

# 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

## **PAN AMERICAN DISASTER RESPONSE UNIT (PADRU)**

18 July 2006

*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.*

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### **In Brief**

**Appeal No. MAA42001; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: 1 January to 31 May 2006; Appeal coverage: 19.8% of Appeal target for 2006-2007 and 40.1% of budgeted amount for 2006; Outstanding needs based on total Appeal 2006 - 2007: CHF 4,361,836 (USD 3,484,013 or EUR 2,785,433).**

*(click here to go directly to the attached Interim Financial Report)*

**Appeal target: CHF 5,439,498 (USD 4,215,753 or EUR 3,528,242) for 2006-2007 covering a two-year period; of this amount, the budget for 2006 is CHF 2,687,331 (USD 2,146,405 or EUR 1,716,623).**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Central America Annual Appeal 2006-2007 (MAA43001); Caribbean Annual Appeal 2006-2007 (MAA49001); South America Annual Appeal 2006-2007 (MAA46001); Suriname: Floods (Appeal MDRSR001).**

**Programme summary: PADRU has been active during the reporting period in responding to the unexpectedly heavy floods in seven countries throughout the region, caused by unseasonably severe and long-lasting rains. A total of CHF 598,000 was allocated through the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to operations in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Suriname – with an Appeal for CHF 854,305 successfully launched in response to the flooding in Suriname. Technical support was also provided for the relief operation in Guyana. Overall, emergency assistance has been provided to over 10,042 families (an estimated 50,510 beneficiaries). PADRU deployed six delegates and coordinated the deployment of ten regional Intervention Team (RIT) members, as well as ensuring on-going logistical and technical support.**

**The increased use of RIT members has been one of the key focuses of PADRU activity – with an emphasis on regular deployments and training. Four training sessions were held, covering Team Leader training, IT and Telecommunications, Water and Sanitation, and Health in Emergencies. Furthermore, efforts have been made to standardize procedures, briefings and kit provision to RIT members. In addition to the ten RIT members deployed in emergency operations, a further six RIT members were sent to assist with disaster management activities during the period.**

**PADRU has also continued to support National Societies still engaged in operations following the unusually active 2005 hurricane season – with relief and rehabilitation activities on-going in Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua. Lessons learned and preparations for the up-coming period were addressed during the annual 2006 pre-hurricane meeting, which was held in St. Lucia in May.**

**Implementation of activities financed through ECHO Programmatic Funding has been concluded, enabling the Federation and its partners to increase the level of coordination during operations and enhance the level of disaster preparedness of National Societies in the Caribbean.**

**The first half of the year saw a number of firsts for PADRU, in particular with the regional coordination of in-kind donation mobilization, previously managed from the Federation Secretariat headquarters. PADRU also facilitated the coordination of the emergency shelter sector during the Suriname flood operation.**

**In summary, the period was marked by a scaling-up of activities at various levels: in terms of PADRU involvement in disaster response - both large and small - with National Societies; in terms of increased RIT training and deployment; in terms of the effectiveness of regional cooperation; and in terms of the availability of pre-positioned stock, which is expected to reach its target capacity of 25,000 families (from the previous capacity of 15,000 families) by the end of July, in anticipation of the 2006 hurricane season.**

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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**

Unseasonably heavy rains throughout much of the Andean region and areas along the Atlantic coast of South America have marked the first five months of 2006. The resulting flooding has necessitated relief operations of varying sizes in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname. PADRU has been very active during the reporting period in responding immediately to all of these disasters – both larger and smaller-scale – and has been providing operational and logistical support to National Societies in a quick and flexible manner, according to needs.

As the focal point for disaster response in the Americas, PADRU also continued to activate and coordinate the technical response tools at global and regional levels. Six requests for Disaster Response Emergency Funding (DREF) were submitted and a total of CHF 598,000 was allocated. In addition, an Emergency Appeal for CHF 854,305 was launched in response to the flooding in Suriname. Emergency operations undertaken over the period by National Societies with direct PADRU support have assisted over 10,042 families (approximately 50,510 beneficiaries).

One of the key developments over the reporting period has been the added emphasis on Regional Intervention Team (RIT) deployments as a matter of course in the Federation's disaster response activities. Ten RIT members were involved in five of the seven disasters in which PADRU supported National Society emergency response operations throughout the Americas. These deployments have been backed-up by more frequent training – four training sessions were organized between January and May 2006 – as well as the provision of standardized kits to RIT members, and the organization of briefing and de-briefing sessions at PADRU. For the first time, the French Red Cross's Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas – Caribbean (PIRAC) based in Guadeloupe, was fully integrated into a Federation operation, in response to the flooding in Suriname. PADRU has also increased the frequency of RIT internships, with at least two RIT members working at any given time as part of the team. As a

result, National Societies throughout the region have become more familiar with standard Federation operating procedures and are increasingly sharing best practice with each other.

The above reflects PADRU's strengthened role in enhancing inter-regional and organizational collaboration – in particular through PADRU's centralized warehousing and logistics capacity, on behalf of the Federation as well as a number of Participating National Societies (PNS). PADRU's capacity to deliver relief goods through pre-positioned non-food relief supplies is being enhanced to assist 25,000 families – an increase of 66% from the previous year's capacity of 15,000 families. The Federation's ECHO-funded stocks are being supplemented by pre-positioned stocks managed by PADRU on behalf of the American, British, Canadian and The Netherlands Red Cross Societies.

In addition to responding to the series of floods in early 2006, PADRU has also been following-up on the active hurricane season from 2005, in particular in the aftermath of Hurricanes Stan and Wilma. Distributions of non-food relief items were completed in Haiti and Guatemala, and disaster preparedness activities are being pursued in Mexico and Cuba.

National Societies are making increased use of PADRU resources – including RIT members – during both large and smaller-scale disasters. This has put pressure on the Unit to improve its own internal administrative and operational practices. Much effort has been expended during the first part of the year to re-structure PADRU's internal finance and administration services.

PADRU continues to participate actively in the regional coordination meetings of UN agencies such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other international agencies, which are held in Panama on a monthly basis. These meetings provide an opportunity to share information and best practice, and ensure operational inter-agency coordination during disasters. PADRU also provides assistance to international Federation operations outside the Americas when needed, and deployed a Disaster Management Delegate to Geneva during the early stages of the Indonesia earthquake operation in May 2006.

The early part of the year saw a smooth transition of key Federation staff throughout the Americas – including the arrival of a new PADRU Coordinator. The high level of activity in RIT training and deployments, and in responding to the smaller 'forgotten' disasters throughout the Americas, has required a scaling-up of key human resources within PADRU, in line with PADRU's aim to remain flexible in response to operational needs – by expanding or contracting its resources simply and effectively, and making optimum use of regional resources through RITs.

### **Disaster management**

**Goal: Red Cross National Societies in the Americas are receiving significant benefit through support, services, coordination, resources and training from an efficient and effective disaster management unit that contributes to increasing the capacity to successfully help people reduce risk, respond to and recover from disasters, thus alleviating human suffering.**

### **Disaster Response**

**Objective: At the request of the regional delegations, PADRU is delivering to National Societies in times of disaster, trained human resources, essential relief supplies, professional technical and coordination services that strengthen, enhance and, if necessary, augment their own emergency response capacities and assist in the transition from relief to rehabilitation.**

### **Expected Results**

*The Americas' disaster response system is effectively coordinated by PADRU in collaboration with the regional delegations, and in coordination with Participating National Societies (PNS), the UN system and other relevant disaster response stakeholders.*

## Progress/Achievements

Between January and the end of May 2006, PADRU supported seven emergency operations throughout the region – all flood-related, due to an unusually long and heavy rainy season. In total, CHF 598,000 has been allocated to six emergency operations from the Federation’s Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF), and one Appeal was successfully launched for CHF 854,305 in response to the floods in Suriname. In the context of these operations, PADRU deployed six delegates and ten RIT team members (including the four-member PIRAC team), and 26 National Intervention Team (NIT) members were deployed directly by their National Societies as part of in-country responses. Furthermore, three air shipments of goods were sent to Suriname within days of the emergency – a first such delivery of in-kind contributions to be activated regionally from PADRU using the Humanitarian Logistics Software (HLS) mobilization table.

The table below summarizes PADRU-supported emergency responses during the reporting period:

Emergency (January-May 2006)	Deployment	DREF / Appeal (CHF)	Total affected Families / (Individuals)	Federation-supported response - Number of beneficiary families / (beneficiaries) <sup>1</sup>
Peru	PADRU (1) RIT (1)	50,000	2,262 (11,310)	1,000 (5,000)
Ecuador	PADRU (1) RIT (1) NIT (17)	80,000	5,014 (22,480)	1,600 (8,000)
Suriname	PADRU (1) Netherlands Red Cross (2) RIT (6) : <i>PIRAC Team (4)</i> <i>RIT (2)</i>	Appeal – 854,305 (of which DREF - 100,000)	5,000 (25,000)	4,000 (20,000)
Argentina	NIT (5)	100,000	1,000 (5,000)	300 (1,800)
Colombia	RIT (1)	160,000	67,976 (325,775)	8,639 / (43,195) <i>of whom 1,062 / (5,310) reached with DREF</i>
Guyana	PADRU (1)	-	5,000 (25,000)	80 (400)
Bolivia	NIT (4) PADRU (2)	108,000	25,215 (126,075)	2,000 (10,000)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>PADRU (6) RIT (10) NIT (26)</b>	<b>Appeal: 854,305 DREF: 598,000</b>	<b>111,467 (540,640)</b>	<b>17,619<sup>2</sup> (94,395) 10,042<sup>3</sup> (50,510)</b>

### Floods in Peru

<sup>1</sup> Unless specifically reported, the number of beneficiaries is based on an estimate of 5 members per family.

<sup>2</sup> Includes total number of families (beneficiaries) assisted in Colombia through Red Cross relief activities.

<sup>3</sup> Includes only those families (beneficiaries) assisted directly through DREF funding, as part of the wider Colombian Red Cross operation.

During the first months of the year, torrential rains, electric storms, thunderstorms and strong winds affected 2,262 people and displaced 325 people; in addition 65 houses were destroyed and a further 466 were damaged in the northern area of Peru. PADRU's Disaster Response Delegate coordinated field assessments, together with the Relief Coordinator of the Peruvian Red Cross (Tumbes Branch), local authorities and the Peruvian Civil Defense. A plan of action was presented by the Peruvian Red Cross, the Lima Regional Delegation and PADRU, and CHF 50,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member from the Honduran Red Cross provided operational support to the Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) for a period of one month, in March, and supported response activities as set out in the PRC's plan of action. This included the coordination of beneficiary selection, provision of logistics support, and training in health and hygiene promotion activities. Relief distribution of mosquito nets, jerry cans and water purification tablets was undertaken to benefit 1,000 families. Volunteer training focused on community education (including group dynamics) and SPHERE standards, with particular focus on the areas of water and sanitation and hygiene. This was followed by community awareness-raising activities which reached 654 people in three communities.

### ***Floods in Ecuador***

Heavy rains leading to flooding have, to date, affected 22,480 people (5,014 families) in six of Ecuador's coastal provinces, since early February. The Federation released CHF 80,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund to provide emergency food relief to 1,600 families in the affected areas. A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member from the Dominican Red Cross was deployed to the field in March, along with a PADRU Disaster Management Delegate, to support the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) and to facilitate cooperation with other humanitarian organizations. A plan of action was put together by the ERC, with support from the Federation.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross Branches in the affected regions responded to the disaster with evacuation and search and rescue operations, needs assessments, water and sanitation activities, food relief and the provision of primary health care. Furthermore, the National Relief Coordination Department activated 17 National Intervention Team (NIT) members in support of the Branches.

### ***Floods in Suriname***

Although natural disasters are rare in the country, torrential rainfall in Suriname since the beginning of May 2006 has caused flooding in the interior of the country, with approximately 25,000-30,000 km<sup>2</sup> under water. It is estimated that 25,000 people have been affected by the rising water levels, with the most severe damage concentrated along the riverbanks in the south and southeast of the country. The rainy season in Suriname continues until the end of July and further increased water levels are expected. Shortages of clean water and food are anticipated over the next few months, as normal supply routes have been severely disrupted.



**Relief goods are downloaded for distribution to the affected by the floods in Suriname**

In early May 2006, the Government declared a disaster zone in the affected areas and approximately 1,800 people were evacuated. The Ministry of Health's "Medical Crisis Team" conducted a detailed assessment covering 65 villages. Based on the advice of the Suriname Red Cross (SRC), it was agreed that water and sanitation interventions, food relief, basic shelter and hygiene items were a priority. CHF 100,000 in Disaster Relief Emergency Funds were allocated and the Federation subsequently issued an Emergency Appeal on 15 May 2006, seeking CHF 854,305 (USD 706,309 OR EUR 550,346) in cash, kind or services to assist 4,000 families (20,000 beneficiaries) for a period of five months.

A Federation team - consisting of a Disaster Management Delegate from PADRU as team leader, two Relief Delegates (Netherlands Red Cross) and a four-member Water and Sanitation Regional Intervention Team from PIRAC (French Red Cross) - was deployed in May 2006 in support of the National Society, along with two RIT-trained personnel from the SRC.

Within days of the emergency being declared, PADRU had organized three shipments of relief goods by air, with another plane chartered by PIRAC. Hygiene parcels from PADRU's pre-positioned stocks were distributed during May, in parallel with the distribution of food parcels procured locally by the Suriname Red Cross. Additional PADRU-procured food parcels are being distributed in June and July, using the same distribution pipeline as for the hygiene parcels. These are being supplemented with 25kg bags of rice procured locally. This intervention is intended to support the most affected persons, as it is anticipated that the seasonal planting of crops will be delayed due to prolonged soil saturation. This was also the first time that the Federation's logistics mobilization table for contributions in-kind has been fully activated and managed from the region.

A shelter pack of plastic sheeting (which can be used on roofs, as well as on the floors as the ground is still very wet) and basic tools will be provided to assist 2,500 families to make necessary repairs, so that they have shelter from further rains. 2,000 plastic sheets have been supplied from PIRAC stocks and the balance from PADRU. 500 tool kits (1 for every 5 families) were purchased locally and distribution will commence in mid-June. Some 20 volunteers from the Suriname Red Cross were provided with shelter training, focusing on the optimum use of plastic sheeting.

The joint PIRAC/RIT water and sanitation team has begun implementing a water-related health promotion campaign, including the development, design, printing, distribution and dissemination of posters and flyers. Campaign messages are being broadcast on local television and radio. Training has been provided to 20 staff and volunteers of the Suriname Red Cross, for deployment to the affected areas as of mid-June to disseminate information on basic health issues related to the safe use of water and personal hygiene practices. On-going monitoring will be carried out by the staff and volunteers of the Suriname Red Cross.

It is also important to highlight the fact that the Suriname flood operation afforded the Federation the opportunity to facilitate emergency shelter coordination. A plan of action and standard assistance package was established by the Federation and used by all agencies involved in shelter response.

### ***Floods in Argentina***

Heavier than normal rainfall caused significant flooding in Argentina, most particularly in the remote north-east of the country, covering an area of 250,000 km<sup>2</sup> - thereby isolating a number of communities and complicating assessments. The rainy season, which began at the end of 2005, intensified significantly in March. It is estimated that more than 1,000 families have been affected, with some 1,500 people evacuated, of which approximately 850 remain in shelters - many with no possibility of returning to their homes due to the serious damage suffered. At least 150 homes and several bridges have been destroyed. Among the most affected are aboriginal communities - already presenting a high level of vulnerability, due to long term social problems.

Two members of the Argentine Red Cross (ARC) National Intervention Team (NIT) and technical staff were deployed to the area to conduct an assessment of the situation and draw up a plan of action in support of the relief operations. The objective was to support 1,800 people over a period of 30 days, with priority needs identified in the areas of drinking water, personal hygiene kits, cleaning kits, kitchen kits and milk.

To support the plan of action, CHF 100,000 (USD 78,417 or EUR 63,517) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund.

As of the end of April 2006, procurement of relief items had been completed and distribution is now underway for the provision of personal hygiene kits and cleaning kits to 300 families, as well as 20,000 diapers for evacuated families with children of less than two years of age.

Furthermore, three NIT members have been deployed to support and train ARC volunteers in water and sanitation (domestic hygiene and safe water issues) and disaster preparedness, as well as to provide support in warehouse management. The aim is to improve the health conditions of 500 people staying in temporary shelters through the promotion of preventative measures related to water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS and dengue, and to strengthen their resilience through community-based psychosocial support.

PADRU continues to monitor the situation, coordinate actions and provide technical support to the ARC in its humanitarian relief activities.

### ***Floods in Colombia***

The 2006 rainy season in Colombia has seen an unusual increase in rainfall levels, over an extended period of time, most particularly in a number of Departments in the Andean region, the Piedemonte plains and along the Caribbean coast. A total of 67,976 families (325,775 people) have been affected by flooding. Furthermore, 1,527 homes have been destroyed and 24,518 damaged throughout 316 municipalities – affecting 29% of the country to date. Around 60% of those affected are farming families, with the rest living in difficult-to-access semi-rural regions, flood zones and under-privileged urban areas.

To date, the Colombian Red Cross Society (CRC) has assisted 8,639 out of a projected 10,000 families, providing emergency food and non-food relief goods such as sheets, foam mattresses, cooking utensils and hygiene articles. The CRC has been an active partner with each of the 24 Regional Committees for Prevention and Response to Disasters (CREPAD). The National Society has participated in preliminary surveys, evacuation to safe areas, needs assessment and humanitarian relief activities. All activities to date have been carried out with the active participation of 700 volunteers and 80 staff members.



**Relief supplies arrive in Chocó, Colombia**

CHF 160,000 (USD 132,642 or EUR 103,320) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund for the overall operation, which is being implemented over three months, and will be completed in late August 2006. This was to assist 1,000 families; however, due to careful management of the funds, distribution of food and non-food relief goods is underway to a total of 1,062 families.

PADRU continues to monitor the situation together with the CRC and mobilized a RIT member from Chile to support the relief operation for one month, as from mid-May. It is foreseen that such RIT deployments also provide an opportunity for the Chilean Red Cross to further develop its capacities in disaster response, thanks to strengthened inter-regional links and the experience acquired in working first-hand within a National Society with strong capacities in the area.

### ***Floods in Guyana***

Since November 2005, Guyana has been experiencing heavy rainfall along coastal areas, as well as inland, resulting in rising water levels in both reservoirs and rivers. This prolonged heavy rainfall has resulted in flooding in six regions, affecting 12,000 families (35,000 people). It is estimated that 5,000 people have been displaced and 4,900 hectares of crops lost. On 28 January, the Government of Guyana officially declared two regions as disaster areas.

PADRU deployed a Disaster Management delegate to assist with the flood emergency in early February, in support of the Guyana Red Cross Society (GRCS). Immediate needs were met by the GRCS through unsolicited donations and existing stock. The GRCS distributed 80 food hampers, 100 mosquito nets, 32 hygiene kits, and initiated preparation/training for antibiotics distribution in the treatment of Leptospirosis.

On-going activities are focusing on non-food distribution to people remaining in shelters: first-aid kits, blankets, clothes, rubber boots for children, and household clean-up kits. The GRCS is also finalizing local procurement arrangements in anticipation of the need for future supplementary food distributions, should the heavy rainfall persist. The GRCS is pursuing health awareness activities in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). No DREF funding has been requested to date.

### ***Floods in Bolivia***

Torrential rains fell during January and February over several areas of Bolivia, causing mudslides and flooding in many cities and rural communities across the country. According to the latest available figures from the Bolivian Civil Defence, some 25,215 families have been affected. There has also been significant damage to agriculture,

livestock, houses, roads and infrastructure. The Bolivian Government declared a national emergency on 27 January 2006.

The Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) has been actively involved in the Bolivian Government's National Plan, in coordination with other humanitarian organizations – specifically in coordinating the assessment and relief activities in the Department of Beni. BRC Branches throughout the country also supported evaluations carried out by organizations working in other areas. In addition, the BRC coordinated the collection of food and clothing donations from the Bolivian public at the national level. These goods were distributed by local BRC Branches to the affected population.

All actions carried out by the BRC across the country have had the active participation of about 600 volunteers, among them four members of the National Intervention team (NIT), highly qualified and experienced in rescue and assessment operations. Two members of the BRC relief department are also members of the Regional Intervention Team and were able to bring their regional experience and expertise to this operation.

The Federation released CHF 108,000 (USD 83,837 or EUR 69,462) to the Bolivian Red Cross from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund at the onset of this emergency. With these funds, the BRC has coordinated activities in affected municipalities within the department of Beni, as specified in the National Society's plan of action. The Bolivian Red Cross carried out the relief distributions in mid-February for 2,000 families, with a particular focus on indigenous communities. The 45 kg food packages contained: sugar, pasta, oil, salt, lentils and flour. Hygiene kits were also distributed at this time.

In addition, a team of volunteers provided psychosocial support to more than 23 children in 15 families. The BRC is increasing its capacity to respond to disasters through training, capacity building and awareness campaigns. With support from PADRU's Water and Sanitation Delegate, the BRC has drawn up a proposal for ECHO, to assist 2,820 families in the community of Reyes, focusing on water and sanitation. BRC plans to continue working with these communities through the rehabilitation phase to decrease their vulnerability to future disasters.

The BRC has been working closely with the Federation, which is providing technical support through PADRU and the Lima Regional Delegation. The BRC is also coordinating activities with the German, Spanish and Swiss Red Cross Societies. Replenishment of DREF by un-earmarked contributions is welcome and needed.

#### ***Monitoring and alert activities***

PADRU is actively monitoring developments throughout the region, especially with the onset of the 2006 hurricane season in June. All relevant alert systems are followed on a daily basis and PADRU remains in a state of readiness for immediate deployment. Close contact is maintained with National Societies for impending disasters.

In this regard, a close watch is being kept on developments related to the heavier than normal rainy season throughout the region, as well as on the Galeras volcano in Colombia (near the border with Ecuador) with the two National Societies affected (see information bulletin no. 1, Colombia: Galeras Volcano Eruption published on 12 July).

#### ***Ongoing operations from hurricane season 2005***

The 2005 hurricane season was one of the most active and destructive seasons registered, with a total of 27 named storms - eight of which made landfall in the Central America and Caribbean regions. Furthermore, the season lasted well into November, with operations continuing into the first half of 2006, and beyond in some cases.

PADRU worked with the affected National Societies to provide immediate response in the wake of these disasters, as well as on-going support during the recovery and rehabilitation phases, primarily through the Panama Regional Delegation. Four emergency appeals were launched in response to hurricanes, to assist some 171,000 families in the ten worst affected countries: Bahamas, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico and Nicaragua. Of these, operations are on-going in Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico and Cuba, focusing on rehabilitation programmes, reinforcing disaster preparedness, providing training activities, and assisting in the on-going procurement of equipment and relief items in affected areas.

Following Hurricane Stan (1-5 October), the Red Cross Societies of Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua have completed their food and non-food distributions, and most families have now returned to their homes. In Haiti, distribution of non-food items was completed by the end of April 2006. In Guatemala, the country hardest hit by this disaster, approximately 1,100 affected families remain in two shelters, while many others are staying in the homes of friends or relatives. Due to the complexity and scope of the operations in Guatemala, the appeal period has been extended to 31 December 2006. The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) is now transitioning from the emergency to the rehabilitation phase of the operation. A comprehensive rehabilitation plan has been developed and includes activities in community health, HIV/AIDS awareness, psychosocial support, water and sanitation, disaster preparedness and capacity building.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Wilma (20-24 October), PADRU continues to work with the Mexican Red Cross, supported by American Red Cross and in coordination with the Panama Regional Delegation, to develop disaster preparedness programmes. At the request of the Cuban Red Cross, PADRU will also be providing technical support for a workshop in disaster response and recovery for provincial relief directors. During the reporting period, non-food items shipped by sea from PADRU reached Havana, including: 500 kitchen sets; 35,000 zinc sheets; 1,400 kg of nails; 300 jerry cans and National Intervention Team (NIT) equipment. Furthermore, financial and technical assistance was provided for the local procurement of radio equipment, 400 bed sheets, 100 sanitation modules and 400 family towels. Operations in the Bahamas have been completed.

Final operational and financial reporting was also completed for Hurricane Beta operations (26-31 October) - which affected the Colombian islands of Providencia and San Andrés and the eastern coast of Nicaragua - as well as for Tropical Storm Gamma (14-24 November), which cut-off several communities along the Caribbean coast of Honduras. This included the procurement of equipment for the Nicaraguan Red Cross (one outboard engine, radio equipment and equipment for NIT members) and the distribution of relief items in Honduras (1,000 hygiene kits, 1,000 kitchen sets and 1,000 food parcels). Throughout the Gamma emergency, the Honduran Red Cross maintained close coordination with PADRU in order to assess the situation and ensure appropriate response.

### **Impact**

Seven National Societies in the Americas received support for their emergency relief operations from PADRU during the reporting period. DREF funding was allocated for six of the seven operations, thereby facilitating a fast and flexible response to immediate needs and providing assistance to over 10,042 families (over 50,510 beneficiaries). RIT deployments have become a standard part of emergency response operations – in assessment, planning and relief activities – thereby strengthening cross-regional collaboration, facilitating sharing of best practice and promoting human resource development. Delivery of relief goods has been enhanced thanks to pre-positioned stocks and the regional management of the logistics mobilization table.

Regional collaboration has been strengthened - namely with PIRAC (French Red Cross) - and through the management of pre-positioned stock on behalf of Participating National Societies, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of relief efforts. Support for follow-up activities relating to the 2005 hurricane season has continued, with the transition to rehabilitation activities undertaken in most cases.

These operations – in particular the Suriname Flood operation - have continued to afford PADRU the opportunity to test and evaluate management and operational disaster response mechanisms, systems, tools, procedures and effectiveness (including human resources) in deployments.

### **Constraints**

By its very nature, disaster response defies the best laid plans. This is made all the more difficult when most funding received by PADRU remains activity-specific. Additional non-earmarked funds would provide PADRU with the necessary flexibility to ensure better preparedness and ever more effective response in the face of disasters.

In particular, the area of water and sanitation within PADRU requires further development, especially given the nature of disasters to which the Americas are prone. At present, there is only one local staff member within the unit in Panama to coordinate all activities in this area.

## Disaster Response Preparedness

**Objective: At the request of the regional delegations, PADRU is contributing through technical support to the strengthening of the capacities of National Societies to reduce risk, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. Disaster preparedness and response mechanisms will be improved through systematic early warning, disaster monitoring and information sharing mechanisms.**

*1. The National Society disaster preparedness and response plans are established according to vulnerability indicators, updated in line with the National Society strategic plan and national disaster plans, and the impact of their activities measured.*

### *Pre-Hurricane Meeting.*

The 2006 annual Pre-Hurricane Meeting took place in Saint Lucia on 16-21 May 2006. Hosted by the Saint Lucia Red Cross and facilitated by PADRU, the meeting was attended by 24 National Societies representing the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico, ten Overseas Branches, seven Partner National Societies, Federation Secretariat, Panama Regional Delegation and Port of Spain Sub-Regional Office representatives. The Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Netherlands Red Cross Climate Centre and Ericsson Response were also in attendance.

The objectives of the meeting were to assess and identify the 2005 operational challenges, review the lessons learned, scale-up disaster management capacities and analyze new challenges in disaster management. There was a consensus at all levels as regards the need to enhance livelihoods programmes by the National Societies. Other conclusions reached included: the need to scale-up local capacity by using National Society disaster funds; improve experience-sharing through the Centres of Reference; hold more training of carefully-selected NITS volunteers and scale-up RITs deployments; reinforce integration of the National Societies within national disaster response plans; update and maintain National Society emergency response plans; and continue applying and developing Damage and Needs Assessment (DANA) and Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) tools.

### *Container Project*

PADRU has continued providing support, together with the Port of Spain Sub-Regional Office, to the container project funded primarily by the Japanese and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, which consists of pre-positioning stocks, retrofitting containers and providing telecommunications equipment, in order to support National Societies throughout the Caribbean, so that they are in a position to ensure rapid and effective response to disasters as soon as they occur.

### *ECHO thematic and programmatic funding*

The European Union, through the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) has supported the International Federation to “strengthen disaster management capacity in the Caribbean region”, through specific programme funding. Technical implementation and overall responsibility for the programme has been entrusted to PADRU. This seeks primarily to build the capacity of the National Societies, by strengthening the internal and external coordination mechanisms between the National Societies in the region and supporting Partner National Societies. The ECHO programmatic funding programme has enabled PADRU to scale-up its telecommunications equipment and relief stocks, and to ensure increased training and coordination amongst National Societies. The reestablishment of the Caribbean Disaster Management Network as a focal group has been a key element in implementation of Federation-promoted Disaster Management systems and procedures, under this programme.

In November 2005, ECHO adopted a thematic funding decision to strengthen the humanitarian response to natural disasters through support to the Red Cross disaster management programmes. Under this funding agreement, PADRU is benefiting from a portion of the EUR 3.5 million allocated to the International Federation, as part of a global programme to invest in measures focusing on disaster management and contingency planning, community preparedness, coordination and cooperation. The programme includes topics such as resources and tools, logistics, procurement, training and information management.

## ***2. National Societies' response mechanisms are standardized and are in line with the Americas disaster response system.***

As part of the International Federation's disaster response system, the network in the Americas groups together 35 National Societies and 16 Overseas Branches, PADRU, the Panama and Lima Regional Delegations, the Regional Finance Unit, the Regional Reporting Unit, the Sub-Regional Offices in Buenos Aires and Port of Spain, and Partner National Societies. Through the disaster response system, the International Federation installs logistics systems, mobilizes international resources and organizes the preparations for disaster management and response. When a disaster occurs, the entire system is alerted. As a focal point for disaster response in the Americas, PADRU activates and coordinates the technical response tools at the global and regional level, such as RIT, Field Assessment and Coordination Teams (FACT), Emergency Response Units (ERU) and DREF.

### *Disaster Management capacity*

Enhancement of disaster management capacity is being accomplished through on-going RIT training and an increased emphasis on RIT deployments and inter-National Society collaboration. Regional Intervention Teams are playing an ever more important part in the Federation's response system, while strengthening the capacity of their own National Societies in line with Federation and international standards. Additional details are presented under 'Expected Result 3', below.

Emphasis is also increasingly being placed on strengthening the networking capacities of National Society Disaster Management resources. Through the ECHO programmatic funding, PADRU was able to reactivate the Caribbean Disaster Management Network, organizing three meetings of the network during the reporting period, as follows:

- Trinidad, 9-10 February 2006,
- Trinidad, 23-25 March 2006,
- Saint Lucia, 16 May 2006.

### *IT and Telecommunications*

Activities to strengthen National Society communications in disaster response are being pursued, including through the on-going collaboration with Ericsson Response. Under the agreement entered into with the International Federation, Ericsson Response is providing financial assistance and equipment to support PADRU's operations, aimed at building National Society capacity. An important component of the programme has been to supply National Societies with mobile handsets, to be used in the event of a disaster response operation. National Societies are encouraged to then enter into agreements with local service providers for air time. In this context, twenty handsets were provided to the Guatemalan Red Cross in the aftermath of Hurricane Stan. During the reporting period, pre-positioned cellular telephones have been sent from PADRU to the Red Cross Societies of Dominica (10), St. Kitts and Nevis (10), and Belize (10), and to the St. Lucia (10), Nicaraguan (10), Costa Rican Red Cross (50) and Mexican Red Cross (50) Societies.

Also as part of the Ericsson Response programme, a training curriculum was organized in PADRU to familiarize a specialized group in the appropriate use of the GSM container, which provides GSM coverage to PADRU through the Cable & Wireless network and is available for deployment during emergencies, with on-the-ground assistance from Ericsson technicians.

Plans are also underway to enhance PADRU's internal and external communications capacity.

### *Response and Contingency Planning Guide*

A third and final workshop was held in Belize on 2-6 May with Caribbean National Societies and overseas Red Cross Branches, aimed at finalizing a Response and Contingency Planning Guide – the result of over six months participatory work with 20 National Societies, and involving more than 80 participants, which PADRU has coordinated, under ECHO-funded programming. This tool, developed at the request of National Societies, will now be ready to be disseminated and used in disaster preparedness for contingency planning activities.

### 3. *Skilled regional human resources are ready to respond in the event of disaster, according to Federation standard procedures.*

Strengthening and scaling-up of RIT training and deployment has been one of the key focuses of PADRU activities during the first half of 2006. The overall goal remains to strengthen the disaster response capacity of the Federation system in the American continent, by developing leadership and coordination skills in the existing members of the national, regional and international response network. Selection procedures have been tightened and internships with PADRU for RIT members are taking place on a regular basis – with at least two members integrated into the Unit at any one time. RIT deployment kits have been standardized – and include the provision of basic equipment (i.e. laptop, camera, cellular or satellite phone, vests, etc.). Furthermore, RIT member briefing and de-briefing are now standard procedure for deployments.

#### ***RIT Training***

Four training sessions were undertaken for RIT members during the reporting period, involving 83 participants from over 13 National Societies.

#### ***Team Leader Training***

Recent operations have shown a need for RIT Team Leaders. In order to better meet this challenge, PADRU is striving to improve leadership skills among RIT members. A Team Leader RIT Training was held in Panama between 30 May and 2 June 2006, with 14 participants from six National Societies, as well as representatives from the Federation and the World Food Programme. The training was based on the global Red Cross training modules, adapted for a regional audience. This training session also allowed participants to participate in the United Nations Disaster and Coordination (UNDAC) team training, with joint sessions and discussions on the cluster concept, as well as in a simulation exercise.

#### ***RIT IT and Telecommunications***

A regional IT and Telecommunications workshop was held in Antigua on 23-29 January 2006 with 24 participants from ten National Societies, four Partner National Societies and Ericsson Response. The primary aims were to strengthen the response capacity of the Caribbean National Societies in IT and Telecommunications, to share knowledge, to familiarize participants with the agreement between Ericsson and the Federation (including the Ericsson Response programmes), and to create a core group of IT and Telecommunication human resources, trained and coordinated according to the Federation standards. Trained RIT members have since been deployed on three occasions, in addition to the forthcoming deployment of a RIT member from the Belize Red Cross Society to the Bahamas in June.

#### ***RIT Water and Sanitation***

A RITs Water and Sanitation workshop was held in Panama between 6 and 11 March 2006 with 27 participants from 13 National Societies. The workshop aimed to provide training in water and sanitation, and hygiene promotion in emergencies to personnel of National Societies, Overseas Branches and counterparts in the Americas – with a view to enabling Red Cross technical staff to respond quickly to the public health engineering requirements of an emergency, through better technical know-how, preparedness and improved coordination capacity. Participants were also trained in the use of Federation standard equipment. At the conclusion of the session, the RIT member from the Dominican Red Cross was immediately deployed to the emergency operations in Ecuador.

In order to ensure skills retention, it was recommended that refresher training for water and sanitation RITs be held on an annual basis.

#### ***Health in Emergencies RIT***

A Health in Emergencies RIT Workshop was held in Peru on 8-12 May, with 18 participants from nine National Societies, as well as two participants from UNICEF. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen knowledge and capacity of RIT members, introduce key tools and methodology for use in health in emergency responses and provide for better multi-disciplinary integration. The



**Health in Emergencias Workshop held in Peru for RIT members**

workshop was developed and coordinated by members of the Federation's Lima Regional Delegation and PADRU, and with assistance from the Federation Secretariat.

### ***Support to other training initiatives***

PADRU is increasingly acting in a support capacity to training being provided directly by National Societies or other organizations. Since the beginning of the year, this has included the following:

#### ***ERU Relief Workshop (American Red Cross)***

After more than three years, Relief ERU training was reviewed and used as a basis for a workshop held by the American Red Cross for Relief ERU team members, National Societies in the region (Belize, Jamaica and Panama) and PNS establishing Relief ERUs (Red Cross Societies of Denmark, France and Spain) – with 24 participants in total. The workshop was designed and hosted by the American Red Cross with support from PADRU, Federation Secretariat Relief and Logistics personnel, and the Spanish Red Cross. PADRU managed administrative functions, counterpart contact, simulation design and facilitation responsibilities. A half-day simulated disaster response was conducted at PADRU with significant support from PADRU staff and volunteers of the Red Cross Society of Panama.

#### ***National Intervention Team (NIT) Training in Haiti***

PADRU, along with a RIT member from the American Red Cross, supported the Haitian National Red Cross Society in the training of 28 NIT members. The session was held in Haiti on 24 April to 1 May. Subjects covered included: Federation tools and systems of response to disasters; the Code of Conduct; SPHERE standards; and community-based needs assessment tools (DANA / VCA).

#### ***Water and Sanitation Workshop (Dominican Republic)***

PADRU's Water and Sanitation officer attended the workshop organized by the Dominican Red Cross, in association with the Spanish Red Cross, in order to evaluate the National Society team's readiness for regional deployment and assess its equipment capacity. As a result, a protocol for Standard Operating Procedures of deployment of the 20 volunteers from the Dominican Red Cross' "Equipos Dominicanos de Agua y Sanamiento (EDAs)" is in the process of finalization.

#### ***Central American Volunteer Training***

A joint training exercise of over 400 emergency response volunteers from Central American National Societies is to take place in Panama in mid-June. PADRU is providing communications back-up and logistics support to the Red Cross Society of Panama which will be hosting this event.

### ***RIT Deployments***

Between January and the end of May 2006, the following 12 RIT deployments, involving 16 RIT-trained members, have taken place:

- Grenada to PADRU (January 2006) – Assistance for RIT Training in IT and Telecommunications
- Grenada to several Caribbean National Societies – Assistance in HF network installation
- Dominican Republic to Ecuador (February 2006) – Emergency Response
- Honduras to Peru (March 2006) – Emergency Response
- American Red Cross to Haiti (April 2006) – NIT training
- Guyana to Suriname (May/June 2006) – Emergency Response
- Suriname – in country (May 2006) – two RIT members / Emergency Response
- PIRAC (French Red Cross) to Suriname (May 2006) – four RIT members / Water and Sanitation emergency response
- Dominican Republic to Panama (May 2006) – Pre-hurricane meeting preparation
- Dominican Republic to St. Lucia (May 2006) – Assistance during pre-hurricane meeting
- Chile to Colombia (May 2006) – Emergency Response
- Mexico to Panama May 2006) – General PADRU support / internship

### ***National Society Team Deployments***

PADRU is presently developing draft Protocols of Deployment, for the possible use of National Society intervention teams in regional deployments. Discussions are underway with the Dominican Red Cross' water and sanitation teams and the Mexican Red Cross' relief teams to establish protocols and mechanisms for PADRU support in future deployments of these teams in regional emergency operations. This is a new initiative, which aims to further strengthen the response capacity of the region, through enhanced use of national resources.

#### ***4. The Pan American logistics strategy is under implementation.***

PADRU's Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) continues to support Federation and National Society activities in the region through its supply management system and Vehicle Rental Programme (VRP). A Mobilization/Logistics Delegate and a Fleet Manager have been recruited to strengthen PADRU programmes. A Disaster Management Delegate is now based in the Lima Regional Delegation to act as a focal point for responses in the sub-region (in addition to the Disaster Management Delegate based in Trinidad).

During the reporting period, the procurement section received 60 logistics requisitions for a total value of CHF 2,715,573 (USD 2,210,317) for which purchase orders have been issued to cover 94.9% of requisitions, in the amount of CHF 2,578,224 (USD 2,098,523). As part of the recovery and rehabilitation activities for countries affected by last year's hurricane season and this year's floods in the region, a total of 34 consignments of goods have been procured.

In aid of the emergency support for the floods in Suriname, three charter flights transporting relief goods were arranged (for delivery of 4,000 hygiene kits, 5,500 tarpaulins, and 4,000 food parcels)

As one of three regional RLUs (as part of the Federation's Global Logistics Strategy), PADRU is concentrating on increasing its existing capacity to deliver relief goods from 15,000 to up to 25,000 families. Total stocks at the end of May cover 52% of the targeted stock level, with goods currently in transit expected to take stock levels over the 80% mark by the end of July. The overall target is expected to be met with additional pre-positioned stocks, on behalf of a number of Partner National Societies; the American, British, Canadian and Netherlands Red Cross Societies.

In order to accommodate this target, RLU expansion in terms of space, quantity of goods and personnel started in early April and is expected to conclude in August, in time for the 2006 hurricane season.

The coordination of in-kind donation mobilization - based on Humanitarian Logistics Software (HLS) - previously managed from the Federation Secretariat, has now been decentralized and is the responsibility of the PADRU RLU. A first mobilization under this system was undertaken in the context of the Suriname emergency operation.

The Federation's VRP has now also been decentralized and operates out of three regional centres: Dubai (Europe, Africa, MENA), Kuala Lumpur (Asia Pacific) and Panama (Americas). For the Americas, a new VRP Office has been established within PADRU, staffed by a Regional Fleet Coordinator since May, and a Fleet Assistant.

At the end of May 2006, the International Federation's Vehicle Rental Programme for the Americas has a stock of 31 vehicles rented out and 10 more available. Four new leasing contracts were entered into between January and May 2006. One vehicle has been acquired for the Haitian National Red Cross Society, and the transfer of eight vehicles took place from the Hurricane Stan operation to the Guatemalan Red Cross. Arrangements are underway for the return of one vehicle from Nicaragua, in the context of the Hurricane Gamma operation. An order has been submitted for ten new vehicles, which are expected to arrive during the month of July. Since February 2006, one vehicle has been leased to a PAHO/WHO project in Haiti. This is a first such arrangement within the region and could lead to similar arrangements with other UN agencies, should it prove beneficial.

**5. The Federation Secretariat closely collaborates with National Societies, the ICRC, Partner National Societies and regional and international disaster management agencies to identify available resources and reduce duplication of efforts.**

*Emergency Shelter and related issues*

Within PADRU, two RIT Disaster Management interns have been identified as focal points for the emergency shelter sector in natural disasters. Information material on emergency shelter and related issues has been received from the Federation Secretariat and UN agencies. A shelter capacity questionnaire was distributed to National Societies during the Pre-Hurricane meeting held in Saint Lucia, which provided PADRU with a first mapping of experience in terms National Society activity and experience in the area of shelter.

Operationally, the Federation facilitated the coordination of the emergency shelter sector for the first time, during the Suriname floods response operation. PADRU played a lead role in co-ordinating the organizations involved in the emergency shelter sector, ensuring that shelter activities and proposals were agreed upon and implemented in a complementary manner. These agencies included UN organizations, international NGOs and local NGOs, in close co-operation with government agencies. While the *cluster approach* was not fully implemented in Suriname, Federation personnel involved in the coordination task benefited from consultation and training which had been undertaken with OCHA and others in Panama in the previous months.

*Humanitarian Allied Forces (FA HUM)*

PADRU represented the Federation during the annual meeting of the Humanitarian Allied Forces (FA HUM), which was held on 21-28 April 2006 in Honduras. FaHum provides a forum for exchange aimed primarily at military personnel involved in regional disaster response. This year's event was organized by the US Army Southern Command, in association with COPECO (Coordinación Permanente de Contingencias) and the Armed Forces of Honduras. Non-military, UN and Red Cross Movement representatives are also invited to share their perspectives. A series of conferences and a simulation exercise aimed to improve the overall coordination of all entities involved in large-scale disaster response were carried out.

*Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Force*

A PADRU Disaster Management Delegate was selected to attend the first Emergency Team Leader course organized by the IASC Task Force in Switzerland. The course was facilitated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and it aimed at responding to a need for a programme of leadership development with cross-agency participation. The focus of the programme was to foster effectiveness, efficiency and professionalism in emergency team leadership. This initiative is linked to the process of UN humanitarian reform, and the need to train resources capable of leading different *clusters*.

**6. National Societies are utilizing the Safer Access module and restore family links in natural disasters.**

Activities under this section are being carried out by the Federation Secretariat, in close association with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). PADRU involvement for the period has, as a result, been limited to the procurement of two Family Links kits, ready for deployment, and financial support for the participation of a member from the Saint Lucia Red Cross in a Family Links Workshop which took place in Guyana.

PADRU's Telecommunications Delegate has entered into preliminary discussions with Ericsson Response, regarding the possibility of undertaking a pilot project of the Vestigo software programme – apparently suited to facilitate Family Links – in the region.

**7. The activities of the Federation and National Societies are promoted during emergencies, starting with an effective monitoring system, giving visibility, promoting the network role and activities, and developing tools.**

Since the beginning of the year, PADRU has been supporting communications activities undertaken by National Societies affected by disasters in 2005. In this context, assistance has been provided to the Guatemalan Red Cross in developing the communication activities as part of the overall Plan of Action for the Hurricane Stan Operation.

Overall communications support has included editing news and background stories for the National Society websites, overseeing the development of software for a new web tool, sharing pictures and disseminating videos produced during the operation.

The first months of the year were also taken up with the compilation of information produced during the previous 2005 hurricane season, in order to systematize this information and facilitate future presentations, such as slide shows or power point presentations. Others products developed during the reporting period include:

- An interactive CD designed in flash, based on the information produced by the National Societies during and after the hurricane season. The CD contains key statistics, facts and figures, maps, pictures and provides a good overview of the Federation and National Societies working together throughout the operations.
- A tracking map for the region, on white board, flexibly-designed, and easy to write upon and erase. This basic tool is used by the National Societies to follow the hurricanes in the Caribbean and give visibility to their work. The map has information in English and Spanish.
- The *Count on the Red Cross* Campaign: a poster-driven campaign, conveying seven key messages. The objective of this campaign is to re-position, in the community in general, the Red Cross as an organization which provides relief and care during disasters, through its network of Branches and volunteers. The posters have been designed to visually depict Red Cross and Red Crescent response and operations.

In conjunction with the Federation's Media Service in Geneva, PADRU has drafted a communications plan in anticipation of the 2006 hurricane season. The plan was officially endorsed during the pre-hurricane meeting and forms the basis for communications activities in up-coming emergency operations. Its main objectives are:

- To improve internal communications between National Societies and the Federation Secretariat regarding management of information.
- To promote and disseminate Red Cross activities and response to the hurricane season.
- To increase the overall visibility of the International Federation to help scale-up Red Cross and Red Crescent programmes and enhance impact on beneficiaries.
- To make the Federation the "Reference and Preference" humanitarian organization in responding to a disaster both for the media, supporters and the donors.

Key target audiences have been identified as follows:

- International, regional and local media
- Donors and partners
- The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

On-going monitoring continues with the internal alert system, in support of National Societies affected by disasters, and to provide assistance in the posting of information on the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) intranet site. PADRU has also developed an inventory of visibility-related matters, to ensure that during every operation, the Red Cross emblems, as well as the Federation logo and those of donors are appropriately reflected in the media, the community and to the general public.

In coordination with other humanitarian organizations established in Panama, PADRU participates in the sub-regional information group and works to develop regional initiatives in communications, as well as in exchanging information related to emergencies. PADRU has also provided support in developing a regional workshop for journalists working in disaster coverage. Financial support was provided to the Nicaraguan Red Cross to cover the costs of participation of a journalist in the workshop.

PADRU is also supporting the Communications Forum in the organization of the next meeting of the network to be held in Guatemala on 21-25 August 2006.

**8. A high frequency (HF) network for Central American National Societies is established and is operational.**

During the pre-hurricane meeting (see Expected Result 1) held on 16-21 May 2006, IT and Telecommunications procedures were shared with National Societies.

Following the successful installation of a high frequency network in the Caribbean, PADRU is now working on similar arrangements for Central American National Societies. Final training, checks and installations for the Caribbean were undertaken in Belize and the Bahamas during the reporting period.

PADRU is currently in discussions with volunteers from the Red Cross Society of Panama, to field test the HF network through regular calls to other National Societies within the network. This would ensure that all National Societies are adept at using the HF network, according to the newly developed Protocol, and would help in identifying any glitches in the system prior to the onset of the hurricane season.

Plans are underway for additional RIT training in IT and Telecommunications. In addition, PADRU is looking into the possibility of establishing a pilot scholarship programme with selected universities in Panama, as a way of attracting trained IT and Telecommunications volunteers and resources.

**Impact:**

The increase in frequency of RIT training and deployments is consolidating procedures and collaboration throughout the region. This also enables PADRU to systematically evaluate current training modules which it has developed related to operational requirements, and affords practical experiences to be used as indicators of required changes in training practices.

PADRU is well advanced in terms of procurement, warehousing and staffing to meet the targeted relief needs of 25,000 families through pre-positioned stock by the end of August. Furthermore, the regionalization of in-kind donation mobilization has proved effective, as evidenced during the Suriname emergency operation.

In terms of National Society disaster preparedness, the ECHO Programmatic Funding for the *strengthening the disaster management capacity in the Caribbean region* project has provided the Federation and PADRU with the required resources to realize most of their objectives in achieving the current response capacity in support of National Societies in the Caribbean region. Plans are underway to extend the project to the rest of the Americas. This project has been further complemented by the global Federation/ECHO *Thematic Funding*, and together both projects have realized a coherent and aligned approach to disaster management at national and regional levels through Red Cross Movement structures.

Overall, National Societies have a much higher level of awareness of: international procedures for disaster response and the importance of contingency planning coordination mechanisms within the humanitarian community.

**Constraints:**

There is, as ever, a danger of over-loading National Societies with globally or regionally-driven initiatives. At present, for example, there is a need for additional guidance and dissemination, if the Red Cross is to fulfil its leadership role, as set out in the Global Agenda, in the area of emergency shelter response.

**[Interim Financial Report below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)**

# International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA42001 - PAN AMERICAN DISASTER RESPONSE UNIT

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/5
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA42001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		4'643'852			795'645	5'439'498
B. Opening Balance		500'019			19'071	519'090
<b>Income</b>						
Cash contributions						
American Red Cross		313'293				313'293
Icelandic Red Cross		9'898				9'898
OXFAM		9'280				9'280
Swedish Red Cross		42'063				42'063
C1. Cash contributions		374'533				374'533
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
ECHO		3'350				3'350
Ericsson		-1'669				-1'669
Spanish Red Cross		1'505				1'505
Swedish Red Cross		43'310				43'310
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		46'496				46'496
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
American Red Cross		0				0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)		0				0
Inkind Personnel						
Canadian Red Cross Society					31'000	31'000
Norwegian Red Cross		59'107				59'107
Spanish Red Cross		53'000				53'000
C5. Inkind Personnel		112'107			31'000	143'107
Other Income						
Service Agreements					-5'564	-5'564
C6. Other Income					-5'564	-5'564
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		533'136			25'436	558'572
D. Total Funding = B + C		1'033'155			44'507	1'077'662

## II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		500'019			19'071	519'090
C. Income		533'136			25'436	558'572
E. Expenditure		-992'905			-70'590	-1'063'495
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		40'250			-26'083	14'167

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MAA42001 - PAN AMERICAN DISASTER RESPONSE UNIT

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/5
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA42001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure**

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance	
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation			
A		B					A - B		
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		4'643'852					795'645	5'439'498	
<b>Supplies</b>									
Shelter			2'384				2'384	-2'384	
Clothing & textiles			4'642				4'642	-4'642	
Water & Sanitation			1'050				1'050	-1'050	
Utensils & Tools			145				145	-145	
Other Supplies & Services	174'072							174'072	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>174'072</b>		<b>8'221</b>				<b>8'221</b>	<b>165'851</b>	
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>									
Land & Buildings			9'513				9'513	-9'513	
Computers & Telecom	320'842		2'351				2'351	318'491	
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>320'842</b>		<b>11'864</b>				<b>11'864</b>	<b>308'978</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>									
Storage	168'752		7'293			627	7'920	160'831	
Distribution & Monitoring	26'400		5'269			262	5'532	20'868	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	33'817		16'283			795	17'078	16'739	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>228'968</b>		<b>28'845</b>			<b>1'684</b>	<b>30'530</b>	<b>198'439</b>	
<b>Personnel Expenditures</b>									
Delegates Payroll	1'161'600		70'748			8'144	78'892	1'082'708	
Delegate Benefits	1'049'900		216'691			39'033	255'724	794'176	
Regionally Deployed Staff	332'313		17'677				17'677	314'636	
National Staff	72'340		78'819			1'583	80'403	-8'063	
National Society Staff	24'000		17'649				17'649	6'351	
Consultants	43'164		11'071				11'071	32'093	
<b>Total Personnel Expenditures</b>	<b>2'683'317</b>		<b>412'655</b>			<b>48'760</b>	<b>461'415</b>	<b>2'221'902</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>									
Workshops & Training	958'617		178'092			72	178'164	780'453	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>958'617</b>		<b>178'092</b>			<b>72</b>	<b>178'164</b>	<b>780'453</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>									
Travel	209'145		100'176			22	100'198	108'947	
Information & Public Relation	223'680		22'064			747	22'812	200'869	
Office Costs	190'512		28'088			1'008	29'096	161'416	
Communications	17'990		35'303			674	35'977	-17'987	
Professional Fees	1'584		944			193	1'136	447	
Financial Charges	2'438		20'984				20'984	-18'545	
Other General Expenses			1'534			57	1'591	-1'591	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>645'349</b>		<b>209'092</b>			<b>2'702</b>	<b>211'794</b>	<b>433'555</b>	
<b>Depreciation</b>									
Depreciation	74'765		7'564				7'564	67'200	
<b>Total Depreciation</b>	<b>74'765</b>		<b>7'564</b>				<b>7'564</b>	<b>67'200</b>	
<b>Program Support</b>									
Program Support	353'567		64'065			4'457	68'523	285'045	
<b>Total Program Support</b>	<b>353'567</b>		<b>64'065</b>			<b>4'457</b>	<b>68'523</b>	<b>285'045</b>	
<b>Operational Provisions</b>									
Operational Provisions			72'507			12'914	85'420	-85'420	
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>			<b>72'507</b>			<b>12'914</b>	<b>85'420</b>	<b>-85'420</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>5'439'498</b>		<b>992'905</b>			<b>70'590</b>	<b>1'063'495</b>	<b>4'376'003</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>3'650'948</b>			<b>725'055</b>	<b>4'376'003</b>		