and tools that will support national societies in scaling up HIV/AIDS interventions in a sustained fashion through the five-year project supported by development funds from the Swedish Red Cross (sourced from SIDA). A project manual that details the processes involved in the planning and implementation of the scaling up programme in different countries has been drafted, which will be presented to relevant sectors at the regional and country delegations and the national societies in the coming months. Close coordination with the SIDA field office in New Delhi continued, including the World Health Organization (WHO) Southeast Asia regional office for the

blood services component in Nepal. Progress of the start-up phase accelerated with arrival of the regional HIV delegate who will be responsible for coordinating and implementing the programme.

The senior regional health manager, together with an external consultant, visited the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society to assist with the development of an action plan to maximize the relevance of its network of 50 health clinics in line with government's basic package of health services. There were also discussions on how the regional health unit can further support the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society health programme. The plan of action includes short and medium-term activities which are aimed at ensuring the clinics are consistent with the basic health centre tier of the national health system and that they are appropriately located and complementary to other health structures in the locality. It also includes activities that will contribute to the identification of strategic health programming options for Afghanistan Red Crescent Society.

The regional health unit also supported the Nepal Red Cross in a thorough review of its health programmes as a diagnostic exercise, exploring strategic options that will inform its future programming. Facilitated by a consultant, the review findings were presented to members of the Nepal Red Cross senior management and governance, as well as the Federation representative in Nepal and the regional health manager. As a result, three taskforces have been created which will identify actions to implement the chosen strategic option of an integrated community health department at the national society. These will be followed up and supported by the regional health manager who is Nepal's focal point at regional health unit.

The health component of the regional strategic and operational framework (tsunami recovery programme) was completed, outlining regional strategies to support national societies in developing public health in emergencies capacity, as well as in strengthening the Federation's capacity to coordinate public health sector response to disasters in the region. The regional health unit provided technical inputs to the Federation delegation in Sri Lanka in the finalisation of the 2005 action plan for the tsunami recovery programme.

The regional health unit provided funding support to the Nepal Red Cross for a three-day workshop on HIV/AIDS for health workers from rural areas. It also supported the Sri Lanka Red Cross in the preparation of reports on its contribution to the national measles-rubella campaign (funding support to the Sri Lanka Red Cross provided by the New Zealand Red Cross. It also coordinated the Nepal Red Cross and Sri Lanka Red Cross preparation and submission of final reports of the HIV/AIDS projects funded by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The regional health manager who will be the focal point and regional resource for monitoring and evaluation of health programmes, especially in line with the implementation of the regional HIV project, attended a two-week monitoring and evaluation course in Bangkok.

The focus in the next reporting period (1 May to 30 September) will continue to be on rolling out the regional and country components of the regional HIV/AIDS project. This will involve visits to all countries by the regional health delegate and regional health manager to support national societies in starting up activities at country level. A 'taking stock' exercise will be conducted in June after the first round of visits to consolidate internal plans and to strategize the best way of working with each of the national societies. It is envisaged that follow-up visits will be made starting July where extensive planning with key members of the health team at each national society will take place. Key areas expected to be covered during these visits include the development of the five-year programme plan with a detailed workplan for 2005-2006, the selection of districts for programme implementation, as well as issues relating to human resources, programme and financial reporting, monitoring and evaluation, to name a few. In addition, the regional health unit will gather feedback and inputs on the HIV/AIDS project manual that is expected to serve as the operational guide for implementation of activities under the project, and endeavour to come up a final version before the follow-up country visits. The regional health manager will continue to provide focused support to the Nepal Red Cross through monthly visits until July.

To ensure transparency and to emphasize the complementary nature of regional health unit capacity building initiatives, the regional health unit will develop guidelines related to its scholarship support for international/national conferences and short-term training programmes, exchange/earning visits, as well as creating the development of a database of resource persons in the region. A consultation process with country delegations and national societies will take place before these guidelines take effect.

**Expected Result 2:** Regional networking and knowledge sharing mechanisms are strengthened, complementing country-based support to health programmes of national societies in South Asia.

Following up on the decision made at the November 2004 secretaries' general forum in Kathmandu, the regional health unit facilitated a consultation on the rotation of the South Asia Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA) coordination office to India as well as its modalities. The office has yet to shift and remains in Nepal in the interim. Whilst India has agreed to host the SARNHA office in principle, the move remains in limbo while the Indian Red Cross finalizes the selection of a new permanent secretary general.

The sixth SARNHA meeting was held in Sri Lanka in April with representatives from all national societies, with the exception of India, attending. The regional health unit supported the five-day meeting which included a workshop on reviewing and gathering feedback on the HIV/AIDS project manual. The participants shared experiences and had discussions on various HIV/AIDS related issues. The regional health unit discussed and defined the role of SARNHA in relation to the regional HIV/AIDS project in consultation with national societies in the coming months. In keeping with the SARNHA objective of working in a partnership with HIV positive people, members of Lanka Plus attended the meeting and talked on issues related to stigma and discrimination and the need and various modalities on how to support people living with HIV/AIDS.

Discussions also focussed on the relocation of SARNHA to India, specifically on whether it should be based in Delhi or Chennai with no decision reached. The venue for the next SARNHA meeting was discussed and it was agreed that the Afghanistan Red Crescent would host it, with the date pencilled in for October. The participants spent three days working in smaller groups, focusing on the regional HIV/AIDS project manual. The manual is designed to provide operational guidelines to programme managers at headquarters and district branches on how to implement activities under the project. The participant's comments and suggestions will be taken into account in completing the final version of the manual. Minutes of the meeting are available from the regional health unit on request.

The regional health unit supported the Nepal Red Cross in an Asian meeting of the Federation's global advisory panel on corporate governance and risk management (GAP) held in Singapore in March. The meeting revisited the progress made on the development of self-assessment tools on the technical aspects of blood safety. The regional health unit will follow this up with the national societies concerned.

The unit also coordinated the selection of four national societies from the region that will present/participate in the first-ever global health forum organized by the Federation in Geneva in May this year. The region will be represented by representatives of the following national societies that will make presentations relating to the topics listed:

- Bangladesh Red Crescent - community-based mother and child health;
- Nepal Red Cross - first aid;
- Pakistan Red Crescent - voluntary counselling and testing;
- Sri Lanka Red Cross - social mobilisation related to measles elimination

Over the coming reporting period (1 May to 30 September) the regional health unit will finalize the HIV/AIDS project manual, taking account of feedback from key players in national societies, country delegations and SARD technical managers. Along with an external consultant, the regional health unit shall also work out modalities on conducting a regional mapping exercise and baseline studies as part of scaling up HIV/AIDS activities under the regional HIV project.

A regional guide for the identification and documentation of good practices in health will be drafted. It will incorporate provisions that will encourage participation of other national societies in the different processes, as well as provisions that link to future exchange/learning visits and other capacity building initiatives. As soon as inputs from national societies and the Federation country delegations are compiled, the regional health unit will commence facilitation and coordination for the documentation of good health practices of two or three national societies. This will require country visits, hiring of technical writers as required, as well as printing and distribution of good practice documents.

Work will continue with national societies in relation to the ongoing process of finalizing regional minimum standards for Red Cross and Red Crescent first aid programmes in South Asia. The regional health unit will also provide inputs into the global effort, led by the Geneva health and care department for the revitalization of community-based first aid (CBFA).

It will also continue to coordinate/facilitate the participation of Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the global health forum and provide technical support to each in preparing their respective presentations.

Support and coordination will be provided for national/regional advocacy campaigns, including the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day in May via anti-stigma campaigns, the World Blood Donors' Day in June and World First Aid Day in September. The regional health unit will attend and support regional national societies' representation to the international conference on AIDS in Asia-Pacific which will be held in Japan in July. Through the auspices of the Japanese Red Cross, the Federation will organize a satellite meeting for Red Cross and Red Crescent participants, and where the regional health unit will present the regional HIV/AIDS project together with a SIDA representative. The unit will also provide promotional materials from the region at the conference as part of the Red Cross and Red Crescent exhibition.

**Expected Result 3:** Coordination and strategic partnerships contribute to further development and sustainability of national societies' health programmes.

The regional health unit continued dialogue with the Swedish Red Cross and SIDA regional office on the progress made on the regional HIV project. Discussions were also held with SIDA and WHO on the blood component of the project which was to be implemented in Nepal. Further discussions were held with the WHO representative office in Nepal. Contacts were established with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency - India for information sharing and potential collaboration in HIV/AIDS.

The health unit coordinated with regional partners, such as WHO, in relation to the tsunami recovery programme.

For the coming reporting period (1 May to 30 September) the regional health unit will continue to liaise with the Swedish Red Cross, SIDA and WHO on the regional HIV/AIDS project to identify modalities for funding the WHO/Federation proposal on blood that will contribute to Nepal Red Cross programme's quality improvement. It will also continue discussions with stakeholders on the five-year Southeast Asia regional partnership on measles where national societies in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka (and in the future the Maldives) can significantly contribute through social/community mobilization. This will be undertaken in the spirit of the memorandum of understanding with WHO.

Work will be undertaken with the regional disaster management team regarding the development of a regional 'public health in emergencies' initiative which is integrated with the regional disaster management programme. The regional health unit participated in the regional disaster management planning meeting in Bangladesh in May to better understand the programme and to ensure identified priorities will be in line with the progress already made in the region.

### **Outputs**

The technical support provided to the Afghanistan Red Crescent and Nepal Red Cross has helped focus their respective community-based health programmes with the aim of ensuring they are relevant and effective.

The work done with the Afghanistan Red Crescent has established a clear process to guide the national society in harmonizing their existing health clinics with the requirements of the government's basic package of health services. The ultimate goal is that the clinics will be more relevant and responsive to local health needs. The identification of a new strategic health direction by Nepal Red Cross is also hoped to lead to a stronger and sustainable national society response to different challenges in health in the country and lead to a better service delivery to the vulnerable population.

Once finalized, the draft project manual developed for the regional HIV/AIDS project will provide cohesion and uniformity of approach and will enable national societies to better plan and implement country components of the programme. The recruitment of the regional HIV delegate has accelerated the start-up activities at regional level.

In mid-February the Swedish Red Cross lodged a funding application to SIDA for the regional HIV project with positive indications that project requirements for the first two years will be covered and that the latter's commitment be extended three to five years. This is a significant development for the region as, for the first time, there is an available long-term funding for developmental activities that could also serve as a model for future projects.

It is expected that with sustainable funds available for HIV/AIDS, national societies will be able to develop good quality interventions. Due to funding uncertainty, there has been project instability in the past. Activities have been artificially truncated to match the short-term funding support. Longer-term funding leads to better planning and more appropriate and effecting programme implementation.

The activities mentioned above fit well in the health programme. Whilst the regional support is country specific in certain areas, it retains an overall regional flavour. For example, the regional HIV/AIDS project seeks to help individual national societies to significantly scale-up its HIV activities and at the same time provides a mechanism for regional ways of working.

### **Constraints**

The implementation of country-level activities under the regional HIV/AIDS project was delayed as the funding application lodged by the Swedish Red Cross to SIDA was under review. A decision is to be made in late April and funds are expected to be released only in May. Nevertheless, regional start-up activities were unhampered, and Swedish Red Cross indicated it would advance a substantial amount to the regional health unit to ensure continuity of start-up activities.

The regional health unit was unable to support national societies in tsunami-hit countries in the delivery of health response during the emergency phase of the operation as well as in country assessments for the long-term recovery planning. This was due to the health unit having just two personnel for the first two months of the year. Based on the fact that health resources at delegation level in tsunami-affected countries were significantly boosted, a decision was made to concentrate on its programme as per the 2005 workplan.

While the regional health unit was able to deliver a number of services, the breadth and depth of these has been constrained due to the capacity of the unit being stretched. This was due to the absence of a health and care coordinator whose recruitment took longer than expected. The uncertainty of the future location of the regional delegation also affected the recruitment of additional human resources to beef up the unit's capacity to support the implementation of the regional HIV programme.

## **Disaster management**

### **Background**

The 26 December tsunami disaster was an acid test for the regional delegation's work over the last five years on strengthening regional skills and capacities in the field of disaster management. In response to the disaster, there was the deployment of RDRT members to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, as well as the deployment of 14 personnel from the region as Federation delegates. This is evidence that good progress has been made in establishing and developing a human resource base across the region able to respond to disasters.

During the reporting period the regional disaster management team has been heavily involved in the assessment and planning of the tsunami recovery plan, and has directly supported the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in the coordination of disaster management activities up until early April. The diversion of resources for the tsunami operation has impeded progress of planned activities under the regional disaster management annual appeal programme.

The regional disaster management programme has undergone a thorough review to take account of the tsunami emergency and recovery plan launched at the beginning of May ([http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?04/2804PlanofAction2005-2010.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/2804PlanofAction2005-2010.pdf)). Many regional disaster management activities originally outlined under the annual appeal have been incorporated into the tsunami plan of

action. These changes are outlined below. The review has sought to find a balance between assisting tsunami-affected countries (India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and to a lesser extent, Bangladesh) whilst maintaining regional programmes in the non-affected countries (Pakistan, Nepal and Afghanistan).

In general, the planned support to national societies in the region will not dramatically decrease as a result of the tsunami operation. To achieve all objectives, the regional disaster management team will be strengthened with a regional coordinator and possibly two more support positions.

The disaster response and preparedness projects have had positive donor response so far (receiving 32 per cent and 39 per cent support against the appeal respectively); however, the population movement project is considerably under-funded (receiving just 24 per cent funding against the appeal) which may affect the full implementation of planned activities. The population movement manager position became vacant in April and a replacement has yet to be appointed.

**Overall goal: Communities have an improved capacity to prepare for, manage and recover from disasters and population movements affecting vulnerable communities.**

**Programme objective: To improve disaster preparedness, response mechanisms and networks, so as to strengthen the capacity of vulnerable communities to manage, cope and recover from disaster risks.**

#### **Disaster preparedness project**

**Project objective: South Asia national societies develop an integrated risk management approach and higher level of coordination with other DM stakeholders, including vulnerable communities, to better manage the impact of disasters.**

#### **Progress/Achievements**

*Expected result 1:* Improved cooperation and knowledge sharing amongst South Asia national societies, as reflected in their disaster management policy, strategy, plans and operations.

In the first four months of the year, no planned activities for this expected result have taken place. However, the regional programme promoted coordination and cooperation in relation to ongoing emergency operations (tsunami and flood relief in Nepal, Bangladesh and India from 2004) were used for close cooperation and coordination. The national societies of Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan and Pakistan supported the tsunami response operation in Sri Lanka and the Maldives, through deployment of RDRT members and fundraising campaigns.

The participatory action learning studies conducted on the 2004 flood relief operations in Bangladesh, Nepal and India were finalized and distributed. It is expected that findings and recommendations from the studies will be helpful for planning and improving national society disaster preparedness and response, as well as encouraging more integrated programming.

The regional disaster management planning meeting will be held in May in Bangladesh, together with DFID consultation meeting. The meeting will focus on disaster management programme mapping for national societies, as part of the efforts to identify areas requiring improvement and to enhance compatibility of programmes. The lessons learned from the 2004 flood operations in Bangladesh, Nepal and India will be shared to help develop planning for a better response for the forthcoming monsoon season. The second planned regional disaster management meeting will not take place this year, due to the necessary rationalization of time and resources to balance the increased disaster management workload in the region. All other activities under this expected result will take place as originally planned: two to three staff exchange visits, publication of case studies and lessons learnt in different disasters (such as the above-mentioned participatory action learning) and ongoing technical support.

*Expected result 2:* Informed communities are better equipped to understand and manage local disaster risks in a participatory manner, reflected in local disaster management plans.

The regional disaster management team supported the Sri Lanka Red Cross in developing its floods contingency plan prior to the upcoming monsoon season; a community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) plan; disaster preparedness and first aid programme for schools; as well as long-term risk reduction programmes for 2005 and 2006. The Sri Lanka Red Cross is also cooperating with other organizations to improve community capacities to

cope and recover from disasters. Their broader risk reduction strategy includes a component of sustaining livelihoods, as a pilot project.

A pilot project has been designed to improve understanding of the early warning system mechanisms, interpretation and action at community level. It is aimed primarily for communities prone to cyclones and tsunamis, and will be implemented in two countries, following the pilot testing in Sri Lanka.

Other national societies in the region will be supported in consolidating their CBDP programmes through a staff exchange programme in the next reporting period. In consultation with the regional health unit, the CBFA component will be enhanced further to improve communities' safety awareness and their capacity to manage minor injuries.

*Expected result 3: Develop an adequate number of trained and competent staff of more equal gender balance at operational level, through training and missions, addressing the knowledge and skills of staff and volunteers.*

As elaborated above, the tsunami disaster response was used as an opportunity for deployment of trained staff from the region, which resulted in RDRT missions in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

The regional disaster management department is also planning a training strategy workshop in August, aimed at improving human resource development plans in national societies. Although national societies often have high-quality human resources at headquarters level, capacities at local level need to be enhanced. As part of those efforts, two national societies' staff members in the region will be recruited by the regional delegation as staff-on-loan, to expose them to the International Federation's disaster response and coordination mechanisms.

*This expected result has now been shifted to the tsunami recovery plan and further reporting will be done through the tsunami operational updates.*

*Expected result 4: South Asia national societies and delegations use appropriate IT tools and management practices for effective, efficient programme implementation and resource utilization.*

Support has been provided to the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in developing its training infrastructure. In this regard, discussions are ongoing with the Indira Gandhi National Open University to explore possibilities for starting disaster management courses in Sri Lanka and for consultations on the national society's training curriculum, contents and methodologies.

The first module of the management information system (MIS) has been provided to the Sri Lanka Red Cross. It is being used to map trained human resources of the national society.

It is expected that the MIS will be finalized and put in operation by June, and the work on development of disaster preparedness indicators completed. This will help the national societies in generating customized reports on disasters and their specific disaster-related capacities, for planning and resource deployment.

*Expected result 5: Improved coordination amongst DM stakeholders before and after disasters for better knowledge sharing, service delivery and promotion of Federation global DM tools and approaches.*

The deployment of the regional disaster management coordinator in Sri Lanka, to support the recovery assessment team mission, helped in developing major linkages with the national disaster management centre in Sri Lanka, along with key ministries. There is a strong likelihood that this new alliance will help the Sri Lanka Red Cross in developing its volunteer base, and help speed up tsunami response and other disaster management activities. This effort in developing further alliances will continue as part of a global initiative, and will help develop country-specific disaster management framework in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

The disaster preparedness network (DP-Net) has been successfully functioning in Nepal. The Nepal Red Cross held an annual general conference of the DP-Net in early 2005. The plan is to build on the existing knowledge and expand the network regionally, to improve knowledge- and resource-sharing and more compatible and coherent disaster preparedness planning.

The Finnish Red Cross regional delegate has been actively supporting the Federation's regional disaster management programme, coordinating specific initiatives in the area of knowledge sharing, assessment and

monitoring. Participation in the participatory action learning studies in 2004 in Bangladesh, Nepal and India, as well as in the tsunami recovery assessment mission in Sri Lanka, are good examples of the support provided by the Finnish Red Cross in this sector. This cooperation will continue in the future, based on the needs identified.

### **Disaster response project**

**Project objective: Disaster response capacity at a national and regional level is further improved and mobilization of global, regional and national disaster response systems is ensured by promoting an integrated disaster management approach.**

### **Progress/Achievements**

*Expected result 1:* RDRT further equipped and strengthened, linking and supporting national response mechanisms as well as international response tools such as emergency response unit and field assessment and coordination team (FACT).

The major focus to date has been on the tsunami response operation. RDRTs were deployed in Sri Lanka and the Maldives and contributed to the establishment of relief operations in those two countries. The regional disaster response manager assisted the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in information management and relief, and has initiated the development of disaster responsesystems and procedures there

In addition to the tsunami response, a number of activities were carried out in the rest of the region:

- A RDRT member from Pakistan was deployed in Afghanistan to support the delegation and national society with the severe winter and spring flood operations.
- The international disaster response law (IDRL) study was conducted in Nepal, as part of a pilot project carried out in four countries.
- Support provided to the Nepal Red Cross Society which is in the process of preparing a contingency plan focusing on earthquakes.

An advanced RDRT training will be conducted in September. It will include components of team building, leadership and field coordination. Staff and volunteers who have completed their national disaster response training, and others with disaster response experience, will be invited to participate in this training programme. This activity has been shifted to the tsunami recovery plan, and further reporting will be done through the tsunami operational updates.

Other activities planned for the second and third quarter of the year include:

- finalization of the regional disaster management guidelines, which was discussed at the regional disaster management planning meeting in May;
- team leader training for disaster managers;
- advocacy for the adoption of IDRL; and
- follow-up with the Nepal Red Cross Society regarding the development of their floods contingency planning.

*Expected result 2:* Networks established and fostered between national societies.

Apart from the coordinated tsunami response, no planned activities have been carried out because of changed priorities, following the disaster. In the coming period, support to national societies' partnership in risk management and assessment approaches will focus on the tsunami-affected countries.

Further efforts will be made to support national societies in developing geographic information systems (GIS)/information technology (IT) tools and in promoting knowledge sharing, through various channels, such as DP-Net, as explained under the disaster preparedness project.

*Expected result 3:* Regional disaster response training curriculum available linking the national curriculum to FACT and ICRC training activities in order to further facilitate development of a regional Movement approach and minimum standards in disaster response at national, regional and international level.

No progress in achieving this expected result. Activities are planned to be carried out during the next reporting period.

The planned mapping exercise of disaster management capacities of national societies will be carried out as part of the tsunami recovery appeal, and further reporting on this activity will be done through the related operational updates.

*Expected Result 4:* Capacity for integrated disaster management by communities in a selected and piloted country is enhanced.

The plan to develop and carry out a joint disaster preparedness/disaster response pilot project on disaster response at community level will be realized in one of the tsunami-affected countries, as part of the tsunami recovery plan.

### **Population movement project**

**Project objective: To address the needs of the displaced persons by building the capacities of the national societies to reach out to them .**

### **Progress/Achievements**

*Expected result 1:* Population movement focal points established in each national society.

Focal points are currently in place in the national societies of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The regional population movement planning meeting has not yet been held, mainly due to changed priorities in the countries affected by the tsunami

It is expected that in the next reporting period the population movement plan of action will be revised, while job descriptions for focal points for use by national societies will be developed.

*Expected result 2:* Enhanced capacity of national society staff to design effective population movement projects for the uprooted.

The Afghanistan and Nepal national societies have prioritized their population movement programmes since the beginning of the year and their activities are ongoing, such as the skill training in Bhutanese refugee camps in Nepal, and mapping of internally displaced persons (IDP) in Afghanistan.

No specific activities under this expected result have occurred and these are currently under review.

*Expected result 3:* Enhanced awareness and knowledge of national society staff on relevant population movement issues and Red Cross principles.

ARCS completed the Dari translation of population movement material such as the non-government organization field guide for the protection of refugees, reach out and better programming initiative (BPI). Publication of BPI case studies is now available in South Asia. In the coming period, training modules for international humanitarian law and refugee law will be published and made available to national societies in South Asia.

*Expected result 4:* Guidelines/policy or strategies for population movement programme in the region.

With population movement programmes in the region being at a very early stage, the national societies have decided to postpone the process of developing guidelines and policies for a later stage. It is not expected that any major progress will be achieved before the end of this year. Therefore, this expected result will be removed from the 2005 appeal programme.

*Expected result 5:* National societies in South Asia, with a priority on population movement, have developed and are implementing population movement projects based on their needs and identified priorities.

The Nepal Red Cross Society is continuing with its population movement programme by implementing and expanding its skill training and fire prevention awareness programme with the Bhutanese refugee project. While the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society is still identifying a pilot project, some low-level activities are continuing, such as the emergency relief operation for internally displaced communities in Kabul (see the Afghanistan Severe Winter appeal 05EA003 at [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?05/05EA003.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA003.pdf)).

*Expected result 6:* Effective communication mechanism in the region and globally on population movement.

Initial steps towards the set up of a regional population movement communication network have been made. It is expected that the network will be established by the end of the year. In the coming months, the terms of reference and training methodology will be developed and shared with national societies, and the training programme elaborated.

*Expected result 7:* Population movement integrated into existing regional initiatives in disaster management and health.

Due to the tsunami relief operation and lack of funding, the planned activities have not been conducted. Two studies – IDP and protection, and HIV/AIDS and population movement – will be conducted as part of the consolidated tsunami appeal. The upcoming advanced RDRT training, as well as the BPI training, will contain a module on population movement. Also, discussions are ongoing on conducting an HIV/AIDS study on population movement caused by natural disasters in the region.

### **Outputs**

The regional delegation provided the tsunami-affected countries in the region with support in developing their operational plans for the revised consolidated tsunami appeal, which focuses on rehabilitation and recovery. The regional disaster management strategy and operational framework have been developed for the tsunami-affected countries for a period of five years, until 2010.

In the coming months, a balanced support to all national societies in the region will be re-established. It will start with the regional disaster management meeting, held in May in Bangladesh.

### **Constraints**

The tsunami disaster has taken up most of the national societies' and the Federation delegations' resources, which inevitably caused delays and modifications in the implementation of ongoing programmes. In addition, disaster management priorities have been altered in the countries affected by other disasters (Afghanistan and Pakistan), which has had a negative impact on the regional disaster management programme.

Smooth implementation of the population movement project has been hindered by the lack of confirmed funding. In addition, at the end of the first quarter, the regional delegation population movement manager resigned. Although population movement activities will continue, some delays may occur in the coming months due to the lack of focal point at the regional level.

## **Humanitarian values**

### **Background**

The humanitarian values programme has focussed on improving the understanding of humanitarian values, reducing discrimination and changing behaviours. To date, there has clearly been a better understanding of this core area among the national societies in the region, and of the role of national society humanitarian values coordinators.

**Overall goal: Increased trust and understanding and reduced violence and discrimination within communities across South Asia through Red Cross and Red Crescent programmes.**

**Objective: Effective advocacy among members, programme beneficiaries, internal stakeholders, media, public authorities and civil society results in changed behaviour of target groups, increased tolerance and consequently reflects in reduction in discrimination in communities.**

### **Progress/Achievements**

*Expected Result 1:* The global agenda on discrimination and humanitarian values are promoted through effective communication and advocacy with internal stakeholders, the media and civil society and national society programmes, bringing about changes in behaviour.

Mainly due to changed priorities following the tsunami disaster, the planned activities for this expected result have not yet been carried out,

However, during the tsunami relief activities in Tamil Nadu, the disaster was used to raise the stakeholders' awareness of the importance of an indiscriminate distribution of relief to the worst affected, without references to caste and other social divisions.

In the coming reporting period, the mapping of humanitarian values activities in the region will be initiated, starting with the tsunami-affected countries. A regional workshop for humanitarian values focal points is scheduled to take place in the second half of the year. The workshop will address specific national societies' needs, priorities and difficulties in addressing this area of work.

*Expected Result 2:* National societies design and implement specific projects to address discrimination-based vulnerabilities among communities.

The regional delegation provides continuing support to national societies in design and implementation of anti-discrimination projects. The Nepal Red Cross Society has submitted a funding application to the European Union for a programme on combating racism and xenophobia and promoting the rights of minorities. The regional humanitarian values coordinator made two visits to the national society to assist them with the design of the project and writing the proposal.

In the second quarter of the year, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will be developing a project on reducing violence in the area of the Chittagong Hill Tract area. The regional humanitarian values coordinator will provide ongoing technical support.

Training material on humanitarian values is being developed with a view to respond to specific regional and country context. Case-studies are being developed such as examining how caste-discrimination issues raised during the relief operation in Tamil Nadu were handled.

*Expected Result 3:* Alongside promoting the understanding of the Fundamental Principles, national societies have advocated on different forms of discrimination vulnerable people face.

Planned activities under this expected result commenced in April. The regional humanitarian values coordinator conducted an orientation session for staff in the newly formed Maldives delegation. In Nepal, a workshop was held for the officers and staff of the community-based development programme team. The discussions included possibilities of integrating a humanitarian values component in the community-based development programme in a more systematic and comprehensive way.

Three national-level workshops are scheduled to take place before the end of the year, in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India. They will focus on the application of the programme at community level. The workshops will be conducted, and reported on, through the tsunami operational updates. The regional humanitarian values coordinator will provide technical support for these workshops.

### **Outputs**

The first quarter of the year has not been marked by major outputs in the area of humanitarian values. This was mainly due to the tsunami disaster and a subsequent change of priorities amongst national societies in affected countries. Support was provided to the national societies in Nepal and Bangladesh in the preparation of anti-discrimination and violence prevention projects, and in integration of a humanitarian values component into other core areas, such as community-based disaster preparedness.

### **Constraints**

Whilst humanitarian values counterparts exist in five of the six national societies (with the exception of Afghanistan Red Crescent), they all have other responsibilities. As a result, the humanitarian values programme is often not given priority. The tsunami relief operation led to a diversion of resources and change of focus in the early part of the year for India and Sri Lanka with humanitarian values activities put on hold. The regional humanitarian values coordinator was seconded to assist with tsunami-related information/reporting duties for the first two months of the year, which meant several planned activities had to be put on hold.

## **Organizational development**

### **Background**

The overall goal of the regional organizational development programme is to strengthen the national societies' community-level capacities to respond to the needs of the vulnerable. This is to be achieved by strengthening national societies' legal base, by developing their human, technical and material resources, especially at provincial

and district level, by promoting sharing of knowledge and resources in the region. To ensure commitment and establishment of a good learning environment, all processes initiated in the regional organizational development programme are highly participatory and typically involve common goal setting and prioritization, establishing regional learning networks, exchange visits and use of regionally developed organizational development tools.

A number of expected results and specific activities which had originally been part of the strategy and management development project have been incorporated into the consolidated tsunami emergency and recovery plan of action launched in early May. All specific changes are elaborated below. The main focus of the revised programme in relation to this project will be on resource mobilization, strengthening of volunteer programmes, and ongoing technical support to country delegations and national societies in the region.

This reorganization of activities between the South Asia regional appeal for 2005 and the tsunami recovery appeal has naturally had an effect on the annual programme budget. The budget for the strategy and management development project will be cut by approximately 80 per cent. This budget change will be detailed in the next programme update.

**Overall goal: Well-functioning national societies deliver effective and relevant service to vulnerable people and communities.**

**Programme objective: Build common standards and strategies enabling national societies to improve service delivery and advocacy based on identified needs and continued learning.**

**Strategy and management development project objective: National societies will increasingly display the characteristics of a well-functioning national society through strengthening their legal base, volunteer management, volunteer diversity, and branch development, thereby increasing programme sustainability and finding new ways to measure and show programme impact.**

*Expected result 1: Strengthened legal base in two national societies.*

The regional organizational development delegate visited the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh, and discussed constitutional issues. In Sri Lanka, the focus is on full implementation of the national society constitution, adopted in 2001. In the Maldives, a plan for the formation of a national society has been drawn up, and that process also includes the establishment of the national society's legal base. This expected result has been moved to the tsunami recovery plan, and further reporting will be done through tsunami operational updates.

*Expected Result 2: National societies have a stronger and diversified volunteer base.*

To achieve this expected result, the following activities were originally planned:

- a) Promotion of the use of *HR Development Manual for Volunteers*, development of volunteer policies, and follow-up on the recommendations of the *South Asia and South-East Asia Volunteer Review*. To keep the right balance of organizational development activities in the region, this set of activities related to promotion of regional tools for improved volunteer programmes will focus on the tsunami-affected countries, and further reporting on the progress of their implementation will be done through tsunami operational updates.
- b) Workshop on development of volunteer organisations in conflict situations. This activity is planned for the last quarter of 2005. A programme proposal is expected to be approved at the next meeting of secretaries general of the South Asian national societies.

This project will carry out a study on women's involvement in Red Cross and Red Crescent activities. Funded by the Finnish Red Cross, the study will examine women's involvement, identify barriers and possible inducements and look at how approaches can be changed to increase the number of women involved.

*Expected Result 3: Two national societies are able to demonstrate the value of selected volunteer programmes in an innovative way.*

The original plan was to carry out two volunteer investment and value audit (VIVA) workshops, as part of efforts to build the case for stronger and more innovative volunteer programmes. However, in view of the changed priorities in the region, it has been decided to carry out only one VIVA workshop in Nepal. It is expected that the VIVA study is finalized before the end of the next reporting period.

*Expected Result 4: Two national societies increase income generation.*

This expected result originally included two groups of activities:

- 1) The regional delegation's support to improving national society income generation at branch level through workshops and knowledge sharing visits between national societies – this programme component will now focus on the tsunami-affected countries. Further reporting on these activities will be done through the tsunami operational updates.
- 2) Support to developing country-specific resource mobilization plans of action is going ahead as planned. This project component is a follow-up to the work done two years ago when an external consultant was recruited to develop resource mobilization strategies for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The plan is to transform those strategies into concrete plans of action. The national societies of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal have agreed on pursuing this initiative. A consultant has been identified to help develop this project, and the terms of reference for Pakistan and Nepal were drafted. Efforts will be made to engage the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society in this process; however due to the numerous priorities of that national society, as well as a volatile security situation throughout Afghanistan, this cannot be guaranteed.

*Expected result 5: Common approach to organizational development established and organizational development part of programme development.*

Due to the tsunami-induced change of priorities in the concerned national societies, the planned cross-sectoral activities with disaster management and health teams will not be carried out this year. They include a joint workshop on branch development, and joint mapping of national societies' strengths and weaknesses.

Country-based technical support is continuing as planned. The regional organizational development delegate visited the Nepal Red Cross Society and provided support on setting up a volunteer management system in Nepal. Regular contacts are maintained with the Federation's country delegations in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka and regional organizational development tools shared. Technical support to delegations and national societies in Bangladesh, India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka is now part of the tsunami recovery appeal and further reporting on those activities will be done through the tsunami operational updates.

The terms of reference have been drafted for the next forum of South Asia secretaries general, which is to be held in mid-2005. It is expected that the forum will discuss, and agree on, the process of developing the new regional cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) for the period 2006-2008.

The Swedish Red Cross has put forward the initiative to carry out a regional organisational development impact review. The review will be carry out in the third quarter of 2005, and the draft terms of reference are currently being developed in cooperation with the Federation's regional organizational development delegate.

***Information development project objective: Effective communications, advocacy and networking initiated by national societies in the region delivers enhanced services to vulnerable communities through national societies' improving internal and external information flow.***

*Expected result 1: Enhanced technical skills, knowledge sharing and mutual support between national societies.*

(See below)

*Expected result 2: A strong organizational network focused on flow of information and knowledge.*

(See below)

*Expected result 3: Resources and professional staff in each national society to further the objectives of the branch development framework.*

(See below)

*Expected result 4: National society branches exhibit improved internal communications.*

(See below)

None of the planned activities under this project occurred in the first four months of 2005. The regional information manager was present in Sri Lanka when the tsunami struck and remained there, carrying out information duties assisting the Sri Lanka Red Cross and Sri Lanka delegation until his resignation at the end of February. A replacement information manager will be appointed in the second half of the year, with significant funding under the consolidated tsunami emergency and recovery plan of action 28/04 launched on 6 May 2005. Once the new information manager is appointed, this project will be overhauled with some activities retained depending on the remaining time frame and how they marry in with the planned activities under the tsunami appeal. These changes will be reflected in the next programme update.

The regional delegation assumed a coordinating role for dealing with information dissemination as a result of the tsunami. Various staff members were seconded from other programmes/projects to assist with media requests etc. Often this involved referring queries to country-level focal points, though the regional delegation maintained a rolling combined information bulletin system encompassing all affected countries for the first two months following the disaster.

Not funded under this appeal, but contributing significantly to effective communications in relation to the tsunami, was the appointment of a regional tsunami information delegate. The delegate was deployed from 7 February to 30 April to assist with information requirements in Sri Lanka, the Maldives and India. In addition to daily work from her base in Colombo, the delegate conducted six field visits in Sri Lanka and two field visits to the Maldives. A significant constraint was the inability to gain permission from the Indian Red Cross to conduct field visits to affected areas in that country.

The regional information tsunami delegate produced numerous articles for publication on the Federation website covering a wide array of national society/Federation activities. Articles were also picked up by local media in Sri Lanka.

In conjunction with the Sri Lanka Red Cross and ICRC, a major achievement of her mission was the creation of a joint communications strategy between the three partners in that country. This is a first in the region and has the potential to be replicated in other countries.

***Finance development project objective: To improve national society financial accountability, reporting and management capacity, in support of management decision making with resulting improvement in quality and timeliness of reports and a gradual reduction in dependency on donors and the Federation.***

*Expected result 1: Vulnerable communities receive well-timed and efficient services through improved financial planning and management capacities at all levels of the national societies.*

This project has been severely constrained by tsunami-related financial reporting requirements. The regional finance development manager has been consumed for most of this period with general financial management business relating to the regional delegation in addition to a heavy workload preparing tsunami appeal budgets.

The finance development manager installed financial software in the Nepal Red Cross regional office which moved from a manual to an automated system in January.

While implementation of planned activities has been low, most will be achieved over the remainder of the year. The only activity which will be cancelled is the planned regional finance development workshop due to time constraints and prioritising of activities.

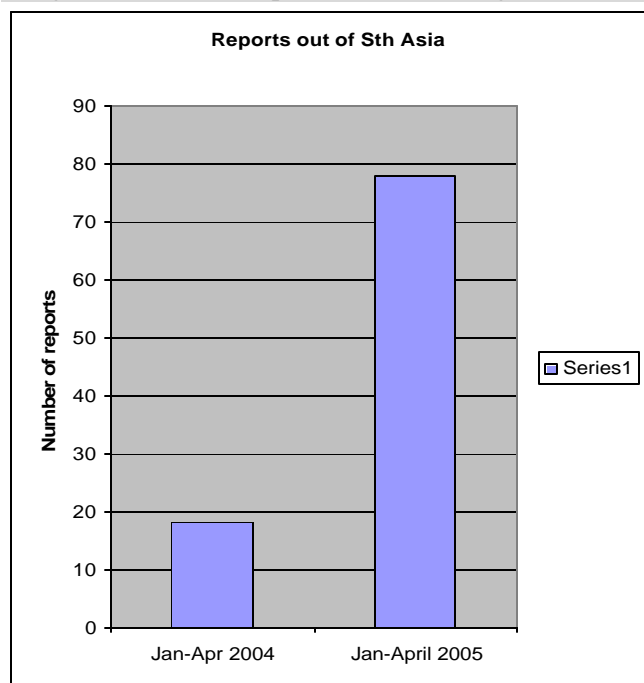
Over the next reporting period (May to September) it is expected the following activities will be conducted:

- Three (out of six planned for the year) country-level finance management workshops in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- Purchase and installation of financial software for three Nepal Red cross regional warehouses.
- Finance software refresher courses for the Pakistan and Sri Lanka national societies.
- One exchange visit for a member of a national society to SARD.

The planned support to the Nepal Red Cross to conduct a workshop for headquarters/branch staff on internal audit will occur in the final quarter. The planned support to the Afghanistan Red Crescent is pending that national society and the country delegation making a proposal to the regional delegation specifying the assistance required.

**Planning and reporting project objective: National societies improve reporting and utilize it as a planning tool to deliver more effective humanitarian services.**

*Expected result 1:* Quality, analytical and timely reporting from national societies (via country delegation/Federation representative) meeting minimum Federation standards.



A regional reporting assistant was recruited and commenced duties in mid-April. The assistant is highly experienced in Federation required reporting with ten years experience in the Movement and significantly boosts the regional delegations reporting capacity.

The expansion of the reporting team to two has been essential due to the ever-increasing report processing workload, exacerbated by the tsunami-related reporting requirements. More reports/appeals/information bulletins have emanated from the South Asia region in the first four months of 2005 (78, not counting pledge based reports) than all of 2004 (75). Over the corresponding period in 2004 (1 January to 30 April) a total of 18 reports/info bulletins/appeals were produced out of South Asia.

However, not all of these reports were processed through SARD. Tsunami-related reporting for directly affected countries in South Asia (India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives) was handled by Geneva for the

first two weeks following December 26. SARD took over compiling subbing duties from mid-January. Due to the extreme workload and the absence of an assistant until mid-April, the regional reporting unit in Kuala Lumpur was an invaluable resource in assisting with the South Asia report processing load.

A reporting delegate was quickly put in place in Sri Lanka (funded from general tsunami appeal funds and not this appeal). SARD facilitated the recruitment of a short-term reporting consultant (an experienced former member of the regional reporting unit in Kuala Lumpur) to cover a two-week gap between delegates in January.

The sheer volume of reporting during the early part of the year inevitably created bottlenecks, with reports flowing in more quickly than they could be processed. This led to some late posting of reports.

The quality of reports from the countries in the region ranged from satisfactory to mediocre. There is an over-reliance on country delegations to write and compile these reports, with national society capacity remaining low over most of the region (see following expected result). It begs the question what impact is the regional reporting project having? In relative terms the overall quality is better than three years ago and progress has been made. But much more development work is required, but as outlined above, the report processing workload prevented any reporting development activities in the first four months (see following section).

In relation to tsunami-required reporting, there were significant frustrations experienced with the Indian Red Cross. Information flows between the branches in the affected states and territories was extremely slow and sporadic, creating significant information vacuums. The India delegation is pursuing this issue and attempting to improve branch to national headquarters communications, with SARD providing technical support in this regard.

It had been hoped to hold the planned regional reporting meeting by April. However, due to the tsunami and associated heavy reporting requirements, this meeting has been postponed until September. This event will now be

50 per cent funded under the consolidated tsunami emergency and recovery plan of action appeal 28/04 launched on 6 May 2005.

*Expected result 2: Competent local reporting personnel at national society and/or country/delegation level.*

Due to the constraints outlined above just one training visit was possible during the first four months of the year. The reporting consultant spent a week in Afghanistan in April, working with programme managers at the delegation. A basic internal monthly reporting system was established, which will hopefully lead to improved planning and external reporting.

A proposal for a reporting/monitoring/evaluation training programme for staff in national societies and delegations was completed in early 2005. This proposal, partially funded by the 2004 SARD reporting project budget, was compiled by the then-head of the regional reporting unit in Kuala Lumpur. Due to constraints outlined above, this proposal has not yet been pursued. It is an excellent document (available on request) and will be utilized for planning for the remainder of the year and for the 2006/2007 planning process. This training proposal is unlikely to be taken up by the South Asia regional reporting project this year, but work will continue to roll it out in 2006.

Two more training visits to countries in the region by the end September are planned. It is hoped the reporting consultant will be able to conduct at least one of the two planned staff-on-loan visits over that period as well. Country visits to tsunami-affected countries will be funded out of the consolidated tsunami emergency and recovery plan of action 28/04 issued on 6 May 2005.

Reporting capacity at national society level remains low. There are reporting focal points in just two of the six national societies in the region. This leads to a heavy reliance on county delegations/Federation representatives. As has been previously reported, the short-term focus on the regional programme is to bring delegation reporting capacities up to speed, as only then can national society capacities be improved. It is impossible for the regional programme to micro-manage reporting methods and practices at national society level. The day-to-day interaction with country delegations is where this needs to be achieved.

Reporting capacity at delegation level has been boosted in some countries. The Sri Lanka delegation has had a full-time reporting delegate since the tsunami while Afghanistan has had a short-term reporting consultant since April. The India delegation's reporting focal point has shed other duties (information and humanitarian values) to allow her to concentrate on her primary task. The Bangladesh and Pakistan delegations both have established reporting focal points. The Federation representative continues to be the focal point in Nepal, though she reports that programme managers in the national society have improved significantly in their input supplied for reports.

The massive increase in reporting requirements in 2005 prevented the regional reporting consultant from undertaking virtually any development work, with nearly all of his time consumed by processing. The addition of an assistant and the tapering off in reporting tsunami reporting requirements should see matters improve for the remainder of the year, with a greater focus on actual reporting development.

### **Outputs**

In the first four months of the year, the regional organizational development programme was forced to provide increased level of support to the tsunami-affected countries, particularly in assisting with the plans for establishing a national society in the Maldives and identify clear and relevant organisational development activities and progress measurement tools in Sri Lanka.

However, efforts were made to keep the balance of organizational development activities in the region, and to continue supporting the national societies which have not been directly affected by the tsunami but have had needs of their own. Apart from ongoing technical support to country delegations and national societies, an agreement was reached with the national societies of Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan on implementing the existing resource mobilization plans and strategies. These areas will continue to represent the main focus of the annual organizational development programme.

### **Constraints**

In order to maintain the relevance of organizational development programmes in a drastically changed environment, the regional organizational development plans for 2005 had to be reviewed and a number of

activities cancelled or reduced following the tsunami. The disaster also meant that the affected countries have been given priority in the first months of the year. However, a balanced support to all national societies in the region has already been re-established and a clear focus of the programme for the remainder of the year re-defined.

High turnover of national society staff in some countries represents a major obstacle for a consistent development work.

The massive increase in reporting requirements as a result of the tsunami precluded the regional planning and reporting project from doing much development work, with the reporting consultant tied to Delhi for much of the time. However, the appointment of an assistant and a tapering off in tsunami-related reporting requirements should allow for most of the planned development activities to take place before the end of the year. As a result of being unable to carry out planned development work, expenditure for this project has been exceptionally low. Taking into account funding from the tsunami appeal, the operational budget for this project will be reduced significantly.

## **Representation, Implementation and Management**

### **Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships**

As indicated above in the separate programme reports, the impact on SARD of the extensive tsunami relief and recovery operation in the region has been very significant at all levels. Considerable SARD resources were targeted to the tsunami operations in the Maldives and Sri Lanka from the very first day and this engagement continued throughout this reporting period. This unexpected refocus inevitably occurred at the expense of many planned regional activities as indicated below.

The regional delegation is currently situated in Delhi, and the ongoing lack of a legal status agreement in India has brought into question whether it could remain in that country. For the majority of the reporting period there was great uncertainty over the regional delegation's location and initial contingency plans were drawn up regarding moving elsewhere in the region. The Federation is continuing to negotiate with the Indian government and a decision was made in early May that SARD would remain in India for at least the remainder of 2005.

The ongoing partnership with Finnish and German Red Cross, whose two delegates are part of the delegation team, has continued this year. Due in part to the continuing uncertainty over the future host country for SARD, these placements may not be continued once the incumbents' missions finish (June for the Finnish Red Cross delegate and August for the German Red Cross delegate). This issue is still under discussion. This limitation has also precluded the planned expansion of this arrangement to other partners who had expressed interest.

Since the beginning of the year, the delegation has hosted the consultant editor of the World Disasters Report. This arrangement has provided him with the opportunity to be 'closer to the field', closer to national societies, and the delegation has benefited from his advice and experience in a wide range of communications related issues.

The SARD regional team meeting held in March included a one-day joint session with the five ICRC cooperation delegates covering the Federation South Asia geographic region. The meeting also included the Geneva-based ICRC head of cooperation for the Asia Pacific sector. This was the first meeting of its kind and provided a successful platform for exchange of information and views. This initiative will be continued.

The regionally coordinated long-term programme proposal for scaling up of HIV/AIDS programmes, in partnership with Swedish Red Cross, was approved by SIDA. This will provide vital support to combat this critical threat. Further details can be found in the health section above.

The tsunami meeting in Hong Kong in March was attended by national societies from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and the Federation heads of delegations from India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and SARD. This was an excellent opportunity to strengthen existing partnerships and negotiate new ones. The presence of the minister of planning and development of the Maldives government was very useful as he was able to see the benefits of a national society being formed in the Maldives.

### **Effective representation and advocacy**

Efforts to secure a legal status agreement in India have intensified during this period; however, the continuing lack of such an agreement continues to hamper the regional delegation's day-to-day functions in Delhi. By contrast, in the Maldives, a status agreement was concluded on 1 March after only five weeks of negotiation.

The regionally recruited information manager, who was employed in mid-2004, was deployed to the Sri Lanka tsunami emergency operation; however, he did not return to his regional duties thereafter and resigned abruptly in February leaving a gap in the communications capacity at regional level which is yet to be filled.

Promotion to national society staff and leadership of the importance of gender balance has been a priority of SARD programme managers. This is beginning to pay off with a greater awareness of gender issues becoming apparent in national societies. However, there is a long way to go and this must remain a priority advocacy activity. The organizational development programme will conduct a baseline survey of women's involvement in programme activities in South Asia (with funding support of the Finnish Red Cross).

The 26 December tsunami and the ensuing operation in South Asia came five months after the severe floods in South Asia, and reinforced that the Federation and national societies in the region are key players in disaster response. The Federation and national societies were able to provide information to the media, the public, diplomatic missions and other aid organizations.

With the huge snowfall in the Himalayas this year, and the usual monsoon expected from late May to August, it is being predicted by some meteorologists and hydrologists that if the heavy snow melt and monsoon rains coincide, serious flooding is likely. The regional disaster management department prepared a paper at the request of the vice chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society. Being a member of parliament, he spoke of this paper in the Indian parliament and also drew it to the prime minister's attention.

### **International disaster response**

The importance placed by SARD over the last three years on development of RDRT was vindicated during the early days of the tsunami response. Trained RDRT members were deployed in key positions in the Maldives and Sri Lanka and were among the first outside responders. Their work in Sri Lanka was highly appreciated by the Sri Lanka Red Cross. In the Maldives, which has no national society, three members took lead roles in working with a small FACT to form a very effective blend of regional and global expertise. Their early and professional response was much appreciated by the Maldivian authorities. The clear lesson is that development of RDRT must be expanded both in numbers and in areas of sectoral expertise.

### **Governance support**

The head of regional delegation continued his administration and advisory role to the vice president of the Federation, who is based in New Delhi.

The head of regional delegation visited Sri Lanka twice during this period, once with the head of the Asia and Pacific department, to lend support to the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society chairman and national secretary. In addition, the visit of the president of the Federation to Sri Lanka in the first half of January provided a great boost for the moral of governance, management and volunteers of the Sri Lanka Red Cross.

At the end of April, the new Afghanistan Red Crescent Society president came to New Delhi for a familiarization visit and it was a good opportunity for her to learn about the regional support to the Afghanistan Red Crescent and the other resources available to support further in the future.

### **Delegation management**

A SARD team meeting held in March was attended by the regional officer from Geneva. The impact of the tsunami operation on regional activities and on funding of appeals in non-affected countries was a key issue discussed as was the level and type of support required by delegations from SARD.

The increasing operational difficulties associated with the lack of a legal status agreement in India have hampered the work of the delegation and the dominant management issue during this period was the continuing uncertainty surrounding the future location of the SARD office. Key problem areas have been: staff recruitment, retention and

contract extensions, office and house contract renewals, vehicle purchase, and administrative issues. The expansion in SARD capacity necessitated by the demands of the tsunami operation has been curtailed due to these limitations in recruiting regional or national staff when their location is uncertain.

The SARD human resources project has been one such casualty due to the deployment of the human resources officer to a delegate position in Sri Lanka. Since recruitment of a replacement has not been possible, there has been little progress in this area this year.

Previous investment in development of national society and Federation staff in the region has paid off with as many as 15 South Asian delegates in the field at present, many of them in the tsunami operation. Two staff members from the Bangladesh Red Crescent attended a delegates' basic training course hosted by Japanese Red Cross in March.

The SARD reporting team has been strengthened in the short term with the addition of a second person sourced from the local expatriate community. She has extensive previous Federation experience.

The regional programme coordinator and in particular the head of regional delegation have been actively involved in providing a significant level of direct support to management of the tsunami operation in Maldives and Sri Lanka requiring extensive travel to those countries.

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

# South Asia Regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05AA051

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

14/06/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					3,642,801	TOTAL COVERAGE 61.7%	
OPENING BALANCE				242,839			
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT				361,500	01.01.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS	
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		22,000	EUR	33,968	30.05.05	DELEGATE, WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN RC ACTIVITIES	
GERMAN - RC		100,000	EUR	153,950	07.12.04	DELEGATION RELOCATION	
SWEDISH - RC		500,000	SEK	85,500	29.03.05	HUMANITARIAN VALUES, DISASTER MANAGEMENT, HEALTH & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
SWEDISH - RC		400,000	SEK	68,400	29.03.05	HIV/AIDS	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,400,000	SEK	239,400	29.03.05	HUMANITARIAN VALUES, DISASTER MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
SWEDISH - GOVT		2,750,000	SEK	983,250	29.03.05	HIV/AIDS	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2,168,807	CHF		59.5%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			73,000		
ICELAND	DELEGATE(S)			5,400		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				78,400	CHF	2.2%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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