

Programme Update 2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Southeast Asia

Appeal no. MAA51001

Programme Update No. 4

This report covers the period 1/7/2007 to 30/11/2007 of the 2006-07 appeal.

In a world of global challenges, continued poverty, inequity, and increasing vulnerability to disasters and disease, the International Federation with its global network, works to accomplish its Global Agenda, partnering with local community and civil society to prevent and alleviate human suffering from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies.



With the people: the Southeast Asia regional programme supports national societies in implementing the Global Agenda, primarily through their volunteers.

In brief

Programme Summary: The annual leadership together with the secretaries-general meeting in Phnom Penh in September demonstrated the seriousness with which Southeast Asian national societies take their responsibility as **members of the Federation**. On behalf of their societies, the leaders committed to stronger and more coordinated approaches to reducing vulnerability, primarily under the **first three goals of the Global Agenda**; namely, disaster management, health and care and capacity development. The forum ensured that the region provided a **strong voice and valuable input** at the series of statutory meetings for the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in November 2007.

The leadership forum validated the regional programme as being on the right track in terms of **national society support**, which concentrates on the following areas: **representation** (e.g. the UN-led meeting on reducing disaster risk for school children); **knowledge sharing** (e.g. support to the Issue Group Forum on better volunteer management during emergencies); **strengthening of partnership** (e.g. in terms of a more coherent approach to branch development); **stimulating networking** (e.g. support to the regional disaster management committee); and **country-level support to national societies** through delegations (e.g. support to **Cambodian Red Cross** in its **human resource** development, and **Viet Nam Red Cross** during the **October floods**).

Needs: Total 2006-2007 budget CHF 8.76 million (USD 7.2 million or EUR 5.3 million) out of which 67.8% covered. Outstanding needs are CHF 2.82 million (USD 2.54 million or EUR 1.73 million). [Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

No. of people we help: The regional programme principally supports the 11 national societies of Southeast Asia, who in turn work with millions of people.

Partners: The Federation regional team's primary partners are the 11 Southeast Asian national societies as well as relevant government ministries, such as health and disaster management bodies. Within the Movement, there has been strong and loyal support from multilateral supporters, which include: Swedish Red Cross/government, Norwegian Red Cross/government, Australian Red Cross/government; the Japanese, Finnish, New Zealand, German, Netherlands, Austrian, and Italian national societies, the Hong Kong branch of the China Red Cross, Capacity Building Fund (CBF), and Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Outside of the Movement, UN OCHA (through the Inter Agency Standing Committee), UN-ESCAP, WHO and several UN agencies are important partners in addition to NGOs, such as CARE and Oxfam.

Disaster management

Global Agenda Goal 1: Reduced deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

Programme objective: The disaster preparedness and response capacity at national and regional level is substantially improved and the linkages to the Federation's global response system assured through a comprehensive, integrated regional disaster management (DM) approach.

Achievements: The regional delegation supported the **Viet Nam Red Cross'** response to major flooding across northern and central provinces in early October as a result of typhoon Lekima. The extent of the disaster prompted an International Federation emergency appeal on 17 October for **CHF 3.23 million**¹ following a CHF 200,000² allocation from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), to support a 12-month operation in support of **193,000 beneficiaries**. Footage supplied by the regional information delegate was carried on CNN. While response to the appeal was initially disappointing, it has recently picked up.

A regional disaster response team (**RDRT**) reflection course in **Singapore** pinpointed the following as major issues to be addressed in 2008: a continuing lack of integration with global response tools; weakness in back-up support; the lack of standardized equipment; problematic working relationship with field assessment and coordination teams (FACT); and several (up to 40 per cent) on the 171-strong roster lapsing into inactivity. The first joint South and Southeast Asia RDRT course, and the first specialized course were conducted for **experienced RDRT and logistics managers**. The outcome was a strengthened understanding and capacity for RDRT members to support national societies and Federation delegations in the logistics of relief operations. The move towards joint RDRT courses indicates the growing cooperation between national societies within Asia Pacific as well as the progress and acceptance of RDRT as an effective disaster management tool. The **7th RDRT induction** in Bali in November brought the roster to 200-plus participants. RDRT also took part in an **ARDEX (ASEAN regional disaster emergency response simulation exercise) scenario**, also in Singapore. On this occasion, the RDRT provided **first aid support** to ministry of health efforts in the wake of a simulated building collapse that brought in international support and teams from other ASEAN countries.

The regional disaster management unit (RDMU, based in Bangkok with the regional delegation) held a **shelter technical workshop** to enhance the awareness of national societies in **technical, social and coordination issues** related to **shelter in emergency response and recovery operations**. Further recommendations for appropriate preparedness activities in support of future shelter interventions will be developed for the RDMU to incorporate at the national level. This will further strengthen the region's capacity for emergency response.

¹ USD 2.86 million or EUR 1.95 million

² USD 176,864 or EUR 170,772

The **volunteers-in-emergencies issue group** met in Bangkok on 1-3 October to identify how best **national societies within Southeast Asia** can effectively support and celebrate the role and contributions of their volunteers involved in disaster management programming. The group developed a set of **minimum standards** for the management of volunteers during the various phases of disaster response. Representatives from **Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand** drafted the provisional standards.

In line with the regional disaster management strategy over the past year and a half, the focus has been on supporting country-level initiatives. The RDMU recently took part in or led the following activities: support to **Cambodia Red Cross** and **Thai Red Cross** to complete their respective five- and three-year **disaster management strategies**. The processes involved extensive consultation with in-country partners as well as donors to identify strengths, weaknesses and ways forward to provide effective services to their communities.

Myanmar Red Cross requested RDMU support to assist in discussions with **16 government departments** to develop a **multi-hazard contingency plan**. The three-day workshop shared ideas and improved knowledge of respective roles and responsibilities. Further discussions in December will refine the contingency planning to date. **Myanmar Red Cross** was also supported through its **development of a format and guidelines** for contingency planning in the region. **Lao Red Cross** and **Thai Red Cross** community-based activities continued in their respective countries. Support of the VCA³ process in vulnerable communities was provided in Lao PDR, while the development of general understanding and awareness of disaster management and community-based approaches was provided in Thailand. Ongoing support is also being provided to **Philippines Red Cross**' 143 project, which focuses on developing community-based disaster preparedness and responders nationwide.

As part of the Federation's commitment to the ongoing **humanitarian reform process**, a training course for **coordinators of emergency shelter clusters** during natural disasters was held in Bangkok on 15-19 October. Participants came from UNHCR, the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Federation secretariat, host and partner national societies) and other organizations across Asia Pacific. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid (OCHA) Asia Pacific has commented that progress and the attitude of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in its approach to the reform process is proving to be a useful peer example to others in the humanitarian sector.

The regional disaster management programme also hosted a regional training on **cash transfer in humanitarian assistance**. Representatives from Philippines, Indonesian, Danish and German Red Cross societies attended this three-day training. The aim was to raise awareness of the issues associated with cash transfer programmes and build up the relevant skills and knowledge of emergency managers who will be responsible for running such initiatives in emergencies. The RDMU will look to both the **Philippines** and **Indonesia** to provide input into the regional network of national society disaster managers in the coming year.

The increasing need to look at supporting vulnerable communities in a holistic manner through a **disaster risk reduction (DRR) approach** was discussed in Nairobi which the **RDMU** and **Cambodian Red Cross** attended. The meeting examined the Red Cross and Red Crescent approach to DRR, and how it can build on existing expertise and develop strategic directions to support disaster-resilient communities. The outcomes identified a number of key areas to develop an effective global alliance in DRR that inspires effective and integrated work at the community and national level. This is an important issue for Southeast Asia and the RDMU will be working extensively on how the Red Cross and Red Crescent can collectively address DRR within the region over the coming year.

In line with the discussion in Nairobi, a notable Red Cross Red Crescent team represented **the Movement** at a high-level **Asia Pacific regional workshop on school education and disaster risk reduction** focusing on school children in Asia Pacific. The **Indonesia, Viet Nam, Sri Lanka, Fiji, French, German, and Netherlands national societies** and the **regional delegation** contributed, particularly regarding **non-formal education** and

³ Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment

community mobilization. The event attracted representatives of governments, UN and NGOs as well as the Red Cross Red Crescent, and is part of the **international strategy on disaster reduction (ISDR)** intended to feed into the **Delhi declaration** to be issued in November.

The **international disaster response law (IDRL, principles and guidelines)** initiative continued to gather momentum. Preparations for discussions and decisions in this regard at the Movement's International Conference in November continued apace. IDRL also serves as an increasingly influential model for others involved in formulating guidelines related to aspects of international humanitarian action. An initiative '**guidelines for military assistance to disaster relief and initial recovery operations**' envisages a similar structure and level of detail to IDRL and draws on the process that was used to develop the IDRL guidelines. OCHA is promoting the involvement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent-hosted IDRL initiative as a 'shepherd' for this latest attempt at improving international preparedness for and response to disasters.

The regional team supported national society input to the debate on **climate change** within the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The Southeast Asian national societies proposed a guiding statement for consideration at the International Conference, that is: *'The RCRC works with communities to help them interpret, prepare for and adapt to climate change. This is achieved by building community resilience through disaster risk reduction, research and advocacy both locally and globally.'*

In terms of regional partner national societies in Southeast Asia, **German Red Cross** reports the go-ahead of a two-year EUR 300,000 (CHF 497,100 or USD 439,160) integrated community disaster preparedness project to strengthen people's coping mechanisms in **Philippine National Red Cross'** Palawan chapter in November. Meanwhile, in **Viet Nam**, German Red Cross co-organized a one-week **bio-sand filter** workshop in Hanoi in September, demonstrating a good alternative to ceramic filters.

Challenges:

The regional DM programme set itself a highly ambitious programme over the reporting period and achieved what it set out to do. The programme jointly implemented by the regional disaster management unit (RDMU) and the regional disaster management committee (RDMC) of the 11 Southeast Asian national societies, maintained a good pace. It required genuine commitment from national societies to complete individual tasks as well as contribute to the overall advancement of regional DM capacity and quality. The challenge in 2008 will be to consolidate much of this work at the national level to enable the momentum to continue. Support of these processes from the RDMU will need to be prioritized. The RDMC will be consulted to guide effective DM programming at the regional and, more importantly, the national level.

Health and care

Global Agenda Goal 2: Reduced deaths, illness and impact from disease and public health emergencies.

Programme Objective: The region's national societies deliver quality health and care programmes and services that address the needs of the most vulnerable communities.

Regional and cross-border cooperation between governments and national societies is becoming increasingly important with the **emergence and re-emergence of infectious diseases** caused by infectious agents, which do not respect borders and carry no passport. There is a growing realization in the region that with large numbers of people moving more easily within and between countries, no country can prevent, control and contain communicable diseases by itself. There is also agreement that governments and health system-based actions alone cannot tackle these challenges; **strong community-based prevention programmes are equally important in a successful fight against communicable diseases – and this is where national societies play a crucial role.**

The Regional Health Unit represents national societies and advocates for the right to health of vulnerable communities in relevant regional forums. Some of these include the 'First Regional Health Forum for the Mekong Sub Region' focusing on control of communicable diseases, held in November organized by ADB and WHO, and

the **Asia Pacific Meeting for Health Emergency Partners** organized by WHO in October. Global **collaboration between WHO and the Federation** is being promoted with a regional focus on **HIV** including **safe blood and 'health in emergencies'**.

Avian Human Influenza is one such challenge requiring strong regional and in-country cooperation. Southeast Asia continues to experience human deaths caused by the H5N1 virus, **Indonesia** being the hardest hit with 119 confirmed cases of which 91 have died. A number of national societies access funding from the Global Appeal for Avian Human Influenza and are actively building community awareness and coordinating with key stakeholders in their countries. In Bangkok, the regional health unit continues to host a **monthly inter-agency meeting** and has recently joined a partnership comprising ADB, AHI, NGOs, and the Red Cross Red Crescent with CARE, IRC (International Rescue Committee) and the ADPC (Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre) on **'Strengthening Community Based Approaches to Management of Avian and Human Influenza in Asia'** funded by the ADB. The initiative seeks to strengthen the role of non-government and humanitarian community organizations in combating Avian Human Influenza at community level. Regional training workshops and study tours will be conducted and a regional tool-kit developed.

Another communicable disease of increasing public health importance to the region is **dengue/dengue haemorrhagic fever**. This year, many countries have experienced a higher number of cases and mortality compared to previous years; the Cambodian government declared dengue a 'public health emergency' and the **Cambodian Red Cross** launched a disaster response emergency fund (DREF) appeal. Increased travel, urbanization and migration contribute to the increase and spread of dengue while longer changing rainy seasons and temperature increases due to climate change may also contribute to the problem. Many national societies are engaged in prevention programmes and play an essential role at community level by raising awareness and supporting the elimination of mosquito breeding sites.

The **HIV Asian network, ART**, held its 19th Annual Meeting in Malacca, Malaysia in October with participants from **13 national societies**, two from the regional health unit, and one from the Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV (APN+). The chairman of the European HIV network also participated in the last two days and further cooperation between the two networks is expected. Training on **'harm reduction'** was included in the meeting.

Lately, the ART network has been relatively quiet; and this meeting set the agenda of re-invigorating the network and setting its direction until 2010. From 2008, ART will be chaired by **Thai Red Cross** with the management team consisting of members from Cambodia, Mongolia and Japan. Future challenges include maintaining the momentum and relevance of the network; employing a secretariat position to support the network, using the network membership fee; ensuring the network members take on stronger ownership for maintaining and setting the agenda for the network, with Federation providing technical and capacity support.

A regional **Global Alliance on HIV** meeting was organized in Kuala Lumpur in October; participants included 17 people from **ten host national societies**, eight people from seven partner national societies, three people from external organizations as well as eight others from the Federation regional and country delegations, and Geneva Secretariat. All national societies drafted country plans to scale up their HIV programming from 2008 to 2010 and bring their respective programmes in line with the **Global Alliance framework**. All partners worked together to develop country plans including discussions on resource mobilization. There was agreement to move forward quickly on finalizing plans with a goal of launching the Global Alliance in Southeast Asia and Pacific on 1 December, being **World AIDS Day**.

Challenges identified by participants included: securing leadership commitment to scale up HIV programming and work with vulnerable groups; enhancing human resource and technical capacity of national societies to work with vulnerable groups and to scale up HIV programming; making the Global Alliance framework fit with the HIV programmes of national societies and to gain the support of external donors for the framework. There is strong commitment to work with APN+ and country-level networks of people living with HIV. However, continuous challenges arise in ascertaining the genuine involvement of people living with HIV in Red Cross Red Crescent HIV programming, and in identifying areas where Red Cross Red Crescent and people living with HIV networks can work collaboratively.

Participation in the International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) in Sri Lanka, as well as coordinating the one-day Red Cross Red Crescent pre-ICAAP meeting, provided an opportunity to showcase Red Cross Red Crescent work in the Asia Pacific region. However forums such as these could have been used more effectively. The Red Cross Red Crescent was unfortunately not seen as a major force in HIV in the region with only nominal representation in the actual conference programme. Continued representation and meetings with allied HIV organizations and authorities as well as networking with key donor agencies at regional and country level is essential to promoting Red Cross Red Crescent HIV work. There is also the need to explore potential resource mobilization opportunities; meetings have included international non-governmental organizations, national AIDS authorities, UN agencies, ICRC, APN+, DFID, and USAID.

Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donor Recruitment (VNBDR) is a core activity of most national societies in the region and some societies have been given a special mandate by their ministry of health to also manage national blood services. Through an agreement with the regional delegation, **Singapore Red Cross** provides technical support to regional activities related to VNBDR such as facilitation of a national training of trainers (ToT) in **Lao PDR** for staff from the national blood transfusion centre and all provinces. An upcoming ToT workshop in **Cambodia** in December will be co-facilitated by the regional technical advisor from Singapore Red Cross and the Lao Red Cross donor recruitment director. They will also carry out the facilitation of the fifth **Regional VNBDR Meeting**. This meeting to be held in Phnom Penh on 5-8 December follows previous meetings held in Myanmar in 2006, Lao PDR in 2005, and Singapore in 2003 and 2000. Demonstrating their commitment to strengthening blood donor recruitment, **Myanmar Red Cross** went forward and organized a scheduled follow-up workshop for VNBDR, even though the regional advisor could not provide support as planned due to unrest in the country.

Recognizing the significant role some national societies have in national blood services, the regional health unit is linking up with the Global Advisory Panel (GAP) to provide technical support outside VNBDR; Viet Nam is now a priority country for GAP and with close in-country cooperation with WHO and the National Institute, **Viet Nam Red Cross** has initiated a process to develop a strategy and action plan.

The 11th International Colloquium on VNBDR, a bi-annual global event, will be held in Cairo on 12-18 January 2008. The Southeast Asia region will be well represented with nine participants from **Singapore Red Cross, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Philippines National Red Cross, Thai Red Cross Society, and Indonesian Red Cross**.

The revitalization process of '**Community-based First Aid in Action**' is ongoing and field testing is currently taking place in **Indonesia**. **Lao Red Cross** has initiated a commercial first aid programme in cooperation between the health and organizational departments. **Thai Red Cross** is providing technical support and training while funding is provided by the regional health unit as part of the long-term multilateral support from **New Zealand Red Cross** to **Lao Red Cross**. The regional health unit coordinates with the **Netherlands Red Cross** as partners to Lao Red Cross' CBFA and water and sanitation programme in three provinces in the south. Progress at the community level, however, has been slow and intensified in-country and regional support to the programme is planned to address the situation.

Valuable **partners to the regional health programme** include, among others, the **Japanese, New Zealand, Norwegian, Danish, Australian** and **German Red Cross** societies.

Challenges:

Ownership of and commitment to 'networks' is an interesting challenge. What are the key determinants of a well functioning network? What is the added value of a network that will make members feel it is worthwhile to contribute? A health network with a developmental agenda (such as HIV or VNBDR) is by nature very different from a network with an emergency/response agenda (such as some disaster-related networks). What are the best approaches and strategies to support and develop different kinds of networks? These issues continue to surface and require reflection from the national societies and secretariat.

The regional health unit positions of a psychosocial delegate or a health-in-emergencies delegate have been

removed; while the water and sanitation delegate position which was vacant from July till mid-November, has now been filled. In the context of the consolidation process and the new zone structure, the health unit is attempting to establish a structure together with systems that build on existing capacities and strengths of national societies and country- and regional delegations, while avoiding duplication and overlap. As a result of this process, roles and responsibilities of remaining positions in the regional health unit need to be adjusted.

Capacity and development

Global Agenda Goal 3: Increased local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme objective: Improved services to vulnerable people.

Achievements: The report is divided according to the two key aspects of the regional organizational development (OD) programme:

(i) Country-specific OD interventions: Five key priority areas for country-specific OD interventions have been established through interviews with national societies and other Movement partners and through consultation of regional strategic documents. These are: governance; human resources (HR) and management; finance development; volunteering and youth; and fundraising.

(ii) Communication, coordination and networking

Country-specific OD interventions

Finance Development

Support was provided to national societies that have identified finance development as a priority, namely the Myanmar, Lao PDR, Timor-Leste (CVTL) and Cambodian Red Cross societies. The finance development delegate worked directly with each.

In **Myanmar**, draft financial rules and procedures were created and translated into English. This has enabled useful comment and discussion about how issues might be addressed in such documents to promote clarity and transparency. The finance development intervention used self-created tools as a fruitful base for discussions.

Meetings with a software supplier took place in-country with a view to upgrade the finance software currently in use.

In **Lao PDR**, investigations into replacing the current unfinished software with a standard international package continued. In addition, 14 accounting staff are to be trained in basic skills in a course recognized by the government. Negotiations are underway for a one-year plan of finance development and a two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Lao Red Cross Society to ensure lasting progress in finance development can be made.

In **Timor-Leste**, the national society is anxious to improve its finance systems, which are currently managed by staff with a limited accounting background. The **Australian Red Cross** has agreed to partner with CVTL on this front. The finance development delegate has written the terms of reference to engage a consultant from Australian Red Cross.

In **Cambodia**, a visit from the finance development delegate established that Cambodian Red Cross has progressed in its financial management. The national society is currently seeking to computerize the finances of 24 branches with consultative support from the finance development delegate, if required.

Human Resources and Management

After judicious negotiations with **Cambodian Red Cross**, a clear Terms of Reference has been negotiated for a consultant to support the development of a human resource (HR) strategy. This consultant will report directly to the national society leaders to ensure that Cambodian Red Cross is leading the process. The first mission has taken place and the schedule and outputs for the project agreed.

The **Myanmar Red Cross** is looking at their HR system in the context of a health department in need of reorganization. A local consultant has begun work with an international consultant with Federation support and they will carry out in-depth research in the national society before recommending the next steps to its executive committee.

Lao Red Cross has investigated the possibility of significant reform of its HR system to improve the incentive structure, set a standard salary scale and then seek a percentage of programme costs from partners. However, the decision has been made to explore minor changes to the system before attempting a major reorganization.

Thai Red Cross has developed a new HR scorecard system to help them reform processes. It has also developed training modules in HR which will soon be rolled out in the national society.

Volunteering and youth

In the **Malaysian Red Crescent**, volunteer management training was carried out in the Sarawak branch.

In **Viet Nam**, the national society has been working on policies and procedures for volunteers. It has been supported in this process through meetings involving the Federation and their other partners. The process is continuing and feedback will be included in an updated draft in January.

Philippines Red Cross is continuing to implement its programme to recruit volunteers in every village in the country under the project called 143. Input on volunteer management will be welcome in 2008.

Achievements related to volunteer work in partnership with the DM and health programmes are detailed below under *Communication, coordination and networking*.

Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) held its first-ever youth council following discussions at the last regional youth directors' meeting. This is an encouraging development in youth taking a more visible role in the society.

The regional meeting of youth directors was hosted by **Malaysian Red Crescent Society**. Details for a new regional youth challenge were agreed upon and each national society is expected to produce a video highlighting their youth work. This will form a part of the activities for 2008. A number of arrangements were also made for youth participants to take part in events of other countries in the region.

The regional OD officer has taken part in a major gathering of Asia Pacific youth hosted by the **Japanese Red Cross** sharing the Federation's approach to youth development.

Governance

Three major events were the focus of governance support. The first was the **Southeast Asian leaders' meeting** hosted by **Cambodia Red Cross**. A number of decisions were made to focus on OD work in the region, including seeking improvements in board training and the refocusing of the OD forum. The opportunity was also taken to discuss leaders' input on the auxiliary role of their national societies. This was a key agenda item during the statutory meetings in Geneva.

The second event was a leadership forum in Myanmar discussing the Federation's integrity policy and the Movement statutes. This meeting has led to plans for further discussions on the responsibility of **Movement partners** as seen in the **Seville agreement** and has increased interest in revising the legal base of the **Myanmar Red Cross**.

Viet Nam Red Cross has progressed on the development of a **Red Cross Law**, which provides an opportunity to clarify the relationship between the government and national society. The **Federation** and **ICRC** provided advice on how to ensure that the new law respects the principles and requirements of the Movement. A joint mission was undertaken to meet with **Viet Nam Red Cross** leadership on this issue and discussions are ongoing.

Fundraising

This has not been a major focus of activity for the regional OD unit in this reporting period. However, it is worth

noting that efforts to support the commercial first aid work of **Lao Red Cross** earlier in the year has enabled them to develop a partnership with **New Zealand Red Cross** on this programme.

In addition, the OD unit sponsored one representative from the **Philippines Red Cross** to attend the **Global Fundraising Skillshare** event in London on the condition that they be available for two missions to support fundraising in other national societies on their return. As a result of this, the representative should be able more than adequately support fundraising in 2008.

Communication, coordination and networking

Coordination of capacity building in the region continues to be a big challenge. Good progress has been made in coordinating with the zonal OD team based in Kuala Lumpur, and through meeting and planning together as a team covering a wider area. This has been an encouraging initiative that has enabled the zonal team to build momentum as a group rather than disparate individuals.

Progress in the integration of OD with health and DM has been made through the following initiatives:

- Creating a new model for volunteering and disaster management through facilitating a regional DM focus group
- Providing strategic planning inputs alongside DM as the **Thai Red Cross** relief bureau worked on its strategic plan
- Creating a draft 'consent form' for volunteers involved in avian human influenza programmes with the health department
- Drafting a plan to create tools addressing volunteer management issues specific to different types of volunteer programmes

Some useful joint work has also been done with other Movement partners working in the region including:

- Close teamwork with **ICRC** in providing input to the Red Cross law drafting process in **Viet Nam**
- Providing a Federation perspective on gender training carried out by tsunami recovery staff of the **American Red Cross** in Thailand
- Collaboration with **Danish Red Cross** in finance development and HR development in **Lao PDR**.
- Input into a health manual on coaching and supervisory skills for those working with community volunteers. This was an **American Red Cross** initiative which has been piloted in **Indonesia** and will soon be piloted in **Thailand**.

Other contributions to regional networking and cooperation include:

- Sharing the regional delegation's database on national society information with partners
- Use of **Philippines Red Cross** staff to provide training on branch development to Federation staff
- Two case studies on branch development work in **Myanmar**
- Research into information-sharing approaches to contribute to thinking in the zone
- Sharing the 'branch development game' with **German** and **Danish Red Cross**. German Red Cross has subsequently used it to great effect to promote thoughtful engagement with branches of **Viet Nam Red Cross**.

Valuable partners in the regional OD programme providing either programme funding or personnel funding include: **Swedish, New Zealand, Danish** and **Japanese Red Cross**.

In terms of 2008, there will be:

- Increasing Federation teamwork operating 'as a zone'
- Increasing engagement between Movement partners working in OD
- A more subtle approach in OD work based on strengthening relationships to maximize the effectiveness of the work building on progress in 2007.

Challenges:

- Relations with Federation country delegations: these are generally good but certain areas can be

improved. Relations with countries where there is no Federation country presence also need more attention.

- Working effectively as a regional OD team: a regular monthly meeting seeking to address this with more synergy, particularly with the Asia Pacific office in Kuala Lumpur, is being planned. Participants include the OD unit, volunteering staff from the Asia Pacific office in **Kuala Lumpur** and the OD delegate for **Lao PDR** and **Cambodia**.
- Developing **trusting relationships** with national societies: this exists in general and is key to OD and capacity building; however, ongoing effort is required for work in 2008 to be truly effective.
- Translating recognition of a priority issue into a desire for change and subsequently, achieving an actual change is a long road to travel. Even the initial step of translating recognition of an issue into a clear agreed and feasible work plan has been slow. However, one cardinal rule is to move at a pace that the national society is comfortable with.
- Support to **Lao Red Cross**. The national society is open to change and keen to work on agreed priorities but there is concern that sufficient resources will not be garnered for 2008.

Information and humanitarian values

Global Agenda Goal 4: Reduced intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Programme objective: Southeast Asia national societies are motivated and able to generate a high degree of visibility, credibility, cooperation and support for Red Cross Red Crescent activities.

Overview: The floods in Viet Nam and the subsequent emergency appeal in October demonstrated again the importance and influence of good communications during and after disasters, not to mention efforts to publicize risks beforehand. Prompt footage from one of the many disaster scenes raised media attention on the issue, including coverage on CNN, and helped raise interest for international support to **Viet Nam Red Cross** in its work with affected communities.

Achievements: Almost three years after the tsunami, **Thai Red Cross** and its partners, including **American Red Cross**, **French Red Cross**, and the **Hong Kong branch of China Red Cross**, continue to support community recovery. Now, long after media interest has waned, the Red Cross continues to profile these long-term efforts, including support for better water and sanitation, and care for the more vulnerable children in the community. The richness of Federation engagement in Southeast Asia was also illustrated in the latest issues of [SEALink](#). It profiled **Australian Red Cross** support of **Timor-Leste Red Cross** (CVTL) volunteers working with communities to promote basic health care, and **Spanish Red Cross** help to **Viet Nam Red Cross** in providing employment to people with disabilities.

In terms of international visibility, Southeast Asian national societies and their work with vulnerable communities were highly in evidence. Several articles were featured on the Federation's website:

Timor-Leste: [Taking health messages into communities](#)

Viet Nam: [Long night for Viet Nam bridge rescue team](#)

Lao PDR: [Blood donors give new life under the eyes of the Buddha](#)

Thailand: [Red Cross volunteers respond to air tragedy](#)

Indonesia: [Lessons learned in Aceh save lives in Sumatra](#), [Massive earthquakes shake Indonesia](#)

Cambodia: [More deaths on the roads than in minefields](#)

The value of the **International Federation's** agreement with **Reuters** was again illustrated with pictures of the floods from **Viet Nam Red Cross**. The regional delegation was also the focal point for arranging pictures from Nicaragua, Ghana, DPR Korea and China. Bangkok will continue to support the global rollout and use of the agreement in the short term, with a clear expectation that this will be managed at zone level in the near future. It will profile the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as well as issues advocated by the Federation.

One of the Federation's great comparative advantages is its local-global network that offers tremendous opportunities for knowledge sharing and learning. Unfortunately this is often not utilized to the full. FedNet is

proving to be an increasingly useful 'platform' to share such experience. As such, the regional information programme funded participants from **Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste** to be trained in KL. The expectation is that these national societies will contribute more of their knowledge to the Federation network as well as access more of the wisdom available from their peers.

The first zonal meeting for a technical group saw communicators from 22 Asia Pacific national societies and the secretariat (representatives from delegations and Geneva) meet in Kuala Lumpur on 5-7 November. It was organized by the Southeast Asia regional delegation. Cooperation with the ICRC and Reuters and issues of climate change and humanitarian values were among the points of discussion. As witnessed at the series of statutory meetings in Geneva, it was established that climate change is now a core Red Cross Red Crescent component. **Indonesian Red Cross (PMI)** illustrated the strength of their work in this respect. The most interesting learning experience was **Thai Red Cross'** 'Do It Love' fundraising campaign which caught the imagination of other national societies. This illustrated the remarkable work going on in many national societies and how the Federation as a network needs to capture and share more of this. In conclusion, it was agreed that the Federation needs a strong vision of what global communication is and how it can be implemented through its seven zones, including Asia Pacific. This will ensure that the world's largest humanitarian organization has a global presence on news agendas and in policy debates.

Challenges: The pace of change around the new zone structure for the Asia Pacific region has been at times challenging. Despite not knowing full roles and responsibilities, the regional delegation went ahead with the zonal communications, and the bones of a good team working together on issues, is already in place. Further work, however, is required with real duties clarified and centres of excellence encouraged.

The Geneva secretariat has encouraged more of a field lead on the publishing of articles on the Federation website. As usual, time and resources are thinly stretched in covering many of the things that are needed. The regional delegation is highly challenged in delving beyond the surface of the humanitarian values mandate; it is included as a thread running through articles published and communications initiatives taken. Global coherence around international themes, such as migration and HIV/AIDS is needed under the new zonal approach.

Working in partnership

The previous programme analysis included many examples of specific partnership. Those mentioned here are for illustrative purposes. The national societies of Indonesia, Viet Nam, France, Germany, and Netherlands worked together to draw on the wealth of experience within the Federation to positively influence a wider UN-led initiative on **reducing disaster risk** among school children. The Red Cross Red Crescent showcased how it can be a major influence in the realm of **social mobilization** and **informal education** in terms of risk reduction. The forum comprised local and national government representatives, UN agencies, assorted NGOs and the Red Cross Red Crescent. Discussions at this forum led to a draft action plan mapping out ways of reducing children's risk as part of the wider commitment to the **international strategy on disaster reduction (ISDR)**. This is just one example of a wider strategy of representation work on issues that included HIV/AIDS, climate change and UN humanitarian reform as part of the cluster process and the Federation's role as convenor of emergency shelter during natural disasters.

Implementation and coordination

The regional delegation continued to support Southeast Asia's 11 national societies and their partners to develop and implement quality programmes to deliver against Strategy 2010/Global Agenda. Five partner national societies have regional representatives now integrated into the Federation's Bangkok and/or Phuket office. These representatives participate in regular staff meetings and the regional team seek their input and agreement on processes and approaches as a matter of course (one example being the coordinated approach to the above disaster risk reduction forum). Bangkok has increasingly become a major humanitarian hub, not just for Southeast Asia but for the whole of Asia and Pacific, with the regional offices of many key agencies being located here. This has increased the demand and provided opportunities for Federation representation, interaction and involvement in key forums and events involving not only delegation programme staff but also management.

The national societies' leadership meeting in Phnom Penh was exceptionally hosted by Cambodian Red Cross with good support from the regional delegation. One of the main outcomes of the forum was a deeper understanding on issues to be dealt with at the November 2007 series of statutory meetings and a greater preparation to input and influence debate at these forums. The regional planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) function continued to reinforce management of the country heads of delegation as well as specific initiatives, such as a needs assessment of PMER in Myanmar Red Cross and advances in Federation-wide reporting, particularly in terms of **German Red Cross**.

Progress has been made towards a 'Federation approach' to engagement in Southeast Asia. One aspect of this is the major support the delegation has provided to partners in terms of services. Five regional partners now have integration agreements with the Federation. Human resources support is one area that has enabled partner national societies to be more effective in their work with host national societies.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The regional programme contributed to the International Federation's Global Agenda in several ways. Two principal examples include work on climate change (Goal 1) and avian influenza preparedness (Goal 2). First, the regional team helped prepare national society input to the debate on climate change within the Red Cross Red Crescent. To help the Federation in its approach to climate change, the Southeast Asian national societies proposed a guiding statement to be considered in the discussions of the International Conference: *'The Red Cross Red Crescent works with communities to help them interpret, prepare for and adapt to climate change. This is achieved by building community resilience through disaster risk reduction, research and advocacy both locally and globally.'*

Second, the regional delegation also continues to act as the secretariat for the inter-agency coordination forum on avian influenza preparedness, which is evolving in influence and impact. The forum achieved a notable first in July wherein UN agencies, international and national NGOs, businesses and academic institutions combined in a regional contingency planning simulation exercise.

Looking Ahead

National societies continue to demonstrate their capability in several instances as well as being more specific in their demands and expectations from the regional delegation. This is a dynamic that has been evolving since 2006. As such, the regional delegation in 2008 will be even more targeted in its assistance that will very much focus on country level outcomes. This is to be carried out through country delegations - particularly in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines and Viet Nam - or directly with national societies where a delegation does not exist.

In terms of successfully promoting the Federation, the regional programme has become a casualty of its own success now bearing a significant burden with its array of representational responsibilities with other major organizations. This strategic need to maintain and expand these relations, particularly in terms of disaster management and health, will steer priorities for 2008.

For further information please contact:

- Federation Southeast Asia regional office in Thailand: Alan Bradbury (acting head of regional office); email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org; phone: +66.2.661.8201; fax: +66.2.661.9322
- Federation Asia-Pacific Zone, Kuala Lumpur: Jagan Chapagain (deputy head of zone); email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org; phone: +603 2161 0892; fax: +603 2161 0210; mobile: +6012 215 3765.

**To support or find out more about the Federation's programmes or operations,
click on www.ifrc.org**

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA51001 - South East Asia

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/11
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA51001
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	3,339,564	1,963,875	469,403	1,625,277	1,370,909	8,769,028
B. Opening Balance	460,746	593,571	20,874	82,198	307,002	1,464,391
Income						
<u>Cash contributions (received)</u>						
Australian Red Cross	71,651	120,361			12,855	204,867
British Red Cross	0	34,200		0	0	34,200
Canadian Red Cross		96,028				96,028
Danish Red Cross	103,271	5,802		232,159	16,830	358,062
DFID Partnership	163,942	160,708		125,120	17,462	467,232
Finnish Red Cross	33,180					33,180
German Red Cross	173,675				0	173,675
Japanese Red Cross	156,517	129,409	38,418	81,702	48,529	454,576
Netherlands Red Cross	8,611		4,783			13,394
New Zealand Red Cross	181,870			46,700	205,985	434,555
Norwegian Red Cross	91,505	135,682		20,922		248,109
Other	2,821	707				3,528
Spanish Red Cross	-1,209					-1,209
Swedish Red Cross		153,366	156,461	300,344	145,123	755,295
C1. Cash contributions	985,835	836,263	199,663	806,948	446,783	3,275,492
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
Australian Government		97,514				97,514
Australian Red Cross	44,600				-13,120	31,480
Danish Red Cross				39,100		39,100
Netherlands Red Cross			-49			-49
New Zealand Red Cross	38,325				-85,167	-46,842
Norwegian Red Cross	1,480					1,480
Swedish Red Cross		54,410	25,391	117,889	27,205	224,896
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	84,405	151,924	25,342	156,989	-71,082	347,578
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
British Red Cross		-0				0
DFID Partnership	-40,000			20,500		-19,500
Japanese Red Cross	-0		0			0
Netherlands Red Cross		0				0
New Zealand Red Cross					0	0
Swedish Red Cross			0		0	0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)	-40,000	-0	0	20,500	0	-19,500
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
Australian Red Cross	49,613	183,600				233,213
Danish Red Cross	90,107					90,107
Netherlands Red Cross	37,200					37,200
New Zealand Red Cross				66,340		66,340
Other	43,400					43,400
Swedish Red Cross			73,780	31,000		104,780
C5. Inkind Personnel	220,320	183,600	73,780	97,340		575,040
<u>Other Income</u>						
Miscellaneous Income		-500	-500			-1,000
Services & Recoveries					306,069	306,069
C6. Other Income		-500	-500		306,069	305,069
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	1,250,560	1,171,287	298,285	1,081,777	681,770	4,483,679
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,711,306	1,764,858	319,159	1,163,975	988,773	5,948,071

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II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	460,746	593,571	20,874	82,198	307,002	1,464,391
C. Income	1,250,560	1,171,287	298,285	1,081,777	681,770	4,483,679
E. Expenditure	-1,134,850	-1,348,691	-262,745	-869,797	-811,330	-4,427,412
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	576,456	416,167	56,415	294,178	177,443	1,520,659

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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)		3,339,564	1,963,875	469,403	1,625,277	1,370,909	8,769,028	
Supplies								
Construction Materials		13,665					13,665	-13,665
Water & Sanitation	180,000	91,188					91,188	88,812
Medical & First Aid	76,000	7,807	5,144		389		13,340	62,660
Teaching Materials	165,000							165,000
Utensils & Tools	20,000							20,000
Other Supplies & Services	2,000							2,000
Total Supplies	443,000	112,660	5,144		389		118,193	324,807
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	11,500		4,785	1,793	2,131	16,458	25,168	-13,668
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	13,836		1,375			14,532	15,907	-2,071
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	25,336		6,160	1,793	2,131	30,990	41,075	-15,739
Transport & Storage								
Storage		4,812		465	1,708	170	7,155	-7,155
Distribution & Monitoring		412	93			388	893	-893
Transport & Vehicle Costs	30,588	9,859	10,266	100	5,689	7	25,921	4,667
Total Transport & Storage	30,588	15,083	10,359	565	7,396	565	33,968	-3,380
Personnel								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	1,790,670	506,521	251,172	142,833	435,608	213,089	1,549,223	241,447
Delegate Benefits	1,150,990							1,150,990
Regionally Deployed Staff	211,795	23,766	259,072			4	282,842	-71,047
National Staff	646,959	19,167	75,653	29,632	41,860	72,694	239,006	407,953
National Society Staff	51,097	32,071	39,313		29,929		101,313	-50,216
Consultants	200,414	30,993	31,393	1,406	30,132	67,631	161,554	38,860
Total Personnel	4,051,925	612,518	656,603	173,871	537,529	353,417	2,333,939	1,717,986
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	2,305,753	213,213	133,930	23,647	126,174	60,956	557,921	1,747,832
Total Workshops & Training	2,305,753	213,213	133,930	23,647	126,174	60,956	557,921	1,747,832
General Expenditure								
Travel	564,680	84,680	138,879	21,303	97,931	42,144	384,938	179,742
Information & Public Relation	184,991	16,604	67,639	1,605	7,182	1,867	94,896	90,095
Office Costs	493,077	10,026	34,544	2,800	31,077	170,922	249,370	243,707
Communications	26,691	11,415	42,484	12,467	19,109	15,990	101,463	-74,772
Professional Fees		536	75	30	36	372	1,048	-1,048
Financial Charges		3,084	3,234	379	1,738	2,255	10,689	-10,689
Other General Expenses	73,000	10,837	138,270	7,518	48,968	83,245	288,839	-215,839
Total General Expenditure	1,342,439	137,182	425,124	46,101	206,040	316,797	1,131,243	211,196
Programme Support								
Program Support	569,987	72,834	86,889	16,767	56,126	52,736	285,352	284,635
Total Programme Support	569,987	72,834	86,889	16,767	56,126	52,736	285,352	284,635
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		-28,640	24,481		-65,989	-4,131	-74,280	74,280
Total Operational Provisions		-28,640	24,481		-65,989	-4,131	-74,280	74,280
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	8,769,028	1,134,850	1,348,691	262,745	869,797	811,330	4,427,412	4,341,616
VARIANCE (C - D)		2,204,714	615,183	206,658	755,480	559,579	4,341,616	