

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

CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

25 October 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. MAA43001; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: 1 April 2006 to 31 July 2006; Appeal coverage: 63.6%; Outstanding needs for 2006: CHF 1,115,642 (USD 878,835 or EUR 700,765).
(click here to go directly to the attached interim financial report).

2006 - 2007 Appeal target: CHF 5,803,015; (USD 4,571,889 EUR 3,645,392) 2006 Appeal target revised to CHF 3,063,825 (USD 2,413,564 EUR 1,924,894)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: El Salvador: Floods & Volcanic Activity (05EA020); Central America, Mexico & Haiti: Floods from Hurricane Stan (05EA021); Bahamas, Cuba & Mexico: Hurricane Wilma (05EA024).

Programme summary: Guided by the Plan of Action of the Inter American Conference and by Strategy 2010, the Panama Regional Delegation focuses its work on strengthening links between and building the capacities of National Societies through regional networks, the harmonizing of regional methodologies and campaigns, and the promotion of Humanitarian Principles and Values. Following the decisions at the General Assembly in November 2005, the Regional Delegation is now working with the National Societies of the region and their partners to identify ways to respond to the Global Agenda and scale up the impact of Red Cross work in the region. This focus will be increasingly reflected throughout 2006, leading up to the next Inter American Conference in June 2007.

The regional health programme is working closely with the Central American Health Network REDCAMP-SALUD in assuring health programme impact in the region and in strengthening health department capacity through regional initiatives such as "Together we Can"; the introduction of "Club 25" and work on "Mother & Child Health" (MCH) and in Psychosocial Support projects (PSP). The regional health team continues to scale-up regional HIV/AIDS projects especially in the areas of youth peer education, social mobilization and anti-stigma campaigns and is currently working to address the possible threat of Avian Influenza (AI) in the region.

The regional risk reduction programme is collaborating with the two regional Centres of Reference for disaster preparedness, encouraging the active training of National Intervention Teams and the development and dissemination of important regional policies and methodologies, which include the Better Be Ready series, and the National Intervention Team training guides. The regional risk reduction programme is also working towards incorporating risk reduction as a key component in the programming of the National Societies of the region, establishing links between projects in order to establish a common approach to risk reduction within each country. All 7 National Societies in the region, as well as Cuba and the Dominican Republic are adopting methodology developed by the Centres of Reference with the support of the Regional Delegation.

The organizational development programme has maintained its focus on improving organizational capacities of National Societies by promoting the characteristics of “well-functioning National Societies”. Activities implemented during the reporting period have centred on drafting the Regional Volunteering Policy, which was approved in 25 July in the Presidents’ meeting in Panama and aims to bring about a more effective way of recruiting, managing, and retaining volunteers. The Organizational Development programme is also, through the regional OD network, working together with National Societies in the process of financial resource development, and continues to provide support in important meetings, such as the National Societies’ Directors General meeting held in Panama in June. Several National Societies are also in the process of developing electoral policies with the support of other Red Crosses of the region.

The regional Humanitarian Principles and Values coordinator is working to incorporate Humanitarian Principles and Values (HPV) into each core area by making HPV tools accessible to National Societies through the regional HPV website, working closely with different regional programme networks and conducting training sessions in different regional events that have taken place. Coordination is taking place with the regional representative of the Spanish Red Cross for the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Prevention of Violence, in order to join efforts. Furthermore, as a result of the regional team’s work on the HIV/AIDS taxis campaign “Transporting Respect for People Living with HIV/AIDS” in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, the campaign will be extended to Nicaragua in August.

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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 aftermath of a harsh and prolonged 2005 hurricane season left a large number of people and communities in Central America and Mexico more vulnerable to existing conditions of malnutrition, rising prevalence of HIV/AIDS, infant and maternal mortality, and further exacerbated the general poverty that affects the region. Although rehabilitation efforts will continue in many countries of the region throughout the first half of the year, the Federation’s operation is being extended until December 2006 in Guatemala only, due to the severe damage caused by floods, which affected more than 500,000 people in October 2005.

Central America and Mexico also continue to face some of the same problems that have been observed in the past: high levels of poverty and inequality, drug trafficking and money laundering, rising levels of violence in urban areas (due mainly to the proliferation of violent street gangs known as *maras*), and extreme vulnerability to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, volcanic activity and earthquakes.

Health and care

Programme Objective: National Societies in the region are increasingly adhering to the commitments in health as set out in the *Plan of Action of the XVII Inter-American Conference*, particularly with respect to the development of their health departments, and in the areas of HIV/AIDS, health in emergencies, community health, the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD) and water and sanitation.

The health and care programme plan of action and budget was revised during the period to exclude specific programmatic support to the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) in the implementation of health projects in a number of branches. These projects are now being supported by the Norwegian Red Cross (NRC) in a direct bilateral

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relationship with the Guatemalan Red Cross, although technical coordination continues between GRC, NRC and the Regional Delegation health team.

Project Objective/Expected Result 1:

The capacity of National Society Health departments has been strengthened and effective partnerships have been secured in line with Strategy 2010 and the Santiago de Chile Commitment.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The regional health programme is working closely through the Central American Health Network REDCAMP-SALUD in the strengthening of health programme impact in the region and the capacity of National Societies' health departments. The Coordinator of REDCAMP-SALUD participated in the Global Health Forum in Geneva in May, and had the opportunity to exchange information with colleagues from around the world and present the regional HIV/AIDS taxis campaign "Transporting Respect for People Living with HIV/AIDS". The network continued to support regional initiatives such as "Together we Can", the introduction of "Club 25" and work on "Mother & Child Health" (MCH) and Psychosocial Support Programmes (PSP).

The regional health team is continually improving the REDCAMP-SALUD website by strengthening the section on Avian Influenza and collaborating with colleagues in the Lima Regional Delegation by presenting a separate section that promotes the international methodology for capturing young people as blood donors – Club 25.

National Societies continued to work closely with their Ministries of Health on a variety of common issues including Avian Influenza Preparedness, MCH, HIV/AIDS and VNRBD. Four National Societies participated in the continental "Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses" Workshop with WHO/the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Bolivia in April whilst the Regional Delegation maintained strong relationships with PAHO, OCHA and WFP in the area of Avian Influenza, with Plan International in the areas of MCH, HIV/AIDS, AI and with UNICEF in the area of HIV/AIDS.

Impact:

The regional health programme continues to expand the promotion and use of common methodologies with measurable scaling-up in HIV/AIDS and mother & child health. The next challenge is to promote "Club 25" as the common regional methodology in the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation. If all National Societies work in agreement on this theme there will be a real impact in preparation for the XVIII Inter American Conference in Guayaquil, Ecuador in June 2007. The REDCAMP-SALUD HIV/AIDS taxis campaign "Transporting Respect for People Living with HIV/AIDS" is a good example of how the network can promote effective regional campaigns and the health programme is confident that the same can be done with respect to VNRBD.

Project Objective/Expected Result 2:

The response of National Societies in the HIV/AIDS epidemic has been refined and scaled up in the areas of prevention, care and the fight against stigma and discrimination.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The regional health team continues to scale-up regional HIV/AIDS projects especially in the areas of youth peer education, social mobilization and in anti-stigma campaigns.

- **HIV/AIDS Youth Peer Education – "Together we Can"**

The regional health team is expanding the award-winning "Together we Can" (TWC) youth peer education methodology throughout the Central American region. The Red Cross Society of Panama was the first National Society in implementing the methodology and since then the Red Cross Societies of Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Honduras have started to use the methodology, with the Nicaraguan Red Cross also taking up the initiative in early July. The methodology is now the most recognized youth peer education methodology in the region, and

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apart from the assistance received from the Norwegian Red Cross in its development and refinement, the grassroots implementation is now being positively supported by all Partner National Societies (PNSs) in the region.

In the reporting period, a number of concrete steps were taken to improve the methodology and its implementation in Central America. Firstly, Federation supported workshops to train national trainers in TWC were held in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala with assistance from the National Societies of the Dominican Republic and Panama, and with financial support from the American, Canadian, Italian, Netherlands, Spanish and Swiss Red Cross Societies. A total of twenty five youths were trained and certified during the workshop, which was also attended by representatives from El Salvador and Nicaragua. In addition, the "Together we Can" Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit was completed and sent to the printers in late June. 100 copies are being printed in English (for the English speaking Caribbean) and 100 in Spanish for Central America and the Dominican Republic and Cuba. In anticipation of receiving the material, the regional health programme carried out a 4-day workshop in Costa Rica on the new toolkit with twenty-five participants representing five National Societies.

During the Regional Youth Camp held in Costa Rica, 20 members of Red Cross Youth were trained in the TWC methodology. The participation of the Mexican Red Cross and the Colombian Red Cross in the Youth Camp was an important opportunity for presenting information on TWC to these National Societies, both of which showed an interest in discussing the possibility of applying this methodology within their Societies.

Five tools were reviewed and used in practice workshops during the youth camp. These tools include: peer education, training, quality control and social mobilization. The National Red Cross Societies of Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama were represented at the workshop which was facilitated by the TWC coordinator of the Red Cross Society of Panama.

Red Cross Society of Panama TWC Statistics end June 2006			
National Trainers	6	Peer Educators	77
Instructor Trainers	16	Peers Reached	883

In **Panama** the National Society continues to make progress in terms of peers reached. To date trainers have reached 883 adolescents with appropriate HIV/AIDS prevention messages.

In addition, the Red Cross Society of Panama and the Federation Regional HIV/AIDS Officer made a presentation on HIV/AIDS issues and anti-stigma / anti-discrimination to eighty-five teachers at the *Instituto Comercial Bolivar* which is situated in one of the areas of the city of Panama with the highest incidences of teenage pregnancy and HIV/AIDS. The TWC methodology is now being introduced in schools in the city of Santiago, Veraguas and an alliance has been established with NGOs and the Peace Corps in the dissemination and implementation of the methodology.

In **Costa Rica** the National Society has focused on building up the internal TWC capacity through training new Peer Educators and establishing communication with fifteen new schools which intend to work in TWC. The Regional Delegation is working with the Costa Rican Red Cross to assist in ensuring that the peer educators trained reach more peers and in the appropriate replication of the methodology.

Honduran Red Cross TWC Statistics to end June 2006			
National Trainers	18	Peer Educators	103
Instructor Trainers	20	Peers Reached	561

In **Honduras** the Red Cross continues to work with the TWC methodology in at risk communities and so far has reached 561 peers. With the investment made in the training of youth peer educators, the Regional Delegation anticipates that this number will increase significantly in the next reporting period.

In **El Salvador** the National Society held the first TWC workshop between 19 and 24 June 2006 with eighteen participants. The Regional HIV/AIDS Officer from Lima, together with representatives from the Ecuadorian and Paraguayan Red Cross National Societies also participated and were introduced to the TWC methodology.

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society began implementation of TWC in July.

Costa Rican Red Cross TWC Statistics to end June 2006			
National Trainers	5	Peer Educators	132
Instructor Trainers	7	Peers Reached	300

Salvadorean Red Cross Society TWC Statistics to end June 2006			
National Trainers	8	Peer Educators	6
Instructor Trainers	3	Peers Reached	0

Guatemalan Red Cross TWC Statistics to end June 2006			
National Trainers	4	Peer Educators	8
Instructor Trainers	8	Peers Reached	0
TWC Ambassadors	6		

In **Guatemala** a TWC Workshop was held between 26 June and 1 July with twenty six participants including Presidents, Directors General and representatives from a range of branches. These officials were invited to ensure that TWC would be supported not only by the youth but also by GRC governance and management. The Guatemalan Red Cross began implementation of TWC in July.

In **Nicaragua**, Italian Red Cross funding was allocated towards the organization and implementation of a National TWC workshop, which will be held in August. This workshop will be carried out in the city of Rivas and will benefit from the participation of a facilitator from the Costa Rican Red Cross and a regional instructor. It is expected that 25 volunteers from the Rivas Branch of the Nicaraguan Red Cross will participate.

- **Transporting Respect for People Living with HIV/AIDS (The Taxis Initiative)**



The Regional Health Programme continues to work closely with the Regional Humanitarian Principles & Values Coordinator in the promotion and refinement of the REDCAMP-SALUD Regional Taxis Initiative, whereby taxi drivers are used as transmitters of HIV/AIDS messages focusing on prevention in high prevalence city environments and on promoting the message of tolerance and respect for people living with HIV and AIDS.

In **Guatemala** the Taxis Initiative started in April and as of the end of June the Guatemalan Red Cross had trained eighty-two (82) taxi drivers in Guatemala City who participated in four (4) hours of instruction in HIV/AIDS prevention, bio-security, anti-stigma and legal aspects of HIV/AIDS. In June these Taxi Drivers began sharing this information with their passengers. Given that each driver (using figures from Honduras and El Salvador) will have on average of 10 -12 passengers per day, it is estimated that in one month these drivers reached approximately **25,000** to **30,000** people with HIV/AIDS messages on prevention and tolerance for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). To accompany the Taxis Campaign, the GRC has also developed educational material related to stigma and discrimination using paintings by a well known Guatemalan painter. A second stage of the Taxis project is also in the process of being implemented with the support of the Spanish Red Cross.

In **El Salvador** the National Society is working with four Taxi Cooperatives and has trained 100 Taxi Drivers in the key aspects of HIV/AIDS prevention and anti-stigma / anti-discrimination. Of the hundred Taxi Drivers trained by the National Society at least sixty are showing commitment to the project and are passing on the information in a consistent and correct manner. The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has implemented monitoring tools such as surveys and random taxi rides with drivers committed to the initiative. Using these monitoring tools, the National Society calculates along with the taxi companies that each driver has between 8 and 12 passengers per day. On the basis of an average of 10 passengers per taxi per day, the campaign is reaching a total of 600 people per day with correct HIV/AIDS prevention messages and with information promoting tolerance and respect for people living with HIV/AIDS. It can therefore be extrapolated that in the three month reporting period (April-June 2006) approximately fifty four thousand (**54,000**) people have been reached in El Salvador through this campaign.

In **El Salvador** a workshop titled “Coexisting with People Living with HIV/AIDS” was carried out with 25 members of the ACOMET Taxi Cooperative. This workshop, held on 22 July, was organized by the Salvadorean Red Cross Society, through the Community Health Office, and was carried out in conjunction with the People Living with HIV/AIDS Organization of El Salvador and the New Life Association (Asociación Nueva Vida). The workshop participants, besides analyzing the importance of principles and values associated with the subject of non-discrimination, were also taught communication techniques and interpersonal skills which are vital in order to transmit HIV/AIDS messages to their passengers.

In **Honduras** the Taxis Initiative continues to be actively implemented by the Honduran Red Cross. The National Society has trained 50 taxi drivers and monitors their activities. Based on an average number of passengers carried

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per day it is estimated that in the three-month reporting period the Taxi Project in Honduras has reached approximately **45,000** people with key HIV/AIDS information.

In **Nicaragua** the Italian Red Cross and the Swedish Red Cross will begin replicating the Taxi Initiative in Managua in July-August with technical support from the Federation and REDCAMP-SALUD.

- **Nobody has the Truth written on their Face. Protect Yourself. Use a Condom**

This campaign promoting condom use amongst the sexually active segment of the population is now being implemented in Panama, Honduras and Guatemala with the images being displayed on bus stops, billboards, youth internet sites, posters and T-shirts. The Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Red Cross Societies have also expressed interest and the Regional Delegation intends to assist the Nicaraguan Red Cross to implement the campaign in association with the Italian Red Cross.

The campaign has been receiving much attention both from within and outside the region. The campaign was featured in the Federation Secretariat Headquarters lobby during May and the Regional HIV/AIDS Officer presented the campaign at the Global Health Forum in Geneva where many National Societies from throughout the world expressed interest in replicating it. The campaign will also be the feature of the Federation stand at the International AIDS Conference in Toronto, Canada, in August, which will draw around 24,000 people. With the support of the Canadian Red Cross, 3,000 campaign t-shirts are being printed and these will be sold during the Conference. The regional health programme hopes to use the occasion to promote the campaign further and, if possible, obtain more funding for its expansion in the Americas region. It is expected that 72 volunteers from Red Cross National Societies around the world will participate in this event.

Impact:

Through the “Together we Can” HIV/AIDS youth peer education methodology, a total of **2,171** adolescents (Red Cross implementers and youth in school) have been reached with precise HIV/AIDS prevention messages. With a further three National Societies soon to replicate the methodology, a gradual and measurable increase in impact in terms of numbers reached is anticipated. In addition to the quantitative aspects of the scaling-up process, the Regional Delegation will be in a position to measure qualitative impact through the use of the new TWC monitoring and evaluation toolkit.

Through “The Taxis Initiative” in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, during the three-month reporting period, approximately **124,000** taxi passengers have been reached with HIV/AIDS messages focusing on prevention and on showing respect and tolerance for PLWHAs. Whilst it is difficult to measure the impact of “The Faces Campaign”, feedback from the target audience and strategic partners has been very positive.

Constraints:

Although a sizeable portion of the population is being reached with the innovative Faces Campaign, in order to better demonstrate and evaluate its impact, the regional health programme intends to develop an instrument to measure its impact more accurately.

Project Objective/Expected Result 3:

National Societies have scaled-up integrated health interventions in the area of mother and child health, VNRBD, and health in emergencies in partnership with PAHO, the Ministries of Health (MoH) and other partners (including vulnerable communities).

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

- **Mother and Child Health**

The National Societies of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua continue to implement high-quality mother & child health programmes, mainly through bilateral agreements with key Partner National Societies such as the Norwegian Red Cross in Guatemala; the Canadian Red Cross in Honduras and Nicaragua; the American Red

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Cross in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras; the Italian Red Cross in Nicaragua and Honduras; the Spanish Red Cross in Nicaragua; the Netherlands Red Cross in Honduras and the Swiss Red Cross in Honduras. The Regional Health Programme maintains good working relationships with the PNSs as well as host National Societies, building on the continental meeting held in 2005.

- **Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donation (VNRBD)**



The region is increasing its focus on building up capacity in this key area. World Blood Donor Day was celebrated throughout the region on 14 June with a number of Red Cross volunteers being honoured by the Pan-American Health Organization for their commitment to the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation. Following the successful X International Colloquium on VNRBD held in Santiago de Chile in March, many National Societies have committed to introducing the “Club 25” methodology into their blood programmes. The Honduran and Nicaraguan Red Cross Societies have already begun Club 25 activities with the Nicaraguan Red Cross running a 2-day “Club 25” workshop for 29 participants.

To prepare for the continental launch of Club 25, a “Continental Club 25 Workshop” was organized and attended by thirteen National Societies from the Americas. The workshop was held in Panama City in late July and was facilitated by the Head of Blood Services from the Secretariat Headquarters, the two Regional Health Delegates and representatives from the Pan American Health Organization. The workshop was very instructive as many National Societies are already well advanced in Club 25 implementation. The workshop resulted in continental and national Plans of Action for Club 25. A consultant with extensive Red Cross and VNRBD experience has also begun to assist with this process. In the following months the consultant will be carrying out a mapping exercise and baseline study in the National Societies involved in the regional launch of Club 25. To keep National Societies informed on progress in this launch a “Club 25” newsletter and pamphlet was developed and has been shared with all National Societies and PNSs in the region.

More positive news in the area of VNRBD was received from the Finnish Red Cross which replied positively to the concept paper presented during the continental launch of Club 25, by requesting a full proposal. The proposal has been drafted and is receiving some last minute adjustments before being officially presented for funding. The regional health programme is confident that the Club 25 concept will be widely supported in the region and that this will increase scaling-up and impact in the area of voluntary non-remunerated blood donations.

- **Avian Influenza Preparedness**

The results from the Federation “Global Avian Influenza (AI) Mapping Exercise” show that the Americas Region is one of the least prepared in the world. The regional health team is therefore encouraging Central American National Societies to work closely with their governments (and particularly their Ministries of Health) in the elaboration of National Avian Influenza Preparedness and Contingency Plans. By the end of June most National Societies were in dialogue with their government agencies and were more actively engaged in Avian Influenza preparedness. The Regional Health Delegate participated in an Inter-Agency Meeting with OCHA, WFP, UNICEF and other key agencies and also accompanied the Health Director of the Red Cross Society of Panama to a meeting with the WHO/PAHO Regional AI Consultant where cooperation and the involvement of the Red Cross Society of Panama in a planned “perception study” was discussed. A representative of the National Society subsequently participated in an AI Simulation Exercise with WHO/PAHO and the Panamanian MoH.

Impact:

The regional roll-out of the “Club 25” methodology greatly increases possibilities to show impact and scaling-up in the area of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation. The National Societies which participated at the X Colloquium on VNRBD in Santiago de Chile in March and first Continental “Club 25 Workshop” held in Panama in late July are all enthusiastic to move forward on this issue.

Project Objective/Expected Result 4: Integrated health interventions in the area of water and sanitation in partnership with PAHO, the Ministries of Health and other partners (including vulnerable communities) are being implemented by National Societies.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

There is no progress to report against this objective as staffing and funding have not been obtained. Without initial funds for a qualified, experienced officer in water and sanitation there is no capacity to start engaging in this area. Since no funding is likely to be forthcoming before the end of the year, this expected result will be removed from the plan of action, whilst the Delegation explores other ways of building regional capacity for what is undoubtedly an important area where National Societies could play a key role in improving access of vulnerable populations to clean water and reliable sanitation.

It is worth mentioning that the Panama Regional Delegation has been facilitating coordination and project development in the Caribbean through the EU funded Global Water Facility (further details mentioned in coordination section below and in the Caribbean programme update).

Disaster Management:

Programme Objective: Strengthened National Societies are working at the community, national and regional levels with better prepared communities which are less vulnerable to the impact of disaster.

Project Objective/Expected Result 1: The regional reference centre for education in community based disaster management based in Costa Rica is fully operational and supports peer Red Cross Societies.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Regional Centre of Reference for Community Education in Disaster Management, with the support of the regional risk reduction programme and the risk reduction department of the Secretariat Headquarters, assisted in the organization of a regional community education workshop with representatives from National Societies of Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua. This regional workshop, held between 17 and 21 July 2006 in Panama, helped update the Centre's VCA tools database by compiling the experiences of various National Societies in the areas of community intervention, effective training methodologies, and the use of community-based disaster tools and modules such as the Better Be Ready series. This regional workshop also facilitated the process of developing a database of VCA trainers and experts available throughout the region, by gathering information obtained from each National Society.

During the reporting period the Centre facilitated three VCA workshops. These included one held in Panama in April, where 24 people participated, and two workshops held in Guatemala in May and June. In order to promote cross-border initiatives, the workshops held in Guatemala benefited from the presence of members of bordering Mexican Red Cross and Honduran Red Cross branches. The purpose of these cross border initiatives is to improve the effectiveness of community based disaster preparedness capacities by strengthening organizational capabilities through joint training initiatives with neighbouring National Societies.

The Centre continued its work on the "Better Be Ready..." series which has proved successful as a guide for communities to prepare for disaster situations, and in which a number of other organizations have expressed much interest. During the period two new modules on Floods and Psychosocial First Aid were published by the centre, and are being distributed for use by National Societies in the region.

As the Centre of Reference develops, the need for it to develop a strategic plan is becoming a priority. An important part of this plan will be to determine a funding strategy that will enable it to attain a level of self-sustainability, allowing National Societies to continue benefiting from its services without placing a financial burden on other regional initiatives that could be developed. National Societies clearly value the services provided by the Centre; the Red Cross Society of Panama, for example, provided financial support for the Centre in exchange for copies of the published modules, which the National Society has begun to disseminate around the country. A first step in assuring the long term sustainability of the Centre was taken with the development of a proposal for funding as part of DIPECHO V.

Impact:

The Regional Centre of Reference for Community Education in Disaster Management in Costa Rica continues to play an important role in improving National Society capacity to organize and prepare for disaster situations through the development of additional community based disaster preparedness modules for the “Better Be Ready” series and building of VCA facilitation skills throughout the region. The regional risk reduction programme is providing support in improving the process of training volunteers in the region in VCA, improving the capacities of National Societies in the region in responding to disaster situations.

Constraints:

Due to lack of funding, there has been a reduction in the amount of internships taking place in the Regional Centre of Reference.

Project Objective/Expected Result 2: The regional reference centre for disaster preparedness in El Salvador contributes to saving lives in disaster situations and is fully consolidated to offer regular peer support to sister Red Cross Societies.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

An assistant coordinator for the Centre of Reference for Disaster Preparedness was hired in order to provide support to the Centre’s coordinator, who must also fulfil duties as relief director for the Salvadorean Red Cross Society. Members of the Centre participated in the Pre-Hurricane meeting held in May 2006 in Saint Lucia and the REDCAMP-DISASTERS meeting, which immediately followed it. Members of the Centre are currently undergoing English courses in order to carry out future plans of extending disaster preparedness assistance to the Caribbean National Societies.

Support was provided to the Guatemalan Red Cross in the development of a basic National Intervention Team (NIT) workshop in the municipality of Retalhuleu and five NIT trainers were mobilized from Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and El Salvador in order to coordinate this workshop. 36 volunteers participated in this workshop; with a total of 32 becoming full fledged NIT members. A series of NIT workshops are scheduled to take place in the following months in Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras, to further strengthen disaster preparedness and response capacities through trained volunteers.

The Guide for Contingency and Response plans, which has been developed in conjunction with the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) since the month of May was completed in July and the regional risk reduction programme is awaiting its publication in order to begin dissemination and training efforts in National Societies in the region. National Societies will be able to update disaster response and contingency plans with the support of this guide, which has been approved in the 3 sub regions of the Americas.

Constraints:

The Regional Centre of Reference for Disaster Preparedness was forced to eliminate certain activities from the Plan of Action due to a lack of funding.

Project Objective/Expected Result 3: Communities are better prepared and more organized to respond to and recover from the effects of natural hazards and have recognized potential mitigation needs and actions to take.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The regional risk reduction programme is providing direct support to a number of National Societies in the implementation of community disaster management projects. These include: the **Dominican Republic** and **Cuba** in the implementation of VCA activities with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Guatemalan Red Cross in the implementation of community education micro-projects in 15 communities in the northeast of **Guatemala**. These micro-projects incorporate results of VCA analysis and are being carried out with bordering branches of the Honduran Red Cross: Omoa and Puerto Cortez.

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In **Costa Rica**, support was provided for 5 VCA workshops in which a total of 69 people received training in the municipalities of Alajuela, Limón, Guanacaste and Puntarenas in the communities of Guadalupe, Cañas, Bajo Invulas Cañas, Miramar and Esparza. Following this, a series of workshops were carried out in the communities of Sabanilla, San Isidro and Liceo San Isidro in the municipality of Alajuela, in which a total of 77 people were trained with the use of the Protected School module and 100 people were trained using the Community First Aid Module.

In **El Salvador**, a VCA workshop was given to the Special Anti-Terrorism Command of the Salvadoran armed forces, as part of inter-institutional collaboration with the Salvadorean Red Cross Society. The process has been useful in strengthening disaster preparedness and in establishing new ways to adapt the VCA framework to different institutional contexts. Early Warning Systems were implemented in 13 communities in El Salvador: El Socorro, La Arenera, Los Jobos, Río Frió, La Galera, Betania 1, La Florida, EL Arco, El Guayabo, La Quesera, San Antonio Jiboa, San José Borjas and San Francisco Chamaco, benefiting around 231 people. These communities will also gain from an improved radio communication system which will allow better organization and coordination in the event of an emergency.

Impact:

The regional risk reduction team is working towards incorporating risk reduction as a key element in National Society programming in the region, establishing links between projects in order to ensure a common approach to risk reduction within each country. All 7 National Societies in the region, as well as those of Cuba and the Dominican Republic are adopting the methodology developed by the Centres of Reference (NIT guides, CBDP modules), with the support of the Regional Delegation, regardless of the funding source for programmes and projects.

Constraints:

Lack of funding has resulted in the suspension of long term activities, directing programme budgets towards specific activities and providing technical support to National Societies.

Project Objective/Expected Result 4: The National Societies' capacity to undertake disaster preparedness programming and to assist and advocate on behalf of disaster-affected people is strengthened.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Members of the REDCAMP-DISASTERS regional network attended the Pre-Hurricane meeting in Saint Lucia and a REDCAMP-DISASTERS meeting was held immediately afterwards, in order to analyze activities carried out in the region. Several important documents (the HYOGO 2005-2015 Plan of Action and the Regional Risk Reduction Plan of Action 2006 - 2007) were also presented to regional network members. The importance of commitments obtained during the Presidents and Technical Seminars Meeting held in Panama in 2005 were also discussed. These topics included: regional centres of reference, Federation disaster-related policies, community disaster preparedness education, quality standards for the development and strengthening of disaster programmes in National Societies and strengthening of National Society collaboration during disaster situations. The coordinator of the regional network, from the Honduran Red Cross, was also re-elected during this meeting.

In El Salvador, preparations have been made for a National Intervention Team workshop for Emergency Supplies Management, which will target volunteers who play an active role in the management of supplies during an emergency. Additionally, a NIT Logistical Support workshop was carried out by members of Foundation for the Management of Emergency Supplies (FUNDESUMA) and with the participation of 27 Salvadorean Red Cross Society volunteers.

A consultant has been hired for the development of a teaching guide for the Disaster Management Policy which will facilitate the dissemination of Disaster Policy in the different National Societies, and strengthen capacity to assist people affected by disasters. A study for the development of a system of self-assessment of the quality of disaster departments and programmes in National Societies in Central America is also being carried out through the Red Cross Society of Panama.

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The first stage of the ProVention project has drawn to a close, and the project has begun its second stage, which consists of carrying out Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment and implementing disaster preparedness activities in Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Chile and Brazil.

A coordinated Red Cross approach to the call for proposals for DIPECHO V resulted in four individual National Society/Partner National Society led proposals for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, together with a regional proposal based on the two Centres of Reference, and the development of a regional strategy for risk reduction. The development of the regional proposal was coordinated by a consultant whose mission was funded by the British Red Cross, and a French Red Cross delegate also participated in the drafting of the proposal.

Impact:

In a joint effort with REDCAMP-DISASTERS, the Centres of Reference and the Regional Delegation, NIT and VCA trainers are being mobilized throughout the region to support National Societies in the development of courses and the carrying out of trainer of trainer's courses that will allow National Societies to better respond to disaster situations. More specialized NIT workshops are also currently being developed for National Societies which are ready to move beyond the basic NIT courses.

Constraints:

A lack of funding has resulted in the suspension of long term activities, directing programme budgets towards specific activities and providing technical support to National Societies.

Project Objective/ Expected Result 5: Disaster risk reduction information management is effectively used to increase awareness and identify hazards.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The risk reduction programme has not been in a position to start implementing activities in this area as a result of not having received funding. Despite this, certain information activities have been carried out, specifically the joint production of the second Continental Risk Reduction Bulletin, prepared by the Panama and Lima Regional Delegations and launched throughout the region in June, showcasing major events and achievements taking place in risk reduction in National Societies in the Americas. The regional risk reduction programme also took advantage of several large events, such as the Regional First Aid Camp held in Panama between 20 and 24 June, to present the regional risk reduction programme plan of action for 2006-2007, as well as the regional SPHERE project.

Constraints:

A lack of funding has severely limited the number of activities implemented under this objective.

Project Objective/ Expected Result 6: Cross Border communities are better supported by their Branches, and are interacting and coordinating with cross border neighbour communities.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

As has been mentioned above, six Honduran Red Cross volunteers were trained in the VCA methodology in June through the cross-border agreement with the Guatemalan Red Cross. The trained volunteers from the Honduran Red Cross will assist in the dissemination of the results of the VCA workshop and provide training to members of the Puerto Cortes and Omoa branches

The Guatemalan Red Cross is working with the Tapachula Branch of the Mexican Red Cross in the identification of vulnerable communities in the border area.

Constraints:

Lack of funding was a major constraint during the reporting period.

Organizational Development:

Programme Objective: The National Societies in the region are increasingly adhering to the criteria of a “Well Functioning National Society”, and are improving their capacity to work with vulnerable communities.

Project Objective/Expected Result 1: National Societies have improved their capacity to organize their volunteers in programmes that assist vulnerable people, through application of the regional volunteering strategy.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Regional Volunteering Strategy is divided into seven key components: management cycle, volunteering in emergency protocol, bylaws, management cycle, policy, sub-regional study and the training curriculum which aim to bring about a more effective way of recruiting, managing, and retaining volunteers. This strategy was officially approved during the Presidents’ meeting held in Panama on 25 July.

In this reporting period, the regional organizational development programme focused on disseminating the strategy through meetings with members of different areas of National Societies, including: Presidents, Volunteers, Youth Representatives, Directors General and Board Members. These meetings provided valuable feedback that will be included in the final draft of the strategy to be published towards the end of the year, both in English (for the Caribbean) and Spanish. The strategy was also presented to Partner National Societies: the American, Netherlands, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish, and Swiss Red Cross Societies in a meeting held in Panama from 12 to 14 June.

The different components of the Regional Volunteering Strategy were disseminated in the following meetings and events:

Dissemination and Approval of the Regional Volunteering Strategy			
Meeting/ Event	Location	Date	Participants
Directors General Meeting	Panama,	5-8 June	9 members of National Boards and 7 Directors General of regional National Societies.
XIII Regional First Aid Volunteer Camp	Panama	20-24 June	220 volunteers from 7 National Societies of the region.
REDCAMP-SALUD Meeting	Panama	4 June	
Regional Red Cross Youth Camp	Costa Rica	6-9 July	500 Red Cross youth volunteers from 7 National Societies of the region and one guest National Society (Colombian Red Cross Society).
National Society Presidents’ Meeting	Panama	25 July	National Red Cross Societies of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua Panama and the Dominican Republic.

First Aid volunteers in the region have prioritized the implementation of the Regional Volunteering Strategy, emphasizing components such as volunteer management and a greater role for volunteers in the decision-making process. The volunteers requested the support of the Organizational Development network with regard to the implementation of this regional policy during the regional First Aid camp held in Panama between 20 and 24 June.

Several important advances were achieved by National Societies of the region in the organization and training of volunteers, in accordance to the Regional Volunteering Strategy. The **Red Cross Society of Panama** established an insurance system for volunteers, ensuring more efficient recruitment and retention. The Red Cross Society of Panama Training Centre which has been working in conjunction with National Society and regional networks is

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also concluding the final stages in the development of training standards and tools for volunteers. Resources have been allocated towards the publication of volunteering documents and the validation and dissemination phase for these documents will begin shortly.

The **Nicaraguan Red Cross**, with the support of the Regional Delegation, began the process of carrying out a volunteer survey, as a part of the regional volunteer study which is proposed in the Regional Volunteering Strategy. With the support of a consultant, a Commission for Registry and Member Verification was established, registration formats developed and a schedule and procedures for member registration in all branches of the National Society put in place. A database design for storing membership information was approved and the personnel allocated for registration and member verification by the Nicaraguan Red Cross received training in the registration process.

The **Salvadorean Red Cross Society** approved the volunteering policy through a consultation with volunteers from all branches.

The Red Cross Society of Panama, the Guatemalan Red Cross and the Honduran Red Cross, have included volunteering indicators in their strategic plans, with the Salvadorean Red Cross Society and the Costa Rican Red Cross planning to do so as they revise their strategic plans later in the year. The implementation of the Red Cross Society of Panama strategic plan will work towards analyzing and adapting several components of the volunteering strategy, including the management cycle, policy, training curriculum, and updating volunteer registration. The key components of the volunteer policy and management cycle are also being put in place during the strategic planning work taking place in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica. The Guatemalan Red Cross published its volunteering policy and volunteer management cycle manual on its website, <http://guatemala.cruzroja.org/>, and is beginning to train branch volunteers in the use of these tools.

In accordance with commitments made during the Regional Youth Assembly, which took place in Costa Rica and in which eight National Societies participated, Red Cross Societies in the region are working towards including youth volunteers in the decision making process. Red Cross youth participates in the governance bodies in the National Societies of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama, and their participation in the decision-making process is being promoted in Nicaragua and Mexico through the regional youth network. The Guatemalan Red Cross is emphasizing the reorganization of its youth programme in order to allow youth volunteers to put forward candidatures for a seat in the National Board. In addition, the coordinator and sub-coordinator of the regional youth network were elected during the Regional Youth Assembly.

Activities under this result are being supported by the Capacity Building Fund, DFID, the Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies.

Impact:

The Presidents' Meeting, held in Panama on 25 July, resulted in significant agreements with regard to volunteers, with the basic components of the Regional Volunteering Strategy approved and agreement to begin implementing the strategy. National Society Presidents agree that volunteers must be provided with the necessary tools and materials and be included in every phase of the decision-making and planning process. There is also an emphasis on giving more relevance to non-traditional volunteer groups and in maintaining volunteers who played a role in emergency operations by recognizing and rewarding their achievements.

Project Objective/Expected Result 2: The integrity, institutional capacities and development of the National Societies are strengthened, in particular by utilizing the expertise of the regional organizational development network:

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The regional organizational development programme carried out a leadership workshop between 5 and 9 June in Panama, in which 9 members of National Boards and 7 Directors General participated and received training on: the Millennium Development Goals, the Federation of the Future, Strategic Alliances, financial resource development and Integrated Community Programmes. Workshop participants also received information on the ongoing activities carried out by the Regional Delegation in the areas of Organizational Development, Risk Reduction, Humanitarian Principles and Values and Health.

The Red Cross Society of Panama and the Nicaraguan Red Cross, with the support of DfID, have begun the process of developing an electoral policy and branch regulations using the Guatemalan Red Cross and the Haitian National Red Cross Society regulations and policies as a guide. The OD network is providing support in the drafting of these important documents.

With the support of CBF funding, the Red Cross Society of Panama published its Statutes and Strategic Plan. This plan was drafted in accordance with *Strategy 2010* and the Plan of Action of the Inter American Conference and will be officially launched and disseminated within government entities, NGOs, and accredited international organizations in September.

The electoral process of the Nicaraguan Red Cross is being strengthened through the dissemination of the new Statutes, which were approved by the General Assembly in 2005. Dissemination workshops are being held in all Nicaraguan Red Cross branches, and these were developed together with a consultant funded through the DfID partnership. Also with the support of DFID, the Costa Rican Red Cross is implementing the second phase of the institutional diagnostic process, to be used as a basis for the drafting of a National Strategic Plan later in the year.

With the financial support of the Norwegian Red Cross, members of the Guatemalan Red Cross National Board and a number of Directors General are successfully progressing in English courses. The OD programme has also supported the GRC in the dissemination of volunteer management information in 13 branches around the country.

The regional organizational programme, together with the regional OD network and the Lima Regional Delegation, has been coordinating the Continental Forum for Financial Resource Development to be held in August 2006. National Societies were provided with questionnaires about fund raising and financial recourse management to serve as background for the Forum. During the meeting in June 2006, the Directors General of the 7 National Societies in the region, together with the Director of the Dominican Red Cross, approved an initiative promoted by the Red Cross Society of Panama, which seeks to establish economies of scale and the wholesale purchase of products and supplies for the region.

Activities carried out to support National Societies in the development of their institutional capacities were implemented with the aid of CBF, DFID, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross funding.

Impact:

The regional OD network is working together with National Societies in the process of financial resource development, and continues to provide support for essential meetings, such as the discussions held in Panama in early June. The Nicaraguan Red Cross and the Red Cross Society of Panama are also in the process of developing electoral policies with the support of other Red Cross National Societies in the region.

Project Objective/Expected Result 3: The National Societies and their networks of branches have developed the capacity to manage integrated programmes at the community level

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

An analysis of the Integrated Community Programmes (ICP) Forum, held in 2005, was presented to and validated by governance and branch members of the National Societies of Mexico, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. This analysis was also shared with members of the organizational development and communication networks. It is still necessary to share these results with members of the regional health and risk reduction networks.

The Regional Delegation is advocating for the implementation of at least one micro project with the bordering branches of Changuinola (Panama) and Limón (Costa Rica) with close coordination between regional Organizational Development, Health, Humanitarian Principles and Values and Risk Reduction programmes.

Impact:

The analysis of results obtained in the implementation of Integrated Community Programmes will provide an important step in knowledge sharing, and in the planning process for future ICP programmes. It is planned to carry out a review of the experience in Integrated Community Programmes in the Central America region in the coming

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months, with funding from the Norwegian Red Cross in order to define a way forward, in anticipation of the holding of the XVIII Inter American Conference in 2007.

Constraints:

All documents and case studies are available in Spanish, but have not been launched in Fednet, although they are available through the www.cruzroja.org site. It is necessary to translate these documents as well as documents from the Continental Forum, into English for their launch in Fednet.

Humanitarian Principles and Values:

Programme Objective: Humanitarian principles and values are integrated in each of the core programme areas within the National Societies in the region, in accordance with Strategy 2010.

Project Objective/Expected Result 1: The National Societies are systematically disseminating the fundamental principles and humanitarian values, using regional tools.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The regional Humanitarian Principles and Values programme continues to work with the regional networks in order to promote the dissemination and ownership of humanitarian Principles and Values in the different programme areas. Advantage has been taken of the various annual regional network meetings that have taken place in order to introduce new tools and initiatives available and share ongoing project experiences with National Societies in the region.

Organizational Development Network: the HPV programme coordinator participated in the drafting of the Regional Volunteering Strategy, assisting particularly in the design of the volunteer training curriculum. The Regional Volunteering Strategy is based on strengthening human resources in the National Societies, encouraging leadership and decision-making among volunteers, and will play an important role in the promotion of humanitarian values in the future.

Communications Network (REDICOM): In coordination with the Costa Rican Red Cross, a number of educational tools have been developed which will aid communicators in the promotion of Humanitarian Principles and Values, including interactive games, training guides and different types of illustrations and visibility material.

Red Cross Youth: A flipchart on the subject of discrimination has been designed that will be used for training Red Cross youth volunteers and trainers. This material was validated during the Regional Youth Camp which took place in Costa Rica between 5 and 9 July.

Disaster Network: Support was provided in the design of the Regional Teaching Guide in Disaster Management Policies, which includes a module on Humanitarian Principles and Values, with specific reference to the Code of Conduct, better practices for volunteer participation in relief operations and training in the improvement of the decision making process.

The Humanitarian Principles and Values coordinator has been supporting training programme in National Societies in the region, promoting the participation of branches and members of different volunteer groups in National Societies.

In Guatemala, four HPV workshops were held during the National Volunteering Camp, which took place in Tecún Umán between 12 and 14 May, with the participation of representatives from all National Society branches. The following members of different volunteer groups from all branches took part:

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Type of training	First Aid/Relief Workers	Volunteer Ladies	Youth	Directors	Disaster Response Teams	Total
4 Humanitarian Principles and Values Workshops	32	18	30	10	20	110 Volunteers

With regard to the **Honduran Red Cross**, various training activities in the area of Humanitarian Principles and Values were carried out with National Society Directors and volunteers as follows:

Type of Training	Number of People Trained	Place and Date	Types of Volunteers Trained
Non-Discrimination	17	Tegucigalpa, 8 June	Directors
Humanitarian Principles and Values	16	Tegucigalpa, 27-28 April	Communicators
Humanitarian Principles and Values and Volunteering	33	Siguatepeque, 29-30 July	Youth Directors
Humanitarian Principles and Values and Volunteering	45	Siguatepeque, 29-30 July	First Aid/Relief Directors
V Humanitarian Principles and Values and Volunteering	22	Siguatepeque, 29- 30 July	Volunteer Ladies
Total	133		

Costa Rican Red Cross: The Regional Youth Camp, titled “Peace, Unity and Hope” which took place in Costa Rica on 5-9 July, was an important opportunity for the dissemination of Humanitarian Principles and Values and a workshop was held with the participation of 18 youth monitors.

Red Cross Society of Panama: As a result of the regional Humanitarian Principles and Values monitoring workshop which took place during the Regional Youth Camp held in Costa Rica, the Red Cross Society of Panama began the first stage of Humanitarian Principles and Values training in branches. This training took place in the Cocale branch on 28-30 July with the participation of 17 volunteers.

The Humanitarian Principles and Values regional website, www.cruzroja.org, was active during the reporting period and National Societies in the region published important information on programmes and activities being implemented. During the annual communicators’ (REDICOM) network meeting, held on 18-21 July, the content of the website was revised and approved and National Societies committed themselves to provide information to the regional webmaster of the site on a regular basis. The website now contains a constantly updated news section.

The following table shows National Society participation in the regional HPV website:

National Societies	Type of Information	Number of Articles / News Stories
El Salvador	HIV/AIDS and Violence	2
Honduras	HIV/AIDS, Violence and Gender	4
Guatemala	Indigenous populations, HIV/AIDS, Training	5
Nicaragua	HIV/AIDS	1
Costa Rica	Youth, Events	1
Panama	Youth and Violence	1

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The regional Humanitarian Principles and Values coordinator continues to work with the regional health programme in the REDCAMP-SALUD Regional Taxis Initiative, whereby taxi drivers are used as transmitters of HIV/AIDS messages focusing on prevention in high prevalence city environments and on promoting the message of tolerance and respect for people living with HIV and AIDS. This initiative is being carried out in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras and is soon to be implemented in Nicaragua with the support of the Italian Red Cross. (*See Objective 2 of the Health Section of this report for more information*).

Impact:

The promotion of tools for the dissemination of Humanitarian Principles and Values continues, generating more interest in addressing the subject in National Societies. As a result, training curricula are being designed for National Societies on themes related to Humanitarian Principles and Values and interactive and dynamic methodologies are being developed by the Costa Rican Red Cross.

Training of National Societies' volunteers, directors and technical personnel took place during this period in the area of Principles and Values. 80 percent of National Society programme coordinators have been trained. A reflection of the interest raised by the subject in National Societies is the importance given to the publication of news and articles on the web page.

The integration of the Health and Humanitarian Values programmes in the implementation of the taxi driver project has contributed to the notion of working in coordination in order to obtain better results in the fight against HIV/AIDS, optimizing resources and sharing experiences and capacities.

Project Objective/Expected Result 2: The National Societies are developing activities that promote tolerance, non-discrimination and respect for diversity, both within and outside the Movement.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Health, Volunteering, Organizational Development and Communicators Networks have held different meetings in which Humanitarian Principles and Values have been included, with the following results:

<i>Type of Training</i>	<i>Participants</i>
<i>Dissemination of the Non-Discrimination Pledge / Panama</i>	<i>22 National Volunteering Leaders of Central America, Mexico, Panama, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic</i>
<i>Dissemination of the Non-Discrimination Pledge / Panama</i>	<i>12 individuals responsible for Organizational Development in Central America, Mexico and Panama</i>
<i>Dissemination of the Non-Discrimination Pledge / Panama</i>	<i>11 individuals responsible for Health and HIV/AIDS in Central America, Panama and Mexico.</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>45 persons</i>

Coordination is taking place with the regional representative of the Spanish Red Cross for the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Prevention of Violence, in order to join efforts and resources to guide the work of National Societies. Already, significant advances have been made in the furthering of this issue within National Societies in the region, for instance:

Honduran Red Cross: The implementation of the "Enhancing Opportunities" project continues in Tegucigalpa and Ciudad España. The second round of implementation will take place in La Ceiba (north of the country) with the support of the Spanish Red Cross.



The Regional Youth Camp, which focused on values and tolerance, was held in Cartago, Costa Rica, with the participation of more than 250 youth volunteers from throughout the region.

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Red Cross Society of Panama: Red Cross Youth volunteers developed a workshop on Youth and Violence in the context of the National Meeting, which aims at orienting leaders and volunteers.

Costa Rican Red Cross: As part of the Programme for the Regional Youth Meeting, a three-day Training of Trainers' workshop was developed on the subject of violence in each country with the aim of generating a multiplying effect in Youth groups.

Guatemalan Red Cross: has put together a pilot project proposal for activities within indigenous populations, oriented towards the promotion of indigenous women's rights and the reduction of domestic violence.

Project Objective/Expected Result 3: At the national level, National Society leadership is promoting advocacy activities in favour of vulnerable populations, as established in the Plan of Action of the XVII Inter American Conference.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Significant advances have been accomplished in the dissemination of the Non-Discrimination Pledge in National Societies of the region, with 45 programme coordinators trained, representing 65 per cent of the total technical personnel of National Societies. This step fosters the creation of opportunities for internal discussion and the improvement of programme orientation.

Impact:

The Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Honduran, Panamanian and Salvadorean Red Cross Societies have incorporated advocacy within their National Strategic Plans.

Constraints:

The concept of advocacy is still little understood amongst Red Cross Societies in the region. A great deal more emphasis on understanding the Red Cross role in advocating for issues affecting vulnerable people needs to be placed in the run up to the forthcoming Inter American Conference.

Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships:

Programme Objective: Strengthened and improved cooperation, coordination and support mechanisms are in place, facilitating collaboration amongst Movement partners and with strategic partners.

Cooperation and Coordination

In the middle of June the Regional Delegation met with a number of Participating National Societies which work in the Central America/Caribbean region, both multi-laterally and bilaterally. Representatives from American, Italian, Netherlands, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies, as well as the ICRC participated. This was the first meeting for some time, so the meeting provided a valuable space for all to share information related to regional strategies and plans and identify a number of possible areas where there is potential for more effective Red Cross collaboration. The meeting was coordinated together with a similar meeting held in South America, with representatives of each Regional Delegation present at both meeting, reflecting the fact that the continent is increasingly leveraging the possibilities of working together when this makes sense.

The Regional Delegation aims to complement the work of Movement partners in the region and develops the potential of working together within the region or continent. This strategy has led to the adoption of common methodologies and materials (in vulnerability and capacity assessment, community based disaster preparedness, peer education in HIV/AIDS, psychological first aid, community health and volunteer management). During this reporting period, particular emphasis was placed on two areas; community disaster preparedness and water and sanitation.

Working with the four Mitch-affected National Societies of Central America and the Italian, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies, the Red Cross submitted five proposals for DIPECHO V Central America, consisting of four national proposals submitted by different PNS in consortia and an under-pinning regional proposal, focusing on developing the common approaches and tools. The Federation, with support from the British and French Red

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Cross Societies developed this innovative regional proposal involving a number of other organizations such as the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), Plan International and the Coordination Centre for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America (CEPREDENAC) and facilitated an active cooperation process between the different components of the Federation to ensure complementarity between the different proposals.

In the area of Water and Sanitation, the Regional Delegation, together with the Port of Spain office, was actively involved in negotiating with a number of European and Caribbean National Societies in order to present a proposal for the EU-funded Global Water Facility. With active support from the Federation Secretariat Headquarters' Water & Sanitation Unit, the French Red Cross, the Federation and the Suriname Red Cross presented a proposal in June 2006.

As mentioned previously, the Federation continues to collaborate with the Spanish Red Cross in the implementation of the regional anti-violence strategy adopted by the Presidents of the Central American National Societies in September 2005. More details are provided in the Principles and Values section above. The Regional Delegation also continued to provide support to the Haiti Delegation and the National Society, including during the period Haiti's active participation in high-level meetings with PNS to try to obtain more sustainable funding for the implementation of the Haitian National Red Cross Society' plan of action. Despite intense dialogue, the Haiti plan of action lacks critical funding in a number of developmental areas (see programme update for Haiti).

Initial discussions related to the preparatory process for the Inter American Conference to be held in June 2007 have led to a decision to carry out a review of the development of Red Cross in the Americas, building on the baseline picture provided by "The Challenges of Human Development" produced by the Federation 15 years ago. The terms of reference for this review are currently being finalized and will be shared with National Societies. It is anticipated that the review of cooperation experience in Central America that had been planned as part of this expected result will be incorporated into this study, and therefore the Regional Delegation has eliminated this stand-alone study from its plans.

Networks

The Regional Delegation developed a proposal to carry out a review of the experience within the region of working through networks which received funding from the DfID/Federation partnership. An open process resulted in five proposals from consultants, with INTRAC being contracted to carry out the review. Consultants attended several Federation meetings, carried out a number of face-to-face and telephone interviews and started the process of compiling the report, which will be shared and discussed with National Societies and others later in the year.

A number of network meetings were held during the period, as has been mentioned previously, and networks become increasingly involved in the implementation of regional programmes managed by the Regional Delegation.

ICRC

During the reporting period the Regional Delegation and the ICRC were in regular communication and collaborated in a number of regional meetings, including the ICRC's REDICOM and PNS meetings held in June.

Alliances and strategic partnerships which are delivering valuable services to vulnerable people.

As mentioned in the previous programme update, the "Faces" programme being implemented throughout Central America and the Caribbean continues to build on the strategic alliance between McCann Erickson and the International Federation. The campaign has been chosen to highlight the Federation presence at the forthcoming global HIV/AIDS meeting to be held in Toronto in August 2006 and preparations are underway to give maximum visibility to the National Societies' work in this area.

In the risk reduction programme, discussions continue with a number of other international organizations active in the region as how to work effectively together. Plan International and ISDR both collaborated in the development of the DIPECHO V proposal, and Plan International visited the Centre of Reference in Costa Rica to become better acquainted with the work and services of the centre, with a view to entering into a more formal strategic alliance later in the year.

Constraints:

The issue of how to advance cooperation, and specifically Cooperation Agreement Strategies (CAS), within the region remains an open question within the Central American region, with little appetite being shown for adopting CAS as a strategic tool. At the same time, day-to-day cooperation between National Societies is progressing, in part through their increased contact through networks, together with increasing use of certain internet-based communications tools such as internet telephony, which has been strongly encouraged by the Federation Delegation. The Delegation remains concerned at the low level of funding for this objective, with modest contributions so far received from British and Norwegian Red Cross Societies.

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - CENTRAL AMERICA

Interim Annual Appeal Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/7
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA43001
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	2'593'145	1'407'166	279'209	1'051'333	472'163	5'803'015
B. Opening Balance	168'865	123'973	31	159'678	51'027	503'574
Income						
Cash contributions						
British Red Cross	95'615	128'047	0	0	1'235	224'897
Canadian Red Cross Society	18'895					18'895
Capacity Building Fund		46'720		0		46'720
DFID Partnership	12'972	19'208	17'462	60'120	17'462	127'224
Norwegian Red Cross	-10'798			-15'689		-26'486
Swedish Red Cross	95'623		21'031	42'063		158'717
C1. Cash contributions	212'308	193'975	38'493	86'494	18'697	549'967
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
Norwegian Red Cross	438'900			159'600	19'950	618'450
Swedish Red Cross	65'244		21'313	42'625		129'181
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	504'144		21'313	202'225	19'950	747'631
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
American Red Cross				0		0
Australian Red Cross				6'015	-6'015	0
British Red Cross		0			0	-0
Capacity Building Fund				-0		0
DFID - British Government	-14'624			-0		-14'624
DFID Partnership					40'000	40'000
Irish Red Cross Society	0					0
Italian DREF		2'641				2'641
Netherlands Red Cross		40'000		20'000	15'594	75'594
Norwegian Red Cross					-0	-0
Swedish Red Cross	0			0		-0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)	-14'624	42'641		26'015	49'579	103'611
Inkind Personnel						
British Red Cross					43'400	43'400
C5. Inkind Personnel					43'400	43'400
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	701'827	236'616	59'806	314'734	131'626	1'444'609
D. Total Funding = B + C	870'692	360'590	59'837	474'412	182'653	1'948'183

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	168'865	123'973	31	159'678	51'027	503'574
C. Income	701'827	236'616	59'806	314'734	131'626	1'444'609
E. Expenditure	-388'688	-235'834	-30'499	-344'862	-112'629	-1'112'512
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	482'004	124'756	29'337	129'550	70'024	835'671

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - CENTRAL AMERICA

Interim Annual Appeal Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/7
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA43001
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	
BUDGET (C)		2'593'145	1'407'166	279'209	1'051'333	472'163	5'803'015	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	46'000							46'000
Construction Materials	28'000		54				54	27'946
Clothing & textiles	14'000							14'000
Food		265					265	-265
Medical & First Aid		846					846	-846
Teaching Materials	60'000		3'214				3'214	56'786
Utensils & Tools	77'000		42				42	76'958
Total Supplies	225'000	1'110	3'309				4'420	220'580
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	15'000				1'113		1'113	13'887
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	15'000				1'113		1'113	13'887
Transport & Storage								
Storage		235					235	-235
Distribution & Monitoring		313					313	-313
Transport & Vehicle Costs	21'320	1'372	375	49	1'147	58	3'000	18'320
Total Transport & Storage	21'320	1'919	375	49	1'147	58	3'547	17'773
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	1'048'340	54'595	29'075		39'002	7'866	130'537	917'803
Delegate Benefits	340'372	29'125	18'535		20'413	60'972	129'045	211'327
Regionally Deployed Staff	235'485	144	7'868			144	8'157	227'328
National Staff	210'396	18'774	18'928	779	1'589	6'499	46'569	163'827
National Society Staff	241'060	16'910	20'945	7'745	6'068		51'668	189'392
Consultants	226'338	3'158	9'235		4'691	17'306	34'390	191'948
Total Personnel Expenditures	2'301'991	122'706	104'586	8'523	71'763	92'787	400'366	1'901'625
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	2'117'483	77'280	19'839	483	84'308	3'563	185'474	1'932'009
Total Workshops & Training	2'117'483	77'280	19'839	483	84'308	3'563	185'474	1'932'009
General Expenditure								
Travel	331'416	36'626	26'000	1'983	16'049	14'868	95'527	235'889
Information & Public Relation	312'069	10'562	7'568	66	980	756	19'932	292'137
Office Costs	51'260	3'834	6'898	15	2'307	724	13'779	37'481
Communications	41'280	7'922	6'781	1'003	5'017	1'852	22'575	18'705
Professional Fees	8'000	2'608	393		1'475		4'476	3'524
Financial Charges		4'830	7'950	400	5'090	-4'418	13'852	-13'852
Other General Expenses	1'000	425	330		418	184	1'358	-358
Total General Expenditure	745'025	66'808	55'920	3'467	31'336	13'967	171'499	573'527
Program Support								
Program Support	377'196	25'265	15'329	1'982	22'416	7'138	72'130	305'066
Total Program Support	377'196	25'265	15'329	1'982	22'416	7'138	72'130	305'066
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		93'600	36'475	15'994	132'780	-4'884	273'963	-273'963
Total Operational Provisions		93'600	36'475	15'994	132'780	-4'884	273'963	-273'963
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	5'803'015	388'688	235'834	30'499	344'862	112'629	1'112'512	4'690'503
VARIANCE (C - D)		2'204'457	1'171'332	248'709	706'471	359'534	4'690'503	