

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SOUTH ASIA: 2007 OUTLOOK

Appeal No. MAA52001
15 December 2006

The Federation's vision is to strive, through voluntary action, for a world of empowered communities, better able to address human suffering and crises with hope, respect for dignity and a concern for equity. Its 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 185 countries.

In Brief

Programme Update no. 2

Period covered: June to October 2006;

Appeal target for 2006-2007: CHF 5,413,334 (USD 4,473,830 or EUR 3,404,613); revised from CHF 5,382,723 to CHF 5,738,368;

Appeal coverage for 2006-2007: 39%;

Outstanding needs: CHF 3,512,266 (USD 2,092,699 or EUR 2,208,972)

Click here for the attached [interim financial report](#) showing income and expenditure till October 2006

Click here for the original [South Asia Appeal 2006-2007](#) (MAA52001) launched

Click here for the [revised logical frameworks](#)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Tsunami Emergency and Recovery Plan of Action 28/04, Pakistan earthquake revised emergency and recovery appeal 05EA022](#)

Programme summary: Despite some constraints and delays due to security situations in most countries in South Asia, the regional delegation's work to build the capacity of national societies and support country delegations has overall progressed well between June and October, with an expansion in human resources enabling better support for regional and country programmes. The withdrawal of tsunami funding for activities for all programmes during the reporting period instigated significant changes to the project structure, planned activities and budgeting.

The financial situation is positive overall, but organizational development and humanitarian values remain underfunded compared with the original 2006 demarcation of the 2006-2007 budget. However, indications for funding for 2007 are less positive, especially considering that significant proportion of delegation's activities were budgeted for under the tsunami appeal until recently.

Expenditure overall is at 60% of funding received, but expected to improve in the last months of the year. Low expenditure in some areas is due to the tri-partite funding structure (with tsunami and South Asia earthquake funding) for the regional programmes, especially in the earlier part of the year.

Programmes	Original budget 2006-2007	Revised budget 2006-2007	Variance
Health and care	2,376,119	2,313,260	-3%
Disaster management	897,821	1,477,028	65%
Humanitarian values	207,722	177,187	-15%
Organizational development	1,315,529	1,227,512	-7%
Implementation and coordination	585,532	543,381	-7%
Total	5,382,723	5,783,368	7%

Operational developments

Security concerns continued to weigh heavily in the region during this period, with internal violence worsening in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, and political and social disturbances continuing in Bangladesh and Nepal. In Pakistan, the political situation is also becoming more insecure, and India has experienced a number of bomb explosions and terrorist threats at airports and other public places.

The security situation across the region continues to hamper the Federation and national societies' ability to work effectively. The most severe disruptions are in Afghanistan, but operations have also been quite seriously affected in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, and Nepal all experienced flooding or landslides during the reporting period, as is common during the summer months in South Asia. The effects were relatively minor, and were managed largely using existing resources of the national societies and Federation presence in the region, with no national society requesting the launch of an emergency appeal. India Red Cross made a request for DREF funding (of CHF 100,000) to support the floods relief and response operations. Nepal Red Cross also received some bilateral funding to support their operations for the floods and landslides.

Since the legal status agreement in August, and the final gazette notification in September, work has been ongoing in both the South Asia regional delegation (SARD) and India delegation to make the necessary modifications to the Federation's operations in India to be in compliance with the protocol guidelines.

Preparations have been ongoing for the past month to assist national societies to draft working papers, complete surveys and other preparations for the upcoming Asia Pacific Conference in Singapore from 19th-23rd November.

At the 16th session of the South Asia secretaries general's forum held in the Maldives in July, the overall direction and content of the "Federation of the Future" met with the approval of the secretaries general. Some questions were raised in relation to the modalities of the new operating model. The six secretaries general discussed regional cooperation and strategic issues, addressed the upcoming regional conference and South Asia partnership meeting.

There have been significant structural changes to the health and care and disaster management programmes for 2007, in order to better align the programmes with global initiatives, facilitate planning, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes and contribute to better integration between programmes. The range of activities has not been significantly changed, however. The humanitarian values and organizational development programmes have not been significantly changed.

Finance

	Health	DM	HV	OD	Coord. & impl.	Total
Expenditure as % of total funding	65%	43%	68%	51%	89%	60%
Funding coverage of original 2006 budget	94%	144%	36%	62%	79%	91%
Funding coverage of revised 2006 budget	101%	42%	95%	102%	97%	109%
Expenditure as % of original 06 budget	66%	62%	24%	32%	70%	54%
Expenditure as % of revised 06 budget	27%	18%	65%	52%	86%	65%
Funding coverage of revised 06/07 budget	42%	143%	24%	28%	46%	39%
Expenditure as % of revised 06/07 budget	27%	18%	16%	14%	41%	23%

Funding coverage for 2006 is good overall. However, budgets for organizational development (OD) and humanitarian values (HV) had to be revised down due to low funding at 62% and 36% respectively.

Expenditure is also low in OD and HV (compared with the original appeal budget), but significant expenses will be incurred during the last two months of the year. In addition, as reported in the last programme update, the low expenditure is due to the complicated tri-partite funding structure, with some activities being funded by tsunami and South Asia earthquake funds, significant proportions of which will not be available in 2007. It is expected that expenditure compared with the revised budget for these programmes will be around 80-90%. Expenditure for Health and DM is also expected to increase by approximately 15-20% by the end of the year.

Expected funding coverage for the 2007 portion of the two-year appeal is seriously low in some areas. Based on funding received in 2006, the projected coverage for 2007 is quite low, especially for OD and HV.

Furthermore, changes in priorities of some of SARD's traditional donors are likely to further negatively impact the funding situation.

The OD and humanitarian values programme and the public health in emergencies project in particular are in need of more funding support, as in 2006 a significant proportion of the costs were by funding for tsunami and the South Asia earthquake.

In the current situation, two of the key delegate positions (in regional health in emergencies and in regional reporting) have no foreseeable funding. If funding is not secured, the productivity of the delegation would be seriously hampered.

Health & Care

[<click here for revised health and care logframes>](#)

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

Programme Objective: Red Cross and Red Crescent societies in South Asia have enhanced capacity to reduce vulnerability through improved public health intervention, both in normal and in emergency situations, by working with communities and civil society, and promoting health and the right to access by vulnerable populations.

Overview

The regional health unit (RHU) has developed and refined its plan of action for 2006-7. In line with the Strategic Plan (see programme update 1), the changes to the plan for 2007 are outlined below in the "outlook for 2007" section. The RHU strategy and its focus areas of support have been further disseminated and discussed during the regional health meeting and workshops in September.

Good progress has been made this year - the HIV and AIDS programme is in better shape although it will take a while to see uniform implementation in the region. Although funding for the HIV and AIDS programme is secured for 2007, in order to make a real impact throughout the region, the RHU requires secure funding until 2009. The unit is faced with serious concerns to implement its other activities in 2007, predominantly in the area of public health in emergencies (PHIE). This is due to withdrawal of substantial tsunami funding.

The RHU has continued to provide technical and management support to programmes in HIV and AIDS and PHIE through regular country visits. It has also developed a series of supporting tools and guidelines, including 'youth peer education resource pack' for HIV and AIDS programmes, and a draft operational framework to address avian influenza preparedness and response. It has worked closely with the regional disaster management unit (RDMU) in emergency preparedness in the region to work towards developing better DM and health emergency response. The RHU has also mapped the existing collaboration/partnerships between national societies and national and international organizations and organized a meeting of UN agencies and NGOs involved with HIV and AIDS programme focusing on youth.

A major event in September was the series of regional meetings of health managers of NS, Federation country delegations (CD) and partner NS present in the region. Training workshops were held on 'monitoring and evaluation focusing on HIV and AIDS', 'promotion of safe blood/voluntary blood donation', as well as a consultation workshop to develop community-based first aid (CBFA) tools and a manual for the Asia-Pacific region. These events also helped to better profile RHU and to define areas of collaboration with national societies (NS), country delegation (CD) and partner NS as a regional team.

Progress/achievements

Regional Health & Care Development Project

Project objective: National societies in the region deliver responsive, quality and sustainable community-based health and care programmes that empower communities to be resilient to disease risks, the impact of disasters and other public health crises.

Expected Result 1: South Asian national RC/RC societies have increased technical and organisational capacity to develop health policies and strategies and manage community-based public health programmes

Between June and October, RHU continued to provide targeted technical/programme support to all NS and CD in the development and/or implementation of policy, strategy and programmes.

To have a more targeted approach to support, focal persons within the unit have been assigned to each country. The focal persons coordinate the unit's support to the countries, working closely with CD and partners and conducting regular and targeted visits.

In addition to general advice, the unit also provided substantial support in the upcoming evaluation of the emergency mobile unit in Afghanistan, contingency planning in Nepal, integration of health components in water and sanitation and disaster management programmes in the Maldives, long term recovery planning in Pakistan and integration of volunteer programmes and community-based health in India and Sri Lanka.

Ten health staff from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated in an Asia Pacific CBFA consultation workshop where the proposed framework, implementation guide and training manual on CBFA were reviewed. All participants committed to actively participate as members of a global reference group (community of practitioners) working to revitalize CBFA worldwide.

RHU further developed a set of recommended actions for NS in relation to avian influenza preparedness and response, which were presented during the regional health meeting in Nepal.

In the coming months, RHU will complete the 'recommended actions' with guidance notes, and aims to develop a CBFA-type module on avian influenza awareness to enable NS to integrate avian influenza in their existing training programmes. More updates can also be found at the Federation avian influenza global appeal update: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA_0001801ap.pdf

Expected Result 2: Regional knowledge sharing, mutual support mechanisms and advocacy are promoted, enhanced and expanded

The third regional health meeting was conducted in September 2006 in Nepal. Country updates and common issues were discussed, specifically on the development of a regional health information system, avian influenza preparedness, mapping of external health partners and working better with partner NS present in the region.

During the meeting, first aid focal persons from Southeast Asia and South Asia regions took stock on the development of minimum standards in basic first aid education in Asia and the formulation of regional mechanisms to implement these standards. A meeting to outline regional mechanisms to implement the basic FA certificate is tentatively set in March 2007 with the support from the European FA Education Network which has already implemented a regional certification process in Europe.

RHU also worked with five NS in organising activities to observe World First Aid Day on 9 September 2006. It also worked with the Regional Information Unit to develop of a regional overview of activities and this story was posted in the Federation website. RHU facilitated a study visit for two first aid managers from Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands to learn in detail from the NRCS first aid programmes.

In preparation for the Asia-Pacific Conference in November, RHU worked with NS and CD in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan in the writing of technical papers which capture lessons learnt and illustrate good practices in the delivery of health programmes for vulnerable and disaster-affected populations in those countries.

Expected Result 3: Networking, collaboration and strategic partnerships are strengthened to enhance national societies as key civil society promoters, mobilize and optimize use of resources, and advocate the Movement

The RHU continued to communicate and work closely with Movement partners present in the region with the intention of improving mutual understanding of priorities and needs.

During the period, it has engaged with Canadian, Finnish, German and Japanese RC and ICRC (Nepal) through the regional health meeting as well as collaboration in programme implementation.

Efforts with RDMU for an integrated preparedness and response capacity in South Asia continued through joint regional activities in flood preparedness, contingency planning and resource mobilization. It also continued to work with humanitarian values and information/communication units at the regional delegation in identifying joint activities and integration areas for 2007.

Contact with avian influenza focal persons of WHO Southeast Regional Office for possible collaboration in community prevention and preparedness was re-initiated. The contacts established with WHO Emergency and Humanitarian Action in Nepal is hoped to contribute to the strengthening of the position of NRCS in public health in emergencies.

A mapping of NS external partnerships in health was initiated to better understand the nature, scope and scale of existing partnerships. Results are now being analysed not only to increase its resource mobilisation potential but with a view to identifying strategies to improve existing partnerships, potential expansion and/or diversification of partners

Regional HIV and AIDS project

Project objective: National societies in the region deliver community-based HIV prevention, care and support programmes that contribute to the reduction of the burden of HIV and AIDS in the region.

The five-year regional HIV and AIDS *programme* in South Asia comprises components at the country and regional levels. The 'regional HIV and AIDS *project*' is the regional level component of this HIV and AIDS programme. The programme has a strong element of capacity building to help enable NS to develop, manage, implement, monitor, scale up and sustain their HIV and AIDS related activities.

Expected Result 1: National societies are supported in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of HIV and AIDS programmes of common interest

The period June to October 2006 HIV and AIDS programming was adjusted in line with the six areas of support outlined in the RHU health strategy. Ensuring HIV and AIDS remains a high priority for national societies has been emphasised as a prerequisite to meaningful development and implementation of activities. NS HIV and AIDS coordinators are in place in all six South Asian national societies that are part of the regional programme, and for the first time, the foundations are being built for a regional platform to enable significant actions at both regional and country levels.

Technical and programme support to all NS and CD has been maintained through country visits and regular communication. Activities of Afghanistan Red Cross Society (ARCS), Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)

and Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) are now at the preparation stage and implementation is scheduled to start in early 2007. IRCS has an existing programme, with staff and structures in place. Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has kept to timeline and budget and will demonstrate significant outputs by the end of the year.

HIV and AIDS and blood safety were important topics during the regional health meeting. A four-day regional HIV workshop followed the meeting, highlighting programme monitoring and evaluation and youth peer education (YPE). Participants agreed on the development of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework and information management system for NS HIV programmes with NS, CD and RHU working closely together. The youth peer education resource pack initiated by RHU was also presented during the workshop. The pack, comprising of management tools, programme guidelines, and other tools and resources developed by RHU, Federation headquarters and by other organisations, is intended to be adapted by NS to suit their own unique circumstances (for example, linguistic and cultural aspects) but will also help to develop a uniform approach in youth peer education across the region.

Expected Result 2: Regional networking, knowledge sharing and mutual support on the development of HIV response mechanism are strengthened

The original HIV and AIDS programme proposals assumed a minimum level of commitment and capacity within both the Federation and NS as a pre-requisite for regional networking, knowledge sharing and mutual support. In fact, this is only developing now with the appointment of HIV and AIDS coordinators in all national societies. This development is seen as a major achievement, although there is still some way to go.

RHU supported and led NS HIV coordinators in the region to participate in the XVI International AIDS Conference which offered a significant opportunity for them to meet with representatives from RCRC and other organizations working on HIV and AIDS across the world, gaining new perspectives on the local and global response to HIV and AIDS. RHU also continued to facilitate HIV and AIDS knowledge and skills-sharing in the region, as well as discussions over the future of the South Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Network on HIV and AIDS (SARNHA). With the departure of the SARNHA coordinator in June, the RHU has taken over administrative functions.

One of the events at the recent regional health meeting, the voluntary non-remunerated blood donor symposium, provided space for NS blood programme staff (except Sri Lanka) to share experiences and develop action plans for donor recruitment. Donor motivation will be developed as an integrated component of the regional HIV and AIDS programme in 2007.

In August, RHU hosted an informal group of representatives from UN organizations and NGOs involved in HIV and AIDS (all based in India) to share experiences on YPE and to define potential areas of common interest.

It also continued to improve coordination with relevant external partners, Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) in particular, so that HIV and AIDS is addressed jointly in the region through partnerships.

Impact

The finalisation and dissemination of the health and care strategy clearly outlined key action areas which RHU will focus on in the next four years. Combined with the RHU's targeted approach to country support, this has led to improved mutual understanding and increased willingness of NS and CD, and other Movement partners, to seek support and to collaborate with RHU. The staff structure of the RHU has been modified to better fit the strategy and respond to changing needs of the HIV and AIDS programme.

The HIV and AIDS programme has generated considerable momentum for the unit's activities, being the driving force for the strategic plan. HIV and AIDS programming has become more embedded within the wider RHU functions. Staff requirements and roles have also been readjusted as a consequence.

Efforts in knowledge sharing, networking and partnerships are gathering impact towards achieving the programme objective. Regional health meetings and workshops have led to an increase in communication between and among NS and CD health managers, and solidified the concept of working as a 'regional health team' to address common technical and management health issues regionally. The unit will maintain this momentum by closely following up these discussions.

Constraints

The global prioritization process for tsunami programmes led to the end of funding for regional tsunami projects within the RHU (and other units within SARD). A number of activities in programme support, knowledge management and coordination in tsunami-affected countries were therefore moved to the regional health and care development project. However, the project was already under-funded, therefore many of these programme support and knowledge management activities have had to be postponed until next year. Nevertheless, with a bleak funding potential due to changes in current donors' priorities, there is a strong likelihood that activities in the coming months will not be sustained. The unit has been actively reaching out to existing and potential new partners to address this issue.

There have been fewer constraints over HIV and AIDS activities at the country level over this reporting period, although there remain some concerns. Sri Lanka and Pakistan are still experiencing the consequences of recent disasters - and these have continued to influence progress with HIV and AIDS programming and the ability of RHU to have meaningful inputs.

India is central to the regional HIV and AIDS programme but is still re-building its activities after the change in leadership last year - and the RHU role has been largely limited to allocation of funds.

Health and care: outlook 2007

In 2007, the programme will be delivered through the three strategic areas identified in the four-year regional health and care strategy (2006-9) - capacity building and quality assurance, knowledge sharing and advocacy, and collaboration and partnerships. Support will focus on the core health areas where national societies have long-term engagement and commitment, such as primary health care, maternal and child health, first aid, HIV and AIDS, blood donor motivation, public health in emergencies, and water and sanitation. The RHU will work closely with internal and external partners, and specific capacity building in project management is integrated into each project, leading to better-functioning national society health departments.

The programme structure has been redefined accordingly with two projects: the regional health capacity support project (project 1) and regional partnership development project (project 2).

The expected results and indicators from the original plan have been aligned with the revised programme structure, and slightly changed to improve clarity. There is little change to the planned activities. A review of the programme will be conducted in mid 2008, and a programme evaluation is planned in late 2009 to guide the next phase.

Project 1: Regional health capacity support

In line with the 2006-2009 strategy, this project concentrates on strengthening health departments of the national societies, resource management and technical capacity. The aim is to enable national societies to deliver responsive, quality and sustainable community-based health and care programmes, reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS and other major public health issues, and being prepared to respond to health crises at community level during disasters and epidemic outbreaks.

It has three expected results, focused on 1) programme support for HIV and AIDS, 2) programme support for public health and 3) development of resource management and knowledge management.

In the first expected result the RHU will take the lead in overall management of the five-year (2005-2009) regional HIV and AIDS initiative (see operational plan 2006-07), and support the national societies in their implementation of this initiative. The initiative will contribute to the reduction of the burden of HIV and AIDS in the region through a long-term, coordinated and scaled-up response by national societies. Initial funding was secured through the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) for the first two years (2005-6). The RHU will actively engage with other Movement and external development partners for support for full coverage of the rest of the period up to 2009.

Under the second expected result, the RHU seeks to strengthen national society capacity to respond to other public health issues at the community level in the areas of first aid/community-based first aid (CBFA), primary health care/maternal and child health, public health in emergencies, and water and sanitation. This expected result incorporates tentative activities and funding needs for 2007, as activities and funding needs for 2006 are covered in the Tsunami Emergency and Recovery Appeal 2005-2010 (Appeal No. 28/04).

The third expected result focuses on empowering national societies to embark on a process of sustainable development of their health departments, comprising policy and strategy development, use of standard tools and guidelines, improved monitoring and evaluation, and resource management.

Project 2: Regional partnership development project

This project focuses on improving programming initiatives of national societies through a coordinated approach, partnership building, and through facilitating knowledge sharing and mutual support. It will also support national societies to address health issues comprehensively in coordination with other organizations, including advocating for the rights of vulnerable groups to access basic health care and safe water. The RHU has also facilitated engagement of national societies with national health authorities, including national immunization campaigns against polio and measles through volunteer mobilization and community outreach activities. In the coming years, the RHU will continue to focus its support in these areas

The RHU envisages developing a 'health forum' of professionals from national societies, country delegations and other relevant partner organizations to address health issues and advocate against stigma and discrimination regarding HIV/AIDS, and promoting access to information, basic health care, and safe water and environment. The RHU will strengthen existing partnerships at the regional level with WHO and APN+ and will seek opportunities to develop new partnerships. The RHU will endeavour to undertake these initiatives through a strengthened team of public health professionals at SARD and at the country delegations and national societies.

Disaster Management

[<click here for the revised disaster management logframes>](#)

Overall goal: Reduced impact of disasters on vulnerable populations throughout South Asia, as indicated by reduction in the number of deaths and the amount of damage sustained during disasters, and increased capacity of the population to respond and recover.

Programme objective: Improved response by South Asia RC/RC national societies to the needs of the most vulnerable disaster-prone populations, before, during and following disasters.

Overview

The regional disaster management (DM) programme has been active as usual, with some activities having immediate and concrete outputs, such as producing knowledge sharing materials, establishing country-level contingency plans and making progress on risk reduction activities. Other activities laid the foundation for successful future activities, such as preparation of contingency plans for winter operations in Pakistan and Afghanistan, as well as preparation for training and meetings to be held in late 2006 and 2007. As the programme has moved from the planning to the implementation phase, some commonly underlying issues such as gender and climate change have been more directly addressed within the planned activities.

The regional disaster management unit (RDMU) was heavily engaged in the consultation process of the establishment of South Asia regional DM centre, which representatives of South Asian governments inaugurated in early October. The unit also became more active in networking with other stakeholders and external partners in this reporting period.

Progress and achievements**Disaster Preparedness Project**

Project objective: South Asia national societies are better organized to manage the impact of disasters on the most vulnerable communities through an integrated risk management approach and higher level of coordination with other disaster management stakeholders.

Expected Result 1: Higher co-operation amongst South Asia national societies in reaching characteristics of 'well prepared national societies', as reflected in their disaster management policy, strategy, plans and operations.

The regional DM unit (RDMU) facilitated the organizing of a vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) training in the Maldives. Two resource persons from Geneva trained 25 community youth to carry out an actual VCA, including field visits to two remote islands. The VCA report is being used to inform the DM programme in the Maldives. In collaboration with German Red Cross, the RDMU, facilitated a contingency planning workshop as part of the Orissa disaster mitigation programme of the Indian Red Cross. This led to the development of community-based contingency plans for cyclone preparedness.

The disaster risk reduction programme was particularly highlighted in this reporting period. A consultative meeting took place late September in Delhi with practitioners from three countries – Bangladesh, India and Nepal, who openly shared key challenges in establishing baseline indicators, and plans for monitoring and evaluation and knowledge sharing. A management review on the programme was jointly conducted by the British Red Cross and the Federation secretariat in order to reinforce current management structures.

The review report is being finalized and it is expected that there will be some adjustments of the programme following the recommendations made in this report.

The RDMU has provided the national societies of Afghanistan, India, Nepal and Pakistan with technical support to develop contingency plans. Particularly for Pakistan, the regional disaster response delegate organized a series of meetings to draft the contingency plan for the coming winter.

In late September, the Federation DM focal persons from the country delegations gathered in Delhi to review their 2007 DM plans of action and to identify practical areas for further collaboration. The urgent need for a regional DM strategy was again reinforced in the meeting.

Expected Result 2: Better gender balance is achieved among DM staff and volunteers in South Asia

The regional DM programme initiated a pilot study on gender in the Red Cross and Red Crescent DM activities. A local consultant has begun working with the Nepal Red Cross to set up the groundwork and hopes to visit other countries later in the year. She visited the NRCS earthquake preparedness implemented areas to design appropriate questionnaires for the study.

The regional advocacy consultant has been laying the ground work for better integration of gender issues, through work on beneficiary verification in the Maldives, facilitation at the RDRT training course in August and the recovery workshop in September.

Expected result 3: South Asia NSs & delegations use appropriate IT, management tools for effective, efficient programme implementation and resource utilization.

Research has been started on the use of Global Information Systems (GIS), with a learning visit to the Nepal Red Cross, which has a designated person for GIS mapping and databases. The RDMU was also represented at the “Map Asia” 2006 conference in Bangkok – a GIS practitioners’ forum to exchange knowledge of the GIS applications. These activities have formed the basis for the development of a model for the use of GIS in the national society context.

Initiatives to improve the management skills of the staff of the RDMU were made in this reporting period. Three staff have enrolled in the World Bank Institute’s DM on-line course, which will last until the end of this year, while another staff member is taking a business communication skills course.

Expected result 4: Coordination amongst movement and non-movement stakeholders and partners before and after disasters is improved, for better knowledge sharing and service delivery.

The RMDU attended or facilitated various inter-agency meetings and discussions, including the UN/ISDR (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) meeting in Bangkok to develop the “Asia Pacific platform” for disaster risk reduction. The RDMU is ensuring that the Red Cross and Red Crescent context is incorporated into this platform.

In August, the regional DM coordinator (RDMC) participated in the South Asia policy dialogue in Delhi, organised by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) of India (a designated body by the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation). This dialogue led to the establishment of a regional DM centre, which was inaugurated on 10 October in Delhi. In September, he facilitated a disaster risk management training course for senior government officials in the Maldives, jointly with UNDP and the Maldives delegation.

The RDMU also attended several meetings with GeoHazard International (a geo-scientific non-governmental organisation to promote earthquake safety), to explore the possibility of future collaborations in non-structural mitigation activities, particularly around simple retrofitting in Bangladesh.

The RDMU has initiated collaboration between the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and Kyoto University to carry out a study of the community's perception on climate change in different flood prone areas in Bangladesh. A postgraduate student from the university is carrying out the study, through survey questionnaires and participatory methods. The regional DM coordinator and the student also consulted with the Ministry of Environment Climate Change Cell, the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and the Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC) before finalising the target communities.

An exchange visit was organised by the regional DM programme for the BDRCS to the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS). A team of the BDRCS earthquake programme travelled to the communities of Nepal where the NRCS successfully implemented its earthquake preparedness activities. Key lessons have been documented and will be published as a two-page case study.

The RDMU is also working on knowledge sharing publications. The regional disaster response team (RDRT) brochures were finalized and printed, capturing good practices and key lessons from the RDRT deployments during the Pakistan earthquake operation.

The disaster risk reduction brochure that highlights the Red Cross and Red Crescent community programmes in the South Asia region is now in the design process after finalising the contents. Lastly, a population movement brochure which will capture lessons from the beneficiary verification process in the Maldives is still under the context drafting stage.

II. Disaster Response Project:

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

Expected Result 1: Regional disaster response capacity is improved through development and implementation of training that promotes minimum standards in disaster response at national, regional and international levels

A RDRT training course was organized in Sri Lanka with 30 participants, of which five participants were from Cambodia, Fiji, Malaysia, Solomon Islands and Thailand. Participants engaged in practical simulation exercises, such as physically building an "emergency camp", as well as studying case studies of disaster response such as Hurricane Ivan and food security in Africa.

From early June, the regional disaster response delegate spent almost seven weeks assisting the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in designing and implementing residual relief and livelihood item distributions. He also helped organize a national disaster response team (NDRT) training in Pakistan, which was the first NDRT training course for the Pakistan Red Crescent Society.

The regional disaster response delegate also supported the India Red Cross to carry out emergency impact assessments after the floods in four states of India in August. The RDMU provided the financial support during the flood operations in western Nepal which lasted for almost two months until the end of September.

In this reporting period, RDMU also strived to promote response standards. The regional DM officer and a logistician from the Bangladesh country delegation organized a logistics course for the Nepal Red Cross Society in July. The regional advocacy consultant participated in the Sphere Project training of trainers (ToT) in Bangkok that was jointly organized by the Southeast Asia regional delegation and RedR Australia. One person from the Nepal Red Cross also participated in the FACT training course in October.

Impact

As DM activities in the region have started producing clear outputs and become more visible, particularly in disaster risk reduction through community activities, national societies were able to share more tangible updates on the impact of their programmes. That enabled the RDMU to actively promote further coordination and knowledge sharing in the region. As such, many DM activities in South Asia have been widely promoted and disseminated within the Movement as well as with external partners, through active participation in inter-agency meetings and knowledge sharing opportunities.

As usual, special efforts have been invested to improve national societies' response capacity through response training courses.

Constraints

While the regional DM programme is gaining momentum, some country level DM programmes have experienced difficult times due to the inadequate allocation of DM resources within the country delegations and within national societies. For instance, the DM programme in Afghanistan had a slow start in its implementation, partly due to the lack of human resources in DM. Country delegations in India and Pakistan also experienced some problems in relation to DM as team members were relatively new to the position.

The DM focal person in the Sri Lanka delegation is still in the process of clarifying his roles within the delegation. Hence, RDMU had to spend substantial amounts of time in a "filling the gap" role for the country delegations.

The overall situation in the region is now improving. Afghanistan has a new delegate solely responsible for the DM programme provided by Danish RC. And the Pakistan delegation has drafted a clear job description for the DM focal person – this support will be provided by a national staff member. Nonetheless, it is still a concern for next quarter as we will have to prepare for the anticipated winter operations.

Disaster Management: outlook 2007

The logframe has been revised for 2007. While most activities remain unchanged, they had to be reallocated under three newly defined projects. There are two main reasons why this revision was considered necessary and useful:

- 1) To reflect the latest strategic directions of the Federation such as the Global Agenda, newly drafted global DM strategy and Asia Pacific DM Strategy. Externally it is essential to demonstrate that we are working towards achieving the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), the disaster risk reduction framework that Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies also endorsed during the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005. In the revised logframe (see link below) each of the seven expected results is linked with a relevant aspects of the HFA.
- 2) National society's DM priorities have changed through two major disasters in South Asia – the tsunami in 2004 and South Asia earthquake in 2005. It was necessary to incorporate key lessons from these operations into the regional DM programme to deliver effective and efficient services to national societies.

Three new project objectives are:

- Disaster Risk Reduction: Communities are more resilient and better prepared through the National Society community based programmes.
- Disaster Response and preparedness for response: Regional DM capacity and systems are improved to respond effectively and efficiently in times of disasters, and to ensure seamless transitions to recovery.
- Coordination and cross-cutting issues: South Asia DM programme is streamlined through coordination, collaboration, and innovative crosscutting initiatives.

The first project objective highlights building resilience and beneficiary and community centred activities. The second project objective is very similar to the original project objective in the 2006-2007 appeal while adding the importance of proper response systems and minimum standards. It also includes a new component of transition to recovery. The third project objective is not new but only separated from the original project objective no. 1 in the 2006-2007 appeal to give it emphasis. It was necessary since national societies particularly requested adequate regional support in coordination, knowledge sharing and cross-cutting issues.

The DM budget for 2007 has been revised from CHF 464,216 to CHF 1,043,422. The increase was inevitable as the difference was previously budgeted to be covered by the tsunami appeal budget, which no longer supports the regional programme. Funding to cover this increase is currently being sought. Donors are invited to contact the individuals mentioned on the first page of this report.

Organizational development

[<click here for the revised organizational development logframes>](#)

Programme overview

Because the 4 projects within this programme objective are relatively independent, the overview, impact and constraints sections for this programme are reported by project rather than for the overall programme. Funding of the original 2006 budget remains at 62%, and the budget has been revised downward to take account of this. Expenditure remains quite low, even against the revised budget, due to the constraints outlined below, but there will be significant expenditures in the last two months of the year.

Project 1: Strategic planning and management development

Project Objective: National societies have improved foundation and increased capacity in resource mobilization, volunteer base and management, and branch network for better service delivery and self-sustainability

Project overview

The project has been seriously affected by the lack of a programme manager (regional OD delegate) since April. Consequently, very few activities have been carried out under this project. Therefore a brief overview of the activities which were possible are given here.

Progress and achievements and constraints

One additional activity that will be implemented between October and December 2006 is to support technically and financially (through the programme coordinator and finance development delegate) a consultancy to carry out a human resource development review for Nepal Red Cross (this activity has been added under expected result 2 for this project in 2006).

The aim of the review is to develop a comprehensive human resource development plan and implementation strategy. The NRCS have always placed importance on human resource management, establishing a human resource development section with its own policies and guidelines. However, as the organization has grown larger, new human resource needs and challenges have emerged and the NRCS has recognized that it now needs a comprehensive human resource development plan.

By ensuring that the NRCS has qualified staff who are held accountable through a professional system of clear job descriptions and objectives, regular monitoring and evaluation, and periodic training and development will be of great support to developing the OD capacity of the NRCS.

A regional OD consultant joined SARD on 26 October 2006 for four months with a primary focus for the preparation of a regional strategy based on Federation of the Future and to provide support for the preparation of the forthcoming regional partnership meeting in February 2007 as well as to assist in the implementation of revised OD activities plan for 2006. He will provide support to the Program Coordinator as needed.

In this regard an initial background study of the existing documents has been conducted. A first draft outline of the strategy focusing on how to unfold and mainstream the Federation of the Future agenda is expected to be ready for feedback by end of November.

The regional information delegate carried out the preparatory work for the publication of the volunteer investment and value audit (VIVA) study from Nepal, which will be printed in December.

Other activities under this project have not been possible in this reporting period. The position for a programme manager will be re-opened to start in January, and it is hoped that a programme manager for the project will be hired, allowing the project to restart. For this reason the overall structure of the logframe for 2007 has not been modified, as this is expected to happen once a new delegate has been recruited. Some activities which could not be carried out in 2006 have been moved to 2007.

Project 2: Information development

Project objective: Effective communications, advocacy and networking at national society and regional level is promoted to deliver enhanced services to the most vulnerable.

Project overview

The information development project has focused on enhancing technical skills and capacity in national societies and country delegations, and developing a SARD communications strategy and plan of action. These consist primarily of a “South Asia regional information sharing system” (SARISS) and “media bridge” which will drive forward knowledge-sharing and mutual support between national societies and country delegations.

Other areas of focus have included preparations for publications and publicity material, a possible partnership with an advertising agency, a regional disaster management campaign, a pilot study on beneficiary communications and special publicity events, such as for World AIDS Day and the launch of the 2006 World Disasters Report. All these components were promoted and endorsed during a regional information workshop in early November.

Efforts have been made to strengthen relationships with donors (including ECHO and Swedish Red Cross), and to highlight the importance of communications both for beneficiaries and including beneficiaries’ voices in Federation communication.

Expected Result 1: National societies (through country delegations) have enhanced capacity to conduct effective information/advocacy strategies

SARD also supported the country delegations and national societies in their information and communication work in the following ways:

Afghanistan: assistance in recruitment of information officer, publicizing ARCS activities and consultation on story/publicity ideas.

India: Regular contact and guidance has been given to the India delegation and Indian Red Cross, for example on developing the draft communications strategy of India Red Cross, and in developing web stories and promoting Red Cross activities.

Maldives: Ongoing remote technical support to Maldives information team as needed.

Nepal: SARD worked closely with the NRCS information officer to obtain film footage that will be used for the 2006 World Disasters Report press pack, related to a chapter on maternal and neo-natal mortality in Nepal. SARD continues to provide financial support for the salary of the NRCS information officer, and hopes to partially fund the ongoing successful NRCS weekly radio program in 2007.

Pakistan: During the regional information delegate visit to Pakistan (see below), worked closely with the recently hired delegation information officer to provide coaching through practical guidance in the field.

Sri Lanka: At the request of the Sri Lanka delegation, the regional information delegate served as acting communications coordinator (and reporting delegate) for nearly one month in July/August. In an effort to highlight a model example of beneficiary communications, the Sri Lanka information manager was supported to develop a web story on a successful Spanish Red Cross construction project. To read the story visit: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/06/06102001/index.asp>

Plans for the coming months:

Representative from national societies and country delegations from all seven South Asian countries demonstrated a high level of enthusiasm and capacity for information development during the regional information workshop at the beginning of November. Specific outcomes included endorsement of the draft communications strategy and plan of action; development of country-level plans of action of how to address information needs during

emergencies. Capacity training in media skills was well received, and a plan for more comprehensive skills training was developed.

Visits are planned to Afghanistan and Bangladesh in November, to support the national societies and country delegations in developing RC/RC visibility and information.

In Afghanistan, a special focus will be on RC/RC visibility in the ECHO-funded disaster management project, and in Bangladesh a special focus will be to provide publicity on the DFID funded risk reduction programme.

Expected result 2: National society and regional delegation programmes are promoted and advocated for at a regional level and regional strategy developed and implemented.

The SARD communications strategy is near completion, following focused work since June and valuable inputs from communications personnel at the recent regional workshop. The main objective is to raise the visibility of the work of the national societies and country delegations in the region by providing them with a focused structure for media contacts and information sharing at the regional level. The strategy will be aligned with the global communications strategy recently completed by the secretariat headquarters, including the aspect of integrating communications into regional level management functions.

A key part of the strategy is the development of the SARD “media bridge”, a system of collaboration with the regional media to raise the profile of Red Cross and Red Crescent activities in South Asia. The database of media contacts has been finalized, from which a “core group” of interested journalists will also be established.

In collaboration with all country delegations, the “Red Cross and Red Crescent in South Asia” brochure has been developed, showcasing the work of national societies and the Federation in South Asia. Further marketing materials will be developed to support this brochure.

SARD regional information delegate worked closely with the Pakistan delegation and Geneva secretariat on the media coverage of the one year commemoration of the earthquake, visiting Islamabad and the Northwest Frontier province (NWFP) in September to support the Pakistan communications team. The collaboration yielded significant media coverage for the PRCS/Federation recovery operations (for more information, visit www.ifrc.org/pakistan). A report on the health programmes for quake affected families in remote areas of NWFP will be combined with stories on women volunteers in South Asia for publication in the next issue of the RC/RC magazine.

The regional information delegate also provided coordination cover for the Yogyakarta earthquake operation during June and gave a presentation on beneficiary communications during a tsunami communications strategy meeting held in Bangkok from 20 to 22 September

Plans for the coming months:

The SARISS will be implemented through encouraging regular contact and information with country-level RC/RC information focal points. The media bridge will be used to support the launch of the *2006 World Disasters Report* in South Asia, and the SARD communications strategy will be finalised. There will be a visit to Nepal to prepare for the WDR 2006 launch and to support the NRCS and British Red Cross with an international journalists visit.

Impact

The endorsement of the planned future activities at the regional workshop in November built up a strong momentum for scaling up the project across the region. The establishment of SARISS and the media bridge in particular will put in place structures and systems that aim to avoid the constraints of high turnover of staff.

All participants at the workshop also noted that the media skills training component was very useful for their work in interacting with the media. An outline of a more comprehensive training in capacity building for communication work was also established.

The country level and regional marketing materials that have been produced, including a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) leaflet and two further brochures that are in the final stages of production (an overall SARD brochure and a disaster management risk reduction brochure) will help to raise the visibility of the Federation and national societies in the region.

Constraints

Security risks remain a constraint for Afghanistan and more recently for Bangladesh. Low funding (57% of 2006 budget) for the project also remains a constraint, but thanks to the support and collaboration with the SARD disaster management team, activities progressed as planned. The one-year post for a SARD information officer was changed to a five month local consultancy based on insufficient firm pledges for funding in 2007.

Project 3: Finance Development

Project Objective: National societies have strengthened finance accountability, reporting and management capacity, in support of management decision making with a resultant improvement in quality and timeliness of reports and a gradual reduction in dependency on donors and Federation.

Expected result 1: National societies conduct proper financial planning, budgeting, efficient control systems and transparent financial reporting in a timely manner to donors.

The process of recruiting a consultant to start finance development at ARCS is still underway. The consultant would carry out a needs assessment of the development of a financial management system and finance development work will be started once approval received from the ARCS management, with the support of the regional delegation.

In Bangladesh, the proposed finance software is yet to be installed and training on this provided to BDRCS staff, in coordination with the Bangladesh delegation. This software would help to improve and develop the financial structures and procedures of the national society, thereby aiding the larger aim of enabling BDRCS to have a transparent system of accounting, including the production of timely, accurate and transparent financial reporting for the Federation, external donors and for internal management purposes. The proposal for the software has been prepared and is with the BDRCS, pending approval.

Impact

Although concrete progress has been limited, the first steps towards better finance in Afghanistan through an external consultant, and in Bangladesh through planned training and improved software are expected to have positive impact in the long run.

Constraints

The major constraint to the finance development project during the reporting period was the delay in some activities due to lengthy approval processes (within the Afghanistan and the Bangladesh national societies).

Reporting development project

Project objective: National Societies together with country delegations have increased capacity to use appeals and reports as an effective planning and monitoring tool

Project overview

The planned scaling up of capacity building training in planning, reporting and monitoring and evaluation has been successful, made possible by the recruitment of a reporting officer in SARD in June 2006. The newly-developed training has been carried out at country-level for all four countries which report through SARD. A training collaboration was initiated with the British Council in Nepal and Bangladesh, and will be of further support to national societies in the region. Country-level Federation and national society reporting focal points will attend a training of trainers in December based on the new training materials, to support and encourage continuous training across the region.

Progress and achievements

Expected result 1: National societies (via country delegations) achieve minimum Federation reporting standards and exhibit improved planning.

The reporting development training package has been developed as planned, in collaboration with RRU and India delegation. It includes basic sessions in planning, monitoring and evaluation concepts. This training package consolidates and builds on previously existing exercises, with a much stronger focus on practical skills development and interactive exercises. It is the first time that such a complete training package has been used in the region. Since June, training has been carried out in Nepal, India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Maldives and in the SARD office. Participant feedback has been very positive.

A significant amount of time has been spent in further refining this training package, adding more detailed facilitator's guidance in preparation for the training of trainers which will be held in December. Preparations for this ToT have been carried out in collaboration with RRU and with PMER peers in the region.

Country-level training has been followed up by coaching sessions in-country with programme managers on improving their report writing skills. Coaching and advice on M&E concepts and design has been given to programme managers in SARD and across the region. The recruitment of the reporting officer has also allowed for more extensive and qualitative support and advice on the reports received, making it possible to use report processing as another means of reporting development.

The importance of indicator-based monthly reports has been promoted and taken up (with varying degrees of success) in all countries and in SARD.

A pilot initiative to collaborate with the British Council on report writing and project design training started in late October with a course in logical framework design for the Nepal Red Cross. Initial feedback was very positive. This will be supplemented with report writing training later in November. Discussions are also ongoing with the Bangladesh delegation and Bangladesh office of the British Council for similar training. The British Council in Afghanistan currently has no teaching centre. A key added value of this collaboration is to provide a more continuous and sustainable training through a local partner (with an international understanding) as further support to that provided by the Federation.

Plans for the coming months

Internal and external training will be further supported and carried out during the rest of 2006 and into 2007. Country-led follow up trainings are planned for all countries, which will be supported by the training of trainers workshop in December. Federation and national society reporting coordinators (delegates and managers) will practice using the different training tools, and have the opportunity to revise and improve the sessions. Participants will also receive advice and training on facilitation skills.

Impact

The first drafts of reports recently received by SARD have been of a noticeably improved quality, in many instances. Some improvements have also been seen in the revised logical frameworks completed by the country delegations (or national society in the case of Nepal), immediately following the training (especially in Nepal and Bangladesh). The changes are in many cases small, but significant, but are an encouraging sign that the scaled up training is starting to have an effect. Momentum will have to be maintained in 2007, ideally with minimal change in personnel across the region in order to ensure continued and improved impact.

Constraints

Scheduling difficulties in Nepal and Bangladesh meant that the training courses were held very close to the deadline for submission of programme updates and revised logframes, meaning that not all programmes were able to improve their submissions as much if the courses had been held earlier. However, this did allow the courses to work on current examples and how to improve.

Organizational Development: outlook 2007

Strategic planning and management development project

The regional OD delegate position has been re-opened, and it is hoped that the position will be filled by January, allowing the project to restart. For this reason the overall structure of the logframe for 2007 has not been modified, as this is expected to happen once a new delegate has been recruited. The human resource development review for Nepal Red Cross was added under expected result 2 for this project in 2006, and some activities which could not be carried out in 2006 have been moved to 2007.

Information development project

The project objective and expected results remain unchanged, but some activities have been modified or added. Due to lack of funding, the planned one-year officer position will now begin around March 2007. In the interim, a local consultant will be engaged for the remainder of 2006 up to March 2007.

The South Asia regional information sharing system (SARISS) and media bridge are the foundation of the SARD communications strategy for establishing enhanced relations with the media. SARISS will formalise and scale up SARD's role as the main point of contact for media relations in the region, through monthly contact with the RC RC country-level media focal points. The media monitoring exercise (part of expected result 1) has been scaled down and will now be integrated with the media bridge project.

Other areas of focus include an increase in publicity materials and an increased emphasis on promoting 'international days'. Two other new activities (in collaboration with and funded by the SARD disaster management programme) are a pilot study on beneficiary communications in disasters and a regional publicity campaign, built on a partnership with an advertising agency to raise the visibility and reputation of the RC/RC in South Asia.

Finance development project

Overall the plans and focus of this project remain the same as originally developed in the appeal 2006-2007. However, there are some modifications to the activities, based on discussions with the national societies concerned throughout the year. All of these modifications relate to activities ongoing in 2006 and 2007, therefore changes have been made in both years.

In Bangladesh, financial software will be installed, and all finance staff will receive training. This activity was transferred from the tsunami appeal to the annual appeal, with funding support from DFID. The planned support to the Nepal Red Cross internal audit section was judged to be too early in the development of the audit team, therefore resources have been re-allocated to finance development.

Training workshops in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nepal will be scaled down from headquarters and branch level to headquarters only, with those trained at headquarters encouraged and supported to carry out follow up training for the district branches.

Reporting Development project

In order to more effectively monitor progress, and to reflect the increase in training in planning, monitoring and evaluation, the two components of the project of a) reporting skills development and b) planning, monitoring and evaluation development (PME)) have been more clearly defined in the logframe, with separate expected results.

The focus on building capacity in these two areas has been enhanced, through the allocation of funding for further external training (British Council in Nepal/Bangladesh, and commonwealth of learning effective writing course). Training by SARD will also be increased, and training by the country delegations will be promoted and supported, following the training of trainers in December.

The main added value of having three sources of training support is to ensure a more continuous and sustainable step-by-step capacity building of programme managers' planning and reporting skills, focusing on coaching and consolidation of skills, rather than on intermittent lengthy workshops for which proper follow up can be difficult to ensure. As in 2006, capacity building support will focus on those countries currently reporting through SARD: Nepal, Afghanistan, India and Bangladesh. The major difference in the budget for 2007 is incorporation of an additional 7.5 months of the regional reporting delegate cost (CHF 90,000), which were previously budgeted to be covered by the tsunami and South Asia earthquake appeals. T report.

Humanitarian Values

[<click here for revised humanitarian values logframes>](#)

Programme Objective: The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is a firm advocate for promoting respect for diversity and fighting discrimination and intolerance through its various programmes.

Overview

With funding from the Finnish Red Cross Society the programme progressed very well during the reporting period. There was also good integration with the other programmes of DM and Health. There were some difficulties however as the funding coming only in the second half of the year meant that the programme had to be rushed through to make up for the slow rate of activities in the first half. Secondly, humanitarian values activities tend to receive less attention during the flood season in South Asia. Relocation of humanitarian values focal points in Nepal and Bangladesh national societies also impeded progress. However, retrospectively this provided the impetus to draw upon resources from other programmes, ensuring a good degree of mainstreaming.

The regional meeting held in Nepal also emphasised the spirit of keeping the programme's cross-cutting tone. Although not all national societies in the region could participate, the representation of all the different programmes of the Nepal Red Cross (because the meeting was held in Kathmandu, Nepal) was an important development.

Much of the efforts of the regional coordinator in New Delhi also went into communicating with colleagues and helping to overcome constraints with their programme in the national society, and helping them to improve integration with other programmes through discussions with senior management.

Progress and achievements

Project Title: Understanding Humanitarian Values

Project objective: To coordinate and facilitate the process of national societies understanding of humanitarian values and assist them in evolving long-term strategies to reduce discrimination and intolerance in the communities in which they operate.

Expected Result 1: National societies achieve an understanding of HV which is reflected in advocacy against various forms of discrimination.

In June, Nepal Red Cross organised a follow-up workshop to explore the linkage and integration of humanitarian values (HV) with the other ongoing programmes of the Nepal Red Cross Society. This was a follow up from a previous workshop in 2005. A plan of action was produced for the various departments of the national society, establishing cross-linkages between humanitarian values and other core programmes. Specific entry points to programmes like the junior and youth Red Cross for the HIV and AIDS programme were also addressed.

In Bangladesh, there was a four day session in September on providing a deeper understanding of what is meant by the core area of humanitarian values. Participants were divided into groups and given the time to research and understand (and explain to other groups) what was meant by the four thematic areas of values, dignity and rights; discrimination; diversity; and, violence in the context of the social settings of Bangladesh, and also in the context of the communities they worked in.

In August the NRCS organised its third youth camp on the theme of discrimination, for young leaders among the youth Red Cross in Nepal. Participants arrived from diverse backgrounds – there were young people living with HIV and AIDS, refugees, the handicapped, *dalits*, single women, and religious minorities like Muslims and Christians. Also present were young people from the upper castes, middle and upwardly mobile class, and people who, in the course of their lives, may never experience discrimination.

Colleagues from the Indian Red Cross, Pakistan Red Crescent and Bangladesh Red Crescent also arrived in Nepal to understand a good model as a method of knowledge-sharing. It was an opportunity to show them the activities of the Nepal Red Cross Society in the field that corresponded to the understanding of humanitarian values.

A planning meeting on humanitarian values was held in Nepal with representatives of three national societies – Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Indian Red Cross Society and the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) together with counterparts from different departments of NRCS .

Expected Result 2: National societies have documented how existing programmes have brought about positive change in behaviour of people.

A process of documenting the actions of the Nepal Red Cross Society corresponding to an understanding of HV during the demonstrations in the streets of Kathmandu earlier in the year (as well as in all big cities across the country) has been initiated. This process is still in the early stages. When complete, this document will look at how the Nepal Red Cross first aid volunteers provided impartial and neutral humanitarian assistance on the streets of during the violent demonstrations.

Project 2: Reducing Discrimination

Project objective: National societies advocate for reducing discrimination through integrated programming and collaboration with the core programmes of disaster management and health.

Expected Result 1: The global agenda against discrimination is promoted through effective communication and advocacy with internal stakeholders; the media and civil society; and national society to reduce discrimination in communities.

No progress to report on for this period. An assessment activity will be carried out in November in preparation for 2007.

Expected Result 2: National societies design and implement specific projects to address and advocate against discrimination-based vulnerabilities in coordination with the core programmes of DM and health.

A workshop on how the Movement's values translate into the Humanitarian Charter and the Code of Conduct for Movement and for INGOs in disaster relief was held with the Indian Red Cross Society in August. It was prompted by the realisation that many DM practitioners were not conversant with the Humanitarian Charter which formed the basis of the standards.

This workshop is a significant step towards integrating humanitarian values in the IRCS, made possible due to detailed consultation with the IRCS over many months. The workshop was funded by the Finnish Red Cross.

Examples of how other national societies were employing the principles in disaster management to reduce discrimination and address vulnerabilities based on discrimination were eye-opening for the participants. Participants realised that they had been addressing discrimination in the very course of their day-to-day work in the past, although in an unplanned way. Participants were inspired to develop plans to address the issues of discrimination through their work in disaster response and relief in a more strategic way.

Further training has been requested, looking in-depth at the tools employed in Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Preparedness. The efforts to ensure participation by women meant that one-fourth of the participants were women, significantly higher than usual. The workshop also led to requests for translations in local languages of the Humanitarian Charter and Code of Conduct in Disaster Relief.

The planning meeting with programme managers from Nepal, Bangladesh, India and SARD (coordinators for HV and health) from different programmes was a beneficial platform for sharing progress and planning for the coming year as well. This was the first opportunity in the year to include all programmes. The involvement of the youth programmes in the region as an entry point for humanitarian values activities at the national society level was further consolidated during this meeting and this was reflected in the planning for the coming year.

Impact

An important outcome from the Bangladesh visit was that there is now a group of people committed to promoting principles and values in the BDRCS, who can carry out training within their own departments.

The Indian Red Cross workshop with DM practitioners, (the first ever workshop on humanitarian values with the Indian Red Cross) made the participants more aware of the importance of ensuring dignity and human rights of individuals through service delivery.

The youth camp on discrimination sent strong messages on advocacy for the most vulnerable and a new dimension to the understanding of how discrimination exacerbates vulnerabilities. Participants of the youth camp drew up an agenda for action to reduce discrimination in their communities in the coming year.

It was moving for a young man living with HIV and AIDS to admit that for the first time he realized that stigma and discrimination was not confined to people living with HIV and AIDS, but other people had to live through worse forms of discrimination (including untouchability) since their birth.

The engagement of colleagues from other core programmes in the national societies in activities connected with humanitarian values has also ensured that the Movement's Fundamental Principles are better integrated into various aspects of those programmes. This was especially visible when the country programmes revised their plans for 2007, with well-informed changes that showed ownership by the country programme managers.

Constraints

Despite many efforts and discussions with the Nepal Red Cross, there were fewer females than males represented at the youth camp in Nepal. This may have been due to cultural issues in the districts from where the participants came. The NRCS leadership have taken up the matter with the district branches. It was noted with disappointment that there has been very little follow up from the earlier workshops specifically with the Women Development Section of the Nepal Red Cross Society. The NRCS will be encouraged to make more efforts to collaborate with the Women Development Section.

With the Indian Red Cross, the biggest constraint is to establish a comprehensive forum at the national level. Speaking realistically, in view of the size of the country, it will mean a very big workshop indeed or the need to find another approach.

The absence of the Pakistan Red Crescent at the Nepal workshop was disappointing when much effort had been expended for a representative from Pakistan to attend (by colleagues in the delegation in Islamabad), and the frequent assurances by the national society that they would definitely be sending representatives to Nepal. The difficulty to travel to Pakistan has also slowed the progress of the programme there. Due to other priorities (mainly related to the earthquake recovery), the humanitarian values programme has not been a big priority for the Pakistan Red Crescent Society.

Humanitarian Values: outlook 2007

Overall, the humanitarian values programme plans to continue with its planned activities as set out in the operational plan and logframe as published in Appeal 2006-2007.

The overall focus for 2007 is on two areas. Firstly integration with other programmes will continue, through the activities as outlined under the reducing discrimination project. The second area of focus for 2007 will be continuing the process of developing understanding of humanitarian values in national societies. Within this, cooperation with other actors will be emphasised in a more strategic way than in 2006, by focusing on the three countries where cooperation is most appropriate (India, Nepal, Bangladesh).

There are however, some minor changes made to plans for 2007, following consultation with the national societies.

The "*Fellowship programme for journalists*" (under Expected Result 1 of programme objective 1) has been scaled down to a more appropriate level for national societies to '*Organise media events around Humanitarian Values in national societies*'. National societies also expressed a wish to develop more printed IEC material on humanitarian values, and

India Red Cross expressed an interest in carrying out more workshops next year. These activities have also been incorporated.

Implementation and coordination

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

To encourage greater integration of perspectives of the regional membership in SARD's cooperation work, the secretary general of Nepal Red Cross was staff on loan for three months from June to August, where he played a key role in the development of the South Asian secretaries general forum.

The 16th meeting of this forum was held in July in Male', Maldives. In the context of discussion around the Federation of the Future and the "new operating model", the secretaries general agreed that the Federation's sub-regional structures should be strengthened in order to support the national societies most effectively. The participants also agreed to continue to strengthen the SG's forum itself as a regional cooperation mechanism.

To ensure better coordination of areas of mutual interest, the newly-arrived head of the German Red Cross's India delegation will spend one day a week in the SARD office.

SARD is working closely with national societies in the region in preparation for the Asia Pacific regional conference in Singapore in November. Background material and guidance on the global and regional strategies of the Federation will be provided to national societies.

The lack of an OD delegate has made it difficult to make substantial progress on preparations to develop the new regional strategy, but with a staff on loan recently arrived from Bangladesh, this can now gain more momentum.

Management of the delegation

The outgoing head of regional delegation took up a new position as head of delegation for Indonesia in September. Although a new HoRD was appointed and had a four-day handover in September, the position will be taken up only in the second week of December.

Internal meetings in the delegation are investigating how best to integrate and promote aspects of Federation of the Future into the work of the delegation and of the country delegations and national societies it serves.

These steps to improve programme management and accountability could be scaled up with the presence of the new head of regional delegation by mid December.

As reported in the previous programme update, an ongoing constraint to the management of the delegation is the gaps in human resources in many delegations in the region, leading to many SARD delegates having to spend sometimes extended periods in country delegations in the region. While part of the role of SARD should be to provide support when unexpected staffing gaps arise, frequent and longer-term displacement of delegates is damaging for the continuity of the regional delegation.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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[*Revised budget and interim financial report below;*](#)

[*click here to return to the title page.*](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA52001 - SOUTH ASIA

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/10
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA52001
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	2'313'260	1'477'028	177'187	1'227'512	543'381	5'738'368
B. Opening Balance	698'849	155'821	4'032	102'057	115'318	1'076'078
Income						
Cash contributions						
British Red Cross	0	0		0	0	0
Danish Red Cross				1'370		1'370
DFID Partnership	32'180	53'383		95'283	45'294	226'140
Finnish Red Cross			23'385	4'774		28'159
Japanese Red Cross Society	64'977	30'577				95'555
Swedish Red Cross	106'039	33'751	15'341	132'217	17'868	305'216
C1. Cash contributions	203'196	117'712	38'726	233'644	63'162	656'440
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
British Red Cross		331'284				331'284
New Zealand Red Cross		17'220				17'220
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		348'504				348'504
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
Finnish Red Cross				-11'038	11'038	0
German Red Cross		0				0
Swedish Red Cross		0				0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)		0		-11'038	11'038	0
Inkind Personnel						
British Red Cross	62'000					62'000
Danish Red Cross				21'080		21'080
Swedish Red Cross					62'000	62'000
C5. Inkind Personnel	62'000			21'080	62'000	145'080
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	265'196	466'216	38'726	243'686	136'200	1'150'024
D. Total Funding = B + C	964'045	622'037	42'759	345'743	251'518	2'226'102

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	698'849	155'821	4'032	102'057	115'318	1'076'078
C. Income	265'196	466'216	38'726	243'686	136'200	1'150'024
E. Expenditure	-630'818	-267'786	-29'073	-177'226	-222'792	-1'327'696
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	333'227	354'250	13'685	168'517	28'726	898'406

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA52001 - SOUTH ASIA

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/10
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA52001
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)		2'313'260	1'477'028	177'187	1'227'512	543'381	5'738'368	
Supplies								
Food	5'000							5'000
Water & Sanitation	5'000							5'000
Teaching Materials	2'100							2'100
Utensils & Tools	5'000							5'000
Other Supplies & Services	23'000							23'000
Total Supplies	40'100							40'100
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	64'500	4'710	6'928		3'624		15'262	49'238
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment			681		1'644		2'325	-2'325
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	64'500	4'710	7'609		5'268		17'587	46'913
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	46'800	15'992	3'773	264	2'729	593	23'352	23'448
Total Transport & Storage	46'800	15'992	3'773	264	2'729	593	23'352	23'448
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	1'470'613	71'180	30'542		40'366		142'088	1'328'525
Delegate Benefits	226'000	174'081	7'173		41'998	86'568	309'819	-83'819
Regionally Deployed Staff	97'500		39'457				39'457	58'043
National Staff	389'978	57'221	15'683	9'435	14'119		96'459	293'519
National Society Staff	26'566	10'589	329		2'436		13'354	13'212
Consultants	374'807	2'731	8'268		14'174	43'457	68'630	306'177
Total Personnel Expenditures	2'585'464	315'802	101'451	9'435	113'093	130'025	669'806	1'915'658
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1'367'497	127'986	75'062	15'409	2'162	6'996	227'614	1'139'883
Total Workshops & Training	1'367'497	127'986	75'062	15'409	2'162	6'996	227'614	1'139'883
General Expenditure								
Travel	587'439	39'278	30'906	233	20'551	7'205	98'174	489'265
Information & Public Relation	234'476	7'847	6'228		2'210		16'285	218'191
Office Costs	348'550	66'925	16'633	527	14'820	60'776	159'680	188'870
Communications	73'888	9'888	8'049	968	4'926	893	24'724	49'164
Professional Fees	5'000							5'000
Financial Charges	1'200	35	27		37		99	1'101
Other General Expenses	10'460	125	641	347		649	1'762	8'698
Total General Expenditure	1'261'013	124'098	62'484	2'076	42'544	69'523	300'724	960'289
Depreciation								
Depreciation						357	357	-357
Total Depreciation						357	357	-357
Program Support								
Program Support	372'994	40'741	17'406	1'890	11'431	14'220	85'687	287'307
Total Program Support	372'994	40'741	17'406	1'890	11'431	14'220	85'687	287'307
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		1'489				1'079	2'569	-2'569
Total Operational Provisions		1'489				1'079	2'569	-2'569
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	5'738'368	630'818	267'786	29'073	177'226	222'792	1'327'696	4'410'672
VARIANCE (C - D)		1'682'442	1'209'241	148'114	1'050'287	320'589	4'410'672	