

Programme Update 2007



South Asia

Appeal No. MAA52001
Programme Update No. 03

This report covers the period 01/01/07 to 31/05/07 of the 2006-2007 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.



Rahima Akhtar a volunteer traditional birth assistant working with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.
International Federation/ Stacey Winston

In brief

Programme Summary:

The Federation of the Future and the decentralization processes has ushered in a time of change. To help national societies better understand the current organizational context, major regional events between January-May focused on the implications of these changes in the region. These included the 17th meeting of the South Asia secretaries general's forum in Islamabad and the regional partnership meeting held in New Delhi. Representatives of the south Asian national societies discussed ways of working effectively together with representatives from 17 partner national societies, the Federation and International Committee of the Red Cross, the government of India and the World Health Organization. Preliminary discussions with the Danish Red Cross on an integration agreement have begun¹.

At the sectoral level, sessions of the regional health meeting and disaster management working group were held. At all these forums the South Asia regional strategy was introduced as a key method to implement the outcomes of Federation of the Future.

Security continues to be an issue in many South Asian countries, especially Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The murder of two Sri Lanka Red Cross staff was a tragic and shocking reminder of the scale of security problems there.

The regional delegation underwent significant changes, with a number of staff leaving (or soon to leave) including the head of regional delegation.

Funding continues to be a major issue with overall funding of the 2007 demarcated budget only 42 per cent at the end of March, and is causing significant problems in the recruitment of new staff. The figures for the 2007 demarcated budget are given below. The overall budget was revised slightly downwards from CHF 5.74 million to CHF 5.53 million, due to various modifications of 2007 programme budgets; the major revisions are explained in the respective sections.

¹ The integration agreement is a legal agreement which will allow the Danish Red Cross to coordinate their activities in the region through the SARD office.

SOUTH ASIA 2006-07 Appeal: Appeal no. MAA52001; Programme Update no. 3

	Health	DM	HV	OD	Coord. & impl.	Total
Funding coverage of 2007 budget	72%	41%	31%	32%	25%	51%
07 expenditure as % of total 07 funding	33%	49%	38%	52%	122%	42%
07 expenditure as % of 07 budget	24%	20%	12%	17%	30%	21%

Needs: Total 2006-2007 budget CHF 5,528,325 (USD 4,494,573 or EUR 3,336,346) out of which 63 per cent covered. Outstanding needs are CHF 2,057,253 (USD 1,672,563 or EUR 1,241,553).

Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.

No. of people we help: Six national societies and seven country delegations.

Our Partners: External partners include the European Commission of Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), MAMTA – Health Institute for Mother and Child, Naz Foundation, Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (APN+), Geohazards International, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the British Council, Reuters and the BBC. There is also collaboration with a number of international news agencies.

Key Movement partners are the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the national societies of Canada, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Spain and Sweden

Main donors for 2007 are Australian, Swedish, Japanese, New Zealand and Danish Red Cross and societies, as well as the United Kingdom Department For International Development (DFID) through British Red Cross, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through Swedish Red Cross and ECHO through the global disaster management programme.

Progress towards objectives

Health and Care

Programme objective: National societies have enhanced capacities to reduce communities' vulnerability to diseases and the effects of disasters and public health crises.

Overview

The main focus of the regional health unit (RHU) has been capacity development in the areas of programme support, knowledge management and resource management as well as improved coordination, partnership and advocacy. Some of the major highlights of this period were the fourth regional health meeting, provision of technical support to scale-up of prevention and preparedness activities for avian and human influenza and public health in emergencies (PHIE), the completion of the regional HIV programme review, the global HIV and AIDS alliance and the publication of two issues of the RHU newsletter.

Project 1: Regional Health Capacity Support

Project objective: National Societies provide better HIV/AIDS and public health programming through programme support, knowledge management and resource management.

The RHU developed tools and resources to enable national societies to undertake activities in a uniform manner. The youth peer education (YPE) resource pack was produced after consultation with HIV focal persons across the region and was launched at the regional health meeting in April (see below).

Ongoing technical support to national societies have included assistance with operational plans, inputs for baseline surveys, in-country support and facilitation of training of trainers for youth peer education. All national societies in the region are now undertaking activities related to peer education, in schools and colleges, tea estates, factories and other youth communities.

SOUTH ASIA 2006-07 Appeal: Appeal no. MAA52001; Programme Update no. 3

An extensive review of the regional HIV/AIDS activities has helped to identify progress and achievements, understand constraints and challenges, and identify steps to improve the programme. A detailed report of the review has been produced and disseminated in the region.

The PHIE activities also made significant contribution in this period towards preparedness and response planning, as well as further development of community health programmes following the revitalised community-based first aid approach.

Following the 'recommended actions for national societies in avian and human influenza preparedness and response' guide, RHU worked closely with avian and human influenza focal points in Afghanistan and Pakistan in the development of community prevention and preparedness plans as well as project proposals in response to resurgent outbreaks this year. The RHU also coordinated with said countries and Bangladesh in monitoring reported sporadic outbreaks.

As part of preparedness for a possible pandemic, the unit started briefing national societies and country delegation focal points on the processes involved in developing service continuity plans. The unit facilitated the involvement of all national societies in a follow up of the global mapping carried out in 2006, which assessed national society-preparedness status related to a human pandemic event. A CD-ROM compilation containing preparedness planning guidelines, communication and reference materials developed by the Federation, WHO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other relevant organizations has been distributed to national societies and country delegations during the PHIE meeting in Dhaka. Copies have also been shared with the Geneva secretariat and neighbouring regions.

The RHU has also developed a suggested framework that assists national societies and country delegations in the development of comprehensive PHIE capacity. The framework is guided by the Federation well-prepared national society (WPNS) framework and tools.

The RHU has assisted the Federation delegation in Maldives to develop a year-long community-based first aid (CBFA) project focusing on dengue/chikungunya prevention and control, as part of a community-based disaster management programme. The programme is an example of an integrated approach involving disaster management, health, promotion of humanitarian values and organizational development/volunteer management, working with participating national societies. A number of strategy, guidelines and information, education and communication (IEC) materials have been prepared and are in use, such as guidelines for dengue prevention and control, guidelines for teachers, a set of four posters and leaflet, and a sketchbook for school children.

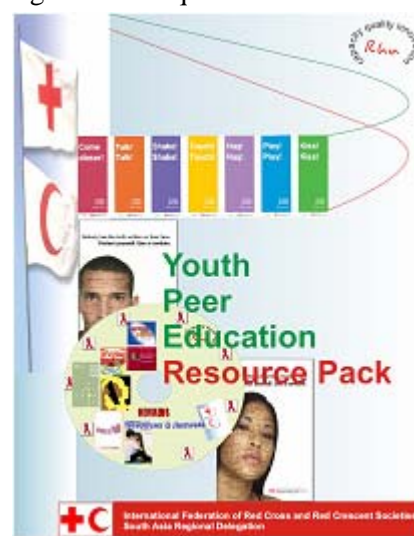
With the revitalization of the CBFA framework/approach, national societies in the region have started to adjust their community health programmes with the renewed framework. During the period, RHU provided technical inputs to Indian Red Cross and Pakistan Red Crescent in sensitizing senior managers at headquarters and branches on the framework, its components and principles.

Project 2: Regional Partnership Development

Project objective: National Societies have better health programming through improved coordination, partnership and advocacy.

The regional health meeting was held in April and further developed this platform for knowledge sharing and networking within the region, addressing priority issues of regional concern. The regional health meeting is also a mechanism for the Federation to channel policy decisions and strategic directions, particularly with the Federation's global HIV and AIDS alliance initiative.

The RHU has also been working on the formation of a task force to serve as a forum for information and knowledge sharing on PHIE issues, and will provide strategic directions on emergency preparedness and response. The task force will ensure that national societies in the region are updated with Federation global and regional issues and priorities in health emergencies. It will comprise of qualified professionals from the national societies as PHIE focal persons, and relevant representatives from the Federation field



One of the knowledge sharing tools officially launched at the regional health meeting in April.

SOUTH ASIA 2006-07 Appeal: Appeal no. MAA52001; Programme Update no. 3

delegations and the secretariat. A group led by Indian Red Cross will draft terms of reference that will define the roles and responsibilities, and priorities of the regional PHIE task force.

During the period, the task force also worked with regional disaster management coordinators from Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and New Delhi in reviewing the status of the Federation's regional response tools. In addition, the team also worked at defining joint priorities and plans in further developing regional disaster response teams as well as response and contingency plans which have strong health components.

The RHU has launched a quarterly e-newsletter to promote better coordination and exchange of information. The newsletter highlights key developments of interest to national societies, including sections on country updates and developments in resources, tools and guidelines, as well as forthcoming capacity building opportunities. It has a special section on South Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA), promoting networking and collaboration in HIV. The last two issues have focused on tackling stigma and discrimination in the region, two issues of the newsletter have been brought out so far.

The RHU has begun to encourage national societies to work closely with people living with HIV (PLHIV) through national level networks of PLHIV and promotion of engagement of governments, UN agencies and other key stakeholders.

National society HIV coordinators are now beginning to understand the potential for broader HIV activities, moving beyond project levels and towards integrated and coherent programming. For example, in Nepal regular cooperation meetings are being held between departments involved in HIV programming, and in Sri Lanka the target beneficiaries has been widened to include beneficiaries such as sex workers who are not normally targeted by the national society. The regional HIV programme has had an influence on broader national society directions and on strategic planning; for example, the programme has encouraged exploration and involvement in care and support initiatives.

The Federation launched the Red Cross and Red Crescent HIV Global Alliance on World AIDS Day as its renewed commitment to "mobilize the power of humanity" in reducing vulnerability of communities to HIV and its impact. Regional action plans to roll out the Global Alliance have been developed at a meeting held in Bangkok in March. Documentation providing strategic and practical guidance on implementation of the Global Alliance at the national level has been disseminated to national societies and discussions and planning for implementation in the region is ongoing. The next key step is for national societies to decide on the extent of their involvement in the alliance.

Constraints

Lack of funds continue to plague the regional PHIE programme, resulting in delays in the implementation of activities essential for capacity-building of emergency health preparedness and response at country and regional levels. Efforts are ongoing to urgently secure additional programme funds while a good ground for programming has been put in place.

The RHU is also going through a transition phase and an increasing amount of time has been devoted to contingency planning within the RHU to provide interim cover and handover, as the health coordinator, PHIE coordinator and HIV/AIDS coordinator all complete their missions during June and July.

Working in partnership

The WHO - South-East Asia regional office and the International Federation signed a three-year extension of a regional memorandum of understanding. The extension highlights the following: joint plans will be developed for HIV and AIDS and emergency preparedness and response; a detailed work plan with timelines will be developed; and a mid-term review will be undertaken to monitor progress and guide further cooperation.

Discussions have been held with the Asia-Pacific Network of People Living With HIV/AIDS (APN+) regional coordinator about joint activities in line with the RHU work plan for 2007, and a joint programme with humanitarian values for reduction of HIV related stigma and discrimination in the region.

Planning with NGO MAMTA-Health Institute for Mother and Child on technical support for youth peer education activities at both regional and county levels is ongoing. Initial discussions led to their support in facilitating sessions on youth peer education at the regional health meeting.

SOUTH ASIA 2006-07 Appeal: Appeal no. MAA52001; Programme Update no. 3

Links with UNICEF, UNESCO and BBC World Trust have resulted in resource material on youth peer education.

The RHU worked with continental stakeholders led by WHO and the Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) in developing strategic plans that support the strengthening of capacity in the management of the dead and missing in disasters in the Asia Pacific region.

Contributing to longer term impact

The regional health and care programme is aligned with the Federation's revised global health policy and strategy, the Global Agenda and other outcomes of the Federation of the Future processes. National societies have been supported to contribute to national health policies and guidelines.

The programme also continues to contribute to gender equity which is reflected in key staff recruitment, selection of peer educators, outreach workers and the target beneficiaries. A key example includes the recruitment of HIV coordinators where three of the six are women, due in part to the promotion of fair recruitment practices by the RHU.

The review of the HIV and AIDS programme, conducted in January and February by the RHU, led to the conclusion that there should be a coordinated, holistic and strategic approach to HIV interventions, involving not only health staff.

A specific outcome was the agreement to develop a uniform reporting framework across the region, from the district level up to the national level.

Looking ahead

The RHU will provide strategic inputs to encourage national societies to consider the broader organizational changes and strategic directions in order to make a significant contribution to the HIV and AIDS response at national and regional levels. These will include:

- Support of development of new and emerging areas, such as care and support and voluntary non-remunerated blood donation.
- Focus on monitoring and reporting, quality and scale up of activities.
- Close partnership with other organizations, such as the World Health Organisation and the (APN+).
- Develop a regional initiative on HIV and AIDS in the workplace together with APN+.

The regional HIV/AIDS programme is closely aligned with the Federations' HIV Global Alliance proposals; the alliance is expected to provide a further impetus to the response and the regional programme in 2007 and onwards, with a renewed emphasis on India.

The RHU envisages that the current year will focus on the translation of the PHIE concept which has already been understood by national societies into concrete programmes. The RHU has endeavored to develop frameworks to help facilitate different countries in programme development.

Disaster management

Programme objective: To strengthen operational capacity of national societies in South Asia to implement mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery programmes in line with global frameworks and regional priorities.

Overview

A mid-term review of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) risk reduction programme was carried out by a multi-stakeholder team, the outcomes of which will guide and shape future disaster risk reduction programming.

In May, as part of the 2008/09 planning process the disaster management working group analyzed the integration of current disaster risk reduction programmes with climate adaptation, the challenges and work to be done in this area. Discussions were finalized in March to access ECHO thematic funding to support national disaster response team training and response and contingency planning; the first training will begin in June. The regional disaster

SOUTH ASIA 2006-07 Appeal: Appeal no. MAA52001; Programme Update no. 3

management team is also working in coordination with the disaster management unit to reinforce the coherence of the regional disaster response team systems.

Some changes have been made in the two project budgets. The disaster preparedness project budget has been revised from CHF 607,059 to CHF 735,829, primarily to include the costs related to hiring a regional advocacy delegate for 2007. Meanwhile, the disaster response budget has been reduced from CHF436,364 to CHF 272,727 following approval to cover disaster response delegate costs under the tsunami project.

Funding for the disaster management programme is sufficient. Although funding to the end of May was only 39 per cent, the figure for end of June is expected to be approximately 45 per cent due to ECHO thematic funding as well as contributions from Australian and New Zealand Red Cross societies.



Community discussions in Sirajganj in Bangladesh, as part of the hands-on VCA training facilitated by the regional delegation.

Project 1: Disaster risk reduction

Project objective: Communities are more resilient and better prepared through the National Society community based programmes.

A practical “learning by doing” training in how to do vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA) was facilitated by the regional delegation in Bangladesh for 28 disaster risk reduction practitioners, from the national societies of Bangladesh, Nepal and the Bangladesh country delegation. The findings from this practical training provided the basis for small scale mitigation projects in four communities. These trainings are a step towards mainstreaming participatory assessment into all community based programmes.

Following recommendations in last year’s management review of the DFID-funded disaster risk reduction programme, two sets of operational guidelines have been developed to provide step-by-step guidance to disaster risk reduction programme managers in the region. A mid-term review of this programme was conducted from 11 to 29 May by a team comprised of representatives from DFID, British Red Cross and the Federation, with the outcomes of this review to be available shortly.

A regional proposal for funding was developed for the fourth round of ECHO’s disaster preparedness programme (DIPECHO²) funding, building on the disaster risk reduction work done in the region and aiming to strengthen and mainstream disaster risk reduction capacities of national societies. A specific focus of the proposal is to help national societies achieve a better understanding of disaster risk reduction concepts, systems and tools in line with Hyogo Framework for Action, which will in turn facilitate collaborations with external partners at local and national levels to improve the overall disaster management system in countries. If the current proposal to DIPECHO is accepted then the current budget will be revised, along with some minor modifications to appeal activities.

Project 2: Disaster response and preparedness for response

Project objective: Regional capacity and systems are improved to respond effectively and efficiently in times of disasters, and to ensure seamless transitions to recovery.

As part of the wider approach to develop disaster response human resources (expected result 2.1), training programmes on national disaster response teams (NDRT) were held in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Response and contingency planning in Nepal, Bangladesh and India were developed, to be conducted in the second half of the year. These trainings will be supported through global ECHO thematic funding centralized in the Federation secretariat in Geneva.

² Disaster preparedness programme of the European Commission Humanitarian Office

SOUTH ASIA 2006-07 Appeal: Appeal no. MAA52001; Programme Update no. 3

Some specific activities in human resource development included the disaster management team coordinating the selection and participation of four participants from the region who attended a global relief training course in Geneva. Furthermore, three participants from the region attended a team leader training course in Helsinki and one participant of the RDRT training in the Philippines in early June.

Two four-member RDRT teams were deployed during the reporting period. The first went to the Philippines from 10 December to 10 January to assist in the Durian typhoon operation supporting planning and distribution for one month. The second team went to Pakistan to support the winter relief plan in February and March.

In the area of developing effective response (expected result 2.2), in Afghanistan in January, the SARD disaster management team facilitated a national disaster management strategic planning workshop and stakeholders meeting where government counterparts, UN agencies and donors came to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Afghan RC. A second trip to Afghanistan in March was primarily in support of the Afghanistan ECHO capacity, and focused on NDRT and contingency planning training. The disaster response delegate also visited Pakistan from January to February to support the development of the winter plan and winter blanket procurement process.

A representative from SARD and another from the Maldives delegation attended the global NDRT consultation meeting in Geneva, to represent the South Asia perspective in the development of global guidelines on NDRT.

In the area of developing a better understanding of recovery in the region (expected result 2.3), the regional advocacy delegate spent one month in the Maldives to support the handover of the IDP support unit to the recovery coordinator as the IDP and camp management advisor ended his mission. Tasks included an analysis of resources for continuation of the IDP support programme, design and implementation of a beneficiary satisfaction survey, analysis of community information needs and beneficiary communication strategies.

Project 3: Coordination and Cross Cutting Issues

Project objective: South Asia disaster management programme is streamlined through coordination, collaboration, and innovative cross-cutting initiatives.

In order to effectively address global and regional priorities (expected result 3.1), the disaster management team have on the establishment of the disaster management working group (DMWG), a technical forum for disaster managers from seven countries and six national societies in South Asia, in the last two years. The group serves to promote regional cooperation, knowledge sharing and capacity building, in an effort to optimize the utilization of regional resources.

The first meeting of 2007 was held in Bangladesh in May, during which regional priorities for 2008-09 were identified. The meeting also discussed how to improve the DMWG, focusing on increasing national societies' ownership. Discussions and recommendation were made on how to integrate climate change issues into risk reduction programming in the future. A report on the meeting is available.

The disaster management unit supported and attended the South Asia partners meeting where presentations illustrated how the disaster management programme is harmonised to meet global, regional trends and priorities. From 2 to 4 May, an inter-regional coordination meeting with disaster management units from Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok regional delegation and the South Asia regional delegation was held in New Delhi. This was a technical meeting that focused on RDRT and contingency planning.

Further to this, members of the disaster management team have participated and/or facilitated at a number of international conferences, meetings and trainings in this reporting period; these include International Conference on School Safety (UN/ISDR³), hazards of nature, risks to development (UN/ISDR), 34th Session of WMO/ESCAP⁴ Panel on Tropical Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. The outcomes/resources from these events have been circulated throughout the region.

³ United Nations/ International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

⁴ World Meteorological Organization/ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

SOUTH ASIA 2006-07 Appeal: Appeal no. MAA52001; Programme Update no. 3

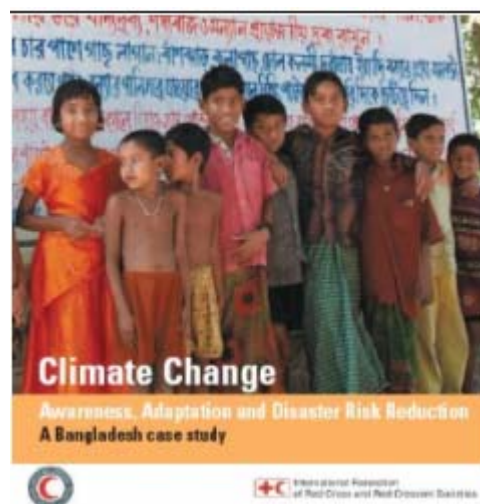
In the area of integrating “cross-cutting” areas (expected result 3.2), research by the regional advocacy delegate on the vulnerability of migrant workers engaged in Red Cross Red Crescent funded post-tsunami work in the Maldives resulted in a comprehensive internal report and a shorter article in the World Disasters Report.

As mentioned above, the regional advocacy delegate supported the handover of the beneficiary communication work for internally displaced people in the Maldives, which contributes to achieving the objectives outlined in the revised **Tsunami Regional Strategy and Operational Framework**.

The draft guidelines for national disaster preparedness and response mechanisms – “How to” guidelines were disseminated and discussed in depth during the regional meetings mentioned above.

Knowledge sharing (expected result 3.3) has been a key focus of the disaster management team over this reporting period, with case studies published on the Maldives and on Bangladesh. The Maldives case study focused on work done on beneficiary communication, whereas the Bangladesh case study highlights the response to climate change, identified as a regional challenge by the disaster management working group. The study highlights stories from different programmes in Bangladesh that are related to climate change, and published results of a Kyoto university study that offers insights into community awareness. Two related web stories capturing disaster risk reduction activities of the Bangladesh Red Crescent were also published on the Federation’s website.

In addition, the case study published last year, “**Building Safer Communities: Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia**”, was made available at the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Global Platform meeting between 4 and 8 June in Geneva.



The cover of the brochure about climate change in Bangladesh.

Constraints

Within the reporting period there have been a number of human resource changes. The disaster response delegate is currently also the acting disaster management coordinator. Considering the current global consolidation (zoning and decentralization) project, the disaster management coordinator post is temporarily closed. The gender consultant and disaster management assistant have finished their contracts, therefore limiting the capacity of the team to carry out geographical information system and gender related activities. The disaster management team in coordination with Geneva is working on fundraising options as the coverage of the 2007 disaster management programme budget at the end of May was 39 per cent.

Working in partnership

The main priority in the first half of this year was to improve the strong relationship with ECHO in order to better analyse funding opportunities for the programme. Following a number of positive meetings, a funding proposal (mentioned above) was submitted for approval to DIPECHO in Brussels.

Efforts were also made to keep the ECHO South Asia office informed about the development in activities funded by the Global ECHO thematic funding in South Asia.

The memorandum of understanding with GeoHazards International focused on providing technical support to national societies on earthquake preparedness is being finalized by the Federation secretariat.

Representatives of the regional disaster management unit in Kuala Lumpur were invited to a number of South Asia disaster management events to explain to national societies the current and possible future role of the disaster management unit, especially when the new zonal structure takes effect from 1 July.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Two major formal evaluations are included in this year’s plan to measure the impact of the programme. The mid-term review of the disaster risk reduction programme has already been conducted and the outcomes will be available shortly. A regional disaster management review will be conducted in the second half of 2007.

SOUTH ASIA 2006-07 Appeal: Appeal no. MAA52001; Programme Update no. 3

All staff deployed as a part of the regional disaster response team, as well as those involved in the Pakistan operation due in part to trainings and support over the past year, know, understand and apply the Code of Conduct in disaster relief, as well as the Code of Conduct for Federation staff. Sphere standards were included in Pakistan operation winter relief plan and efforts were made to ensure that goods distributed met Sphere standards.

The main outcomes of the Federation of the Future, including the Global Agenda and their relevance for disaster management have been explained at both national and regional trainings and meetings.

As part of the global consultation on the recovery policy currently being developed in Geneva, the disaster management team gathered feedback from national societies in the region (Sri Lanka, Maldives and Pakistan), as well as contributing its own input.

The work to develop and consolidate partnership with ECHO, and the developing work on climate change and risk reduction are laying the foundation for further impact in these areas in this year and in 2008-2009.

Looking Ahead

Planning for 2008/2009 is currently being carried out based on the input, comments and priorities from the planning sessions at the last DMWG meeting. A disaster management review of the programme will be conducted in the next quarter and the programme will be adjusted according to the outcomes.

A third priority will be to start a consultative process to develop the approach for the development of a regional disaster management strategy. One specific activity towards promoting gender perspective in the programme will be to collect baseline information on women's participation in disaster management workshops and response deployments in the region.

Organizational Development

Programme Objective: National societies have programmes that measurably increase assistance to vulnerable communities

Project 1: Strategic Planning and Management Development

Revised project objective: Capacity of national societies to deliver effective programs and services to the most vulnerable is strengthened

The funding picture for the organizational development (OD) programme in 2007 is not at all positive, with particularly low coverage for strategic management projects, funding of the original 2007 budget remains at 14 per cent. The funding situation has been poor since 2006, linked also to the lack of a delegate between April 2006 and April 2007.

A consultant was hired in October 2006, and the main strategy to deal with this funding and human resource gap was to focus on small-scale, achievable activities, aligned with Federation of Future global agenda and priorities. As stated in "[Outlook 2007](#)", the overall structure of the logframe was not changed at that time, as this would be considered when a new delegate arrived.

Following the reopening of the position in January, a new regional OD delegate took up her duties on 15 April. The OD consultant hired during 2006 will continue in an "outposted" position in Bangladesh covering three countries, with the OD delegate covering the other four countries.

The project logframe and budget have now been further revised to be more in alignment with plans for 2008/2009 ([click here for the revised logframe](#)). These changes reflect the necessary change in direction of the project due to the funding and human resources gap described above. However, even these drastically reduced activities will be seriously hampered if further funding is not secured.

A draft regional strategy was finalized focusing on how to implement the outcomes of the Federation of the Future and global agenda in the region. The strategy was presented to the national societies' leadership at the secretaries' general forum meeting in Islamabad from 13 to 15 March 2007. The meeting approved the draft regional strategy as a first step to implementing the Federation of the Future in the region, to be reviewed by the Secretariat General forum annually. During the South Asia partnership meeting from 27 to 29 March 2007 the South Asia regional

SOUTH ASIA 2006-07 Appeal: Appeal no. MAA52001; Programme Update no. 3

delegation's OD team focused on presenting the regional strategy as the key method to implement the outcomes of the Federation of the Future.

Orientation sessions on Federation of Future and the South Asia regional strategy were conducted in April for the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society officers and staff and during the regional DMWG meeting in May. The increasing significance of the Global Agenda as a central concept in Federation planning was explained during the four planning workshops held by the planning and reporting development project (see below).

The strategic development planning process in Afghanistan was built on and integrated with operational planning for 2008/09 during the training and coaching visit of the regional planning, monitoring, evaluating and reporting (PMER) and OD delegates in May.

The regional OD, PMER and disaster management staff collaborated closely to provide support to the disaster management working group meeting in May to work on disaster management planning in South Asia for the 2008-09 appeal planning process, also focusing on integration of organizational development and capacity-building activities in the disaster management programme.

The volunteer investment and value audit (VIVA) study report and fact sheet from Nepal profiling good practices of volunteer's time in relation to other resources was published in March. The publications will be shared in the region and elsewhere to assist in knowledge sharing and learning.

The regional OD programme also facilitated a human resources development consultancy in Nepal and provided assistance to the Maldives delegation in the formation and recognition of a national society through joint assessment mission.

Project 2: Information development

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

Material and information was collated to form a detailed brochure outlining the work of all national societies and country delegations in South Asia and produced as a key representation and fundraising tool for the delegation. This main publication was complemented by two case studies developed with the regional disaster management department, one on climate change in Bangladesh and another on beneficiary communications in the Maldives.

SARD supported the communication initiatives of Bangladesh Red Crescent (BDRCS), leading to stories on climate change aspects of the DFID-funded disaster risk reduction activities being published on www.ifrc.org⁵. A brochure on some of the success stories of the BDRCS was also published as a support for their fundraising and promotional activities.

Greater integration of communications in the region continued with the South Asia regional information sharing system (SARISS) feeding into the media relations mechanism known as the 'media bridge', as described in previous programme updates. Staff in the Maldives, India, Bangladesh and Afghanistan country delegations was supported through coaching and mentoring for editing and production of web stories, leaflets and other publicity material



Mr. Reazuddin, BDRCS volunteer, stands in front of a the bamboo bridge that he helped to build that his village and others close by have access to the main highway even during floods. This photo was also published on the Federation's website as part of the promotion of BDRCS' risk reduction activities.

⁵ Please see www.ifrc.org/Docs/News/07/07040203/ and www.ifrc.org/docs/news/07/07040301/

SOUTH ASIA 2006-07 Appeal: Appeal no. MAA52001; Programme Update no. 3

The regional communications delegate and consultant are scheduled to end their tenure at the end of June 2007, and a senior regional communications officer was hired to ensure support to the national society and country delegation communications projects continues.

Project 3: Finance development

Project objective: National societies have strengthened capacity in financial accountability, reporting and management, leading to improvement in quality and timeliness of reports.

The finance software “Navision” was installed in February in BDRCS head quarters, following negotiations with Microsoft to have free licences for 10 users. Training was provided for the whole finance department of BDRCS. Furthermore, the regional finance development delegate worked to customise software to meet the needs of BDRCS and their donor partners. The software has been well received by the finance staff and it is used for daily financial management.

In May, two finance representatives from Bangladesh (one from BDRCS and one from the Federation delegation) were in Nepal RC on a peer-learning visit focused on “best practices” in using financial software and good practices in financial reporting from the branch level up to the HQ level and external financial reporting.

After significant delays in Afghanistan due to the lack of funds in the regional finance development project, it was decided to fund the necessary activities from the Afghanistan delegation budget. This made it possible in early March to hire a consultant to carry out a needs assessment of the developmental needs of the finance department.

Based on this assessment a report was sent to the ARCS management, which was approved. Subsequently, the development of a finance manual which outlines the finance reporting system, advice on bookkeeping and other general guidance on financial management and reporting was prepared. The manual, also developed by the consultant, was submitted to the ARCS management for approval.

Progress in Bangladesh and Afghanistan was greatly facilitated by the strong support of the country delegations to ensure that the national society is aware of the benefits of such financial development initiatives.

In regards to the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), a review is being carried out to establish the specific needs of the society for finance software. While the software ‘Navision’ was installed in 2003, it was not adapted to the IRCS’s needs. The regional finance development delegate is working closely with IRCS and Microsoft to examine how the software should be customised to meet their specific needs.

Project 4: Planning and reporting development

Project objective: National Societies and country delegations have increased capacity to effectively plan and report on their work

The main overall focus of between January and May has been on capacity development in the area of planning, monitoring and evaluation in preparation for the development of the Federation appeal for 2008-09.

Practical hands-on training and coaching for national societies and country delegation staff on planning, monitoring and evaluation have been carried out in the four focus countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal) between April and May (Nepal in June), in close collaboration with the Asia Pacific regional reporting unit. The focus of the trainings was to review and explore good planning principles based on developing actual plans for 2008-09. In addition to the four focus countries, Sri Lanka and Maldives are also being guided by SARD on the development of their 2008-09 appeal.

South Asian countries provided early drafts of “programme priorities” allowing for a review of the proposed programme structure. Some improvements were suggested, however, scope for major changes is often limited (see “constraints”). As mentioned earlier, the PMER staff worked closely with the other units in the regional delegation to provide guidance and support for sectoral planning processes and workshops for 2008/2009 planning.

The delegation has also represented the region’s perspective in the development of a revised planning and appeal system, initiated by the Geneva secretariat as a consequence of Federation of the Future.

SOUTH ASIA 2006-07 Appeal: Appeal no. MAA52001; Programme Update no. 3

Follow up on reporting development initiatives started last year and continued with training being carried out by the British Council in Nepal and Bangladesh, with the technical and financial (for Nepal) support of SARD and funding from the Swedish Red Cross. In India, further to the IRCS reporting training held last year and based on the training of trainers held in conjunction, the Federation reporting officer in India office has organized regular report writing training for the headquarters staff. This positive development will be further encouraged in other countries, and further support provided where necessary.

Constraints

Most of the activities listed in the original logframe could not be implemented due to low funding. As a result, the logframe for 2007 was revised to accommodate this. While the lack of a regional OD delegate in the first quarter had affected implementation of planned activities, a suitable candidate was confirmed and joined the delegation in mid-April 2007.

A solution to the funding problem for information development is to increase funding of communications activities as part of core programming, an approach which is built into the recently finalized South Asia regional communications action plan.

Low funding has also affected the finance development project, resulting in the postponement of some activities such as national and regional level finance development training, and finance software training for Nepal Red Cross branches, as well as delay in the region's national societies' finance directors' meeting. The turnover of finance directors in both Bangladesh and Afghanistan has also affected the implementation rate.

A reoccurring issue was that while programme managers learnt more and appreciated the basic principles of planning, it is sometimes difficult to implement them. A key reason is that the administration and structure of the national society make it difficult to implement the changes that would be necessary due to, for example, consolidating many small projects into one broader project.

Some progress has been made in integrated planning at the regional and country level, but have been somewhat hampered by late developments in the global guidelines and structures.

Working in partnership

From the 13 to 19 June⁶ the OD consultation joined the Asia Pacific OD coordinator and ICRC regional cooperation delegate to carry out a joint assessment mission to review the progress of the legal and organisational development for the formation and recognition of a national society in the Maldives. The mission recommended on a more concentrated dissemination of the characteristics of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, the procedure of forming a national society including legal base, and to define and prioritise some of the core activities of the national society once it is formed.

A new key partnership is the joint Federation/ICRC collaboration with the BBC World Service Trust to run regional media training in July for national societies and Federation communications and programme staff. Planning has been underway for this regional media training since April.

The web stories on BDRCS disaster risk reduction and climate change profiled the relationship between DFID and the Federation, and were written in consultation with the RC /RC climate change centre in the Netherlands.

Another key topic discussed was the transition from relief and recovery operations of the Federation and partner national societies' support to longer-term core RC programmes to be taken up by the national society once formed.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The regional strategy will provide guidance on how to implement the outcomes of the Federation of the Future and global agenda in the region. Assistance in the formation and recognition of a national society process in Maldives, including finalization of statutes through a joint assessment mission, will bring positive impact in lieu of the potential value of a national society.

⁶ Although after the reporting period, information is included here as it is available.

SOUTH ASIA 2006-07 Appeal: Appeal no. MAA52001; Programme Update no. 3

The support provided to Afghanistan RC for the development of strategic plans integrated with operational planning as mentioned is a significant step towards coherent planning for this NS.

The regional communications action plan has been drafted, building on the South Asia regional information workshop and the Federation's global, Southeast and East Asia communications strategies, in order to achieve consistency.

The action plan will strengthen the regional programme by clearly defining SARISS and the media bridge, and by outlining best practice of integration of communications with core programme areas.

All publications materials included the perspectives of beneficiaries, and advocated for the most vulnerable, in line with the fourth Global Agenda goal and priority.

In Bangladesh, the installation and training on financial software has already helped to clear long-standing backlog of processing of financial information.

Looking ahead

As mentioned, activities have been modified drastically based on available funding, as even the reduced budget for activities alone is covered by less than 50 per cent. Funding opportunities are being actively sought.

Programme activities will be reduced as there will be only one staff member after June, and due to funding coverage. It is hoped that the key activities will progress, but field-based capacity building activities will currently be limited.

Pending further funding, a communications assistant will be hired to support the senior regional communications officer, which will enable greater regional communications development.

Humanitarian Values

Programme objective: The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in South Asia is a strong advocate for promoting respect for diversity and fighting discrimination and intolerance

Despite limited financial resources and a lack of stability in terms of human resources, progress was made in the first months of the year focusing on follow-up from workshops and internal processes carried out with National Societies during the past year.

In Indian Red Cross, for instance, there is enthusiasm to have more workshops and to raise the awareness of people on issues such as the dignity of people affected by disasters. The Assam and Uttaranchal state branches prepared to hold a workshop at the state level to follow-up on the humanitarian charter and Sphere workshop last year. However, this activity was postponed to later in the year due to human resources constraints.

Support by the regional humanitarian values coordinator to the Pakistan delegation, including a visit in March 2007, focused on how gender issues could be better incorporated in existing programmes. A positive result was yielded, with the Peshawar branch accepting the need for better gender balance and diversity of the community in the youth camp they propose to hold in August. Training on "Social mobilization, participation, project cycle and gender awareness raising" was held for programme staff working in earthquake-affected areas. The session was conducted by the Federation's programme manager for gender and community participation, along with an external facilitator

The workshop in Bandarban, Bangladesh also reflected an improved representation of women participants with up to a third of attendees being women. Similarly, eight of the 20 participants at a gender workshop in Pakistan (including participants from PRCS, bilateral RCRC delegations and the Federation's delegation) were women.

A firm commitment has been reached with the Canadian Red Cross to support the Sri Lanka Red Cross (SLRCS) on a humanitarian values programme, with the help of the regional delegation. The programme will be channelled through the Federation's delegation in Colombo and be implemented by the SLRCS with support of the Federation.

SOUTH ASIA 2006-07 Appeal: Appeal no. MAA52001; Programme Update no. 3

A joint project with the regional health team has now been developed and will start in July 2007. The project will encourage and support national society counterparts in health and humanitarian values to work together to advocate against HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination, both within the national society staff and volunteers, as well as in the community.

Constraints

A major constraint during 2007 has been a low level of funding – programmes have not been able to take off because of this and activities at the regional level have been minimal, with most time spent remotely supporting country delegations and national societies in their activities, especially on workshops.

Other constraints revolve around the issue of human resources. For instance, activities with three state branches of the Indian Red Cross have not progressed because of our insistence that these should be carried out through respective disaster management programme counterparts in the state branches who have yet to be appointed. In Nepal, the humanitarian values focal point in the department will be leaving, and the second humanitarian values focal person in the national society is to leave in the space of a year. The humanitarian values focal person in the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society is new in his position, and will need time to adjust and adapt.

Working in partnership

In February 2007, the regional humanitarian values coordinator worked with the German Red Cross on a case study on how the disaster mitigation programme in Orissa met objectives in line with the regional humanitarian values programme. Earlier, in September 2006, there was interaction with the programme management on how phase two of the project could be used to pursue an understanding of humanitarian values in the context of the state branch.

Contributing to longer-term impact

As a result of support to the Pakistan delegation, there is agreement with the branch in Peshawar that the planned youth camp in August will have at least equal numbers of young men and women.

In the Bangladesh Red Crescent, the humanitarian values programme focal person organized two meetings in the months of January and February with a view to pursue the understanding of humanitarian values at the level of the BDRCS NHQ. Participants discussed different issues connected with the programme like values, dignity and human rights. The intention has been to carry on with similar discussion sessions.

As part of integrating humanitarian values with the disaster management plans of Bangladesh Red Crescent, a workshop was held on 20 and 21 May in Bandarban (CHT) on integrating humanitarian values with the ongoing programmes in the CHT.

Looking ahead

A meeting was called in New Delhi with colleagues from the region to decide how to carry on with plans for the remaining part of the year, as well as plan for 2008-09 in the light of the constraints cited above.

The good coordination with the regional health team and implementation of the joint initiative to reduce stigma and discrimination looks positive for the remaining months of 2007 as well as 2008 and 2009.

Partly due to funding concerns, the programme at the regional level will concentrate of working with civil society and academic groups in the countries of the region through the national societies.

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 undertakes activities that are aligned with its 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Federation South Asia regional delegation in India, Nina Nobel (acting head of regional delegation), email: nina.nobel@ifrc.org; phone: +91.11.2411.1125; fax: +91.11.2411.1128
- Federation Asia Pacific Zone in Kuala Lumpur: Jagan Chapagain (deputy head of zone), email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org; phone: +603.2161.0892; fax: +603.2161.1210
- Federation Secretariat in Geneva (Asia Pacific Department): Christine South (regional officer); email: christine.south@ifrc.org; phone: +41.22.730.4273; fax: +41.22.733.0395 or Gokce Balcik (senior assistant); email: gokce.balcik@ifrc.org; phone: +44.22.730.4429; fax: +41.22. 733.0395

Financial report below; [click here to return to title page.](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA52001 - SOUTH ASIA

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/5
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	2,395,613	1,442,162	177,187	1,012,689	500,675	5,528,325
B. Opening Balance	698,849	155,821	4,032	102,057	115,318	1,076,078
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross					1,019	1,019
British Red Cross	6,045	184,956		0	3,585	194,586
Canadian Red Cross					1,015	1,015
Danish Red Cross				1,370	3,000	4,370
DFID Partnership	32,180	53,383		95,283	45,294	226,140
Finnish Red Cross			23,385	4,774		28,159
German Red Cross					1,000	1,000
Japanese Red Cross	64,977	30,577				95,555
New Zealand Red Cross		16,400			1,700	18,100
Other	806	873				1,679
Swedish Red Cross	840,004	33,751	33,071	190,726	21,898	1,119,450
C1. Cash contributions	944,012	319,941	56,456	292,153	78,511	1,691,073
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
Australian Red Cross		21,175				21,175
British Red Cross		202,848				202,848
Japanese Red Cross	28,724	28,724	4,818	19,089	9,545	90,900
New Zealand Red Cross		1,737				1,737
Swedish Red Cross	17,670		17,670	58,311	1,590	95,241
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	46,394	254,484	22,488	77,400	11,135	411,901
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
Finnish Red Cross				-11,038	11,038	0
German Red Cross		0				0
Swedish Red Cross		0				0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)	0	0	0	-11,038	11,038	0
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
British Red Cross	105,400					105,400
Danish Red Cross				21,080		21,080
Other	24,800	25,833		9,507		60,140
Swedish Red Cross					105,400	105,400
C5. Inkind Personnel	130,200	25,833	0	30,587	105,400	292,020
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	1,120,606	600,258	78,944	389,102	206,084	2,394,994
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,819,455	756,080	82,976	491,159	321,402	3,471,072

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	1,120,606	600,258	78,944	389,102	206,084	2,394,994
E. Expenditure	-1,125,336	-545,658	-57,921	-388,994	-334,624	-2,452,533
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	694,119	210,422	25,056	102,165	-13,222	1,018,539

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA52001 - SOUTH ASIA

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/5
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)		2,395,613	1,442,162	177,187	1,012,689	500,675	5,528,325	
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	8,000							8,000
Total Supplies	25,100							25,100
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	68,000	4,710	6,994		25,126		36,830	31,170
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.			681		1,644		2,325	-2,325
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	68,000	4,710	7,675		26,770		39,155	28,845
Transport & Storage								
Storage						84	84	-84
Distribution & Monitoring						1,493	1,493	-1,493
Transport & Vehicle Costs	46,800	20,264	6,688	361	4,601	2,713	34,628	12,172
Total Transport & Storage	46,800	20,264	6,688	361	4,601	4,290	36,205	10,595
Personnel Expenditures								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	1,653,913	511,661	128,667		138,217	156,864	935,410	718,503
Delegate Benefits	205,000							205,000
Regionally Deployed Staff	97,500	2,474	69,415				71,890	25,610
National Staff	357,348	95,811	44,912	29,065	29,506		199,295	158,053
National Society Staff	27,166	17,951	329		4,583		22,863	4,303
Consultants	266,007	2,731	21,954		54,983	50,960	130,628	135,379
Total Personnel Expenditures	2,606,934	630,628	265,277	29,065	227,289	207,824	1,360,084	1,246,850
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1,225,397	187,317	120,772	20,902	34,230	27,667	390,888	834,509
Total Workshops & Training	1,225,397	187,317	120,772	20,902	34,230	27,667	390,888	834,509
General Expenditure								
Travel	573,479	61,756	56,620	1,598	38,276	9,643	167,893	405,586
Information & Public Relation	205,176	9,359	16,727		5,612		31,698	173,478
Office Costs	327,550	121,439	18,464	585	17,208	61,371	219,068	108,482
Communications	73,888	15,696	16,160	1,297	9,269	1,459	43,881	30,007
Professional Fees	5,000							5,000
Financial Charges	1,200	70	49		207	60	387	813
Other General Expenses	10,460	1,101	816	347	3	649	2,916	7,544
Total General Expenditure	1,196,753	209,421	108,838	3,828	70,575	73,181	465,842	730,911
Depreciation								
Depreciation						357	357	-357
Total Depreciation						357	357	-357
Program Support								
Program Support	359,341	72,581	35,358	3,765	25,155	21,305	158,164	201,177
Total Program Support	359,341	72,581	35,358	3,765	25,155	21,305	158,164	201,177
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		415	1,050		373		1,837	-1,837
Total Operational Provisions		415	1,050		373		1,837	-1,837
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	5,528,325	1,125,336	545,658	57,921	388,994	334,624	2,452,533	3,075,792
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,270,277	896,504	119,266	623,694	166,051	3,075,792	