

Programme Update 2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

South Asia

Appeal No. MAA52001
Programme Update No. 4

This report covers the period 01/06/07 to 31/10/07 of the 2006-07 Appeal.

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



A community discussion being held as part of the South Asia regional office's monitoring visit to Nepal, with the regional advocacy delegate and a member of Nepal Red Cross disaster management department.

In brief

Programme Summary:

The two main features of the past five months for the South Asia regional office were floods and planning. Approximately 30 million people were affected by monsoon floods in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. The South Asia regional office assisted with human resources, technical advice and development of emergency appeals, and coordinated support to the national societies and country delegations affected, in collaboration with Geneva and Kuala Lumpur offices.

At the same time, extensive work was carried out at the regional and national levels in planning for 2008-2009, focusing on the Federation appeal, the Global Alliance on HIV, and a significant new disaster risk reduction project in the regional office which is supported by DIPECHO and Swedish Red Cross.

The funding situation remained quite bleak, especially for organizational development, humanitarian values and coordination programmes which are all under 50 per cent. Some projects are particularly poorly covered, with the disaster response project and regional reporting funded at 21 and 13 per cent respectively. Cuts have been made in activities, and further reductions may be necessary in 2008 if the situation does not improve.

	Health	DM	HV	OD	C & I	Total
07 expenditure as % of total 07 funding	51%	41%	75%	75%	100%	54%
Funding coverage of 2007 budget	75%	83% [†]	31%	49%	45%	67% [†]
07 expenditure as % of 07 budget	39%	34%	23%	37%	45%	37%
Funding coverage of rev 2006/2007 budget	78%	82%	47%	60%	74%	74%
Expenditure as % of rev 06 /07 budget	56%	48%	41%	52%	74%	54%

Needs: Total 2006-2007 budget is CHF 5,528,324 (USD 4.77 million or EUR 3.3 million), out of which 74 per cent is covered. Outstanding needs are CHF 1,425,201 (USD 1.23 million or EUR 852,000).[†] Please note that 15 months' income (CHF548,658/€330,00) for the DIPECHO project has been booked as income in 2007. With only three months' income included, the funding coverage overall is 66 per cent and for DM is 52 per cent. **[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)**

Our Partners: External partners include the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO), the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the Health Institute for Mother and Child (Mamta), Naz Foundation, the Asia Pacific Network of People living with HIV/AIDS (APN+), Geohazards International, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the British Council, Reuters and the BBC. There are also collaborations 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 UK Department for International Development (DFID) through British Red Cross, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through Swedish Red Cross and the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO/ DIPECHO).

No of people we help: The South Asia regional office supports the 7 country delegations and 6 national societies in South Asia. Please refer to country reports for the beneficiary numbers for programmes in these countries.

Progress towards objectives Disaster management (DM)

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.

Project 1: Disaster risk reduction(DRR)

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

Following the recommendations of the mid-term review of the DFID-funded disaster risk reduction (DRR) project in May 2007 and a consultative meeting of DRR focal points from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and the South Asia regional office, revised plans of action and budgets were developed for the country and regional level covering the period from July 2007 to April 2008.

In order to implement the mid-term review recommendations and to provide more robust support to country level DRR activities, a regional DRR programme manager was recruited and is currently implementing the project activities based on the revised action plans. To support the implementation of the revised Bangladesh plan, the Regional DRR officer facilitated the VCA process in four local communities in July.

Following the acceptance of a regional funding proposal by ECHO's disaster preparedness programme (DIPECHO), a DRR programme entitled "Building safer communities in South Asia" has been implemented, in partnership with the Swedish Red Cross. This fifteen-month (Oct 07- January 09) project is focused on making national societies (NS) and communities in South Asia better prepared, safer and more resilient to disasters.

The project aims to draw together regional experiences and knowledge to harmonize and standardize Red Cross Red Crescent risk reduction trainings, systems and tools while strengthening cooperation with other vital actors in the region at local and national levels. To date, a project manager has been recruited, visibility and promotional materials have been produced and the first activity, the organizing of the regional disaster management working



Dry food supplies being distributed during the flood operations in the Lalmonighat district of Bangladesh, where the regional office's DRR officer visited to analyze the links between community-based disaster management and the flood response operations.

group (DMWG) meeting has been implemented (see below). The total budget of the programme is CHF 638,827 (€86,429, with 85 per cent contributed by DIPECHO and the remainder by Swedish Red Cross) of which three month's implementation cost of CHF 121,204 (€0,518) has been incorporated into the revised budget for this project in 2007.

The South Asia regional office DM team has provided DRR technical support to the countries in a number of ways during this reporting period. A DRR officer was deployed from 22 August to 9 September to Bangladesh to analyze the links between the community based disaster management (CBDM) programme and the 2007 flood response. A similar process was also conducted in Nepal where the regional office deployed two technical staff (the regional advocacy delegate and DRR officer) to Nepal from 30 Sept to 9 Oct to monitor the flood response operation and to analyze the links between the response and the DRR/CBDM programme. This was done together with the NRCS team and a British Red Cross consultant. In addition, the South Asia regional office DM team carried out a detailed technical review of all country level plans for 2008-2009, as part of the overall technical review of country plans.

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.



The regional DRR officer facilitating a community discussion as part of the development of a monitoring plan for the Nepal Red Cross floods operations.

This year's monsoon season resulted in regional floods in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Nepal that affected an estimated 30 million people. The South Asia regional office provided technical support to the affected countries, notably with the deployment of two DM staff (regional response officer for one month and regional DRR officer for two weeks) to support the Bangladesh country delegation and national society in relief distribution, procurement and logistics activities, as well as to Nepal to support the development of a monitoring and evaluation plan, during a monitoring visit of the flood operation. Support was also provided to India in the procurement process for relief materials.

As part of the wider approach to develop disaster response human resources (expected result 2.1), two regional trainings were held in this reporting period, both supported by ECHO thematic funding centralized in the Federation secretariat in Geneva (due to low funding of this project, see below). The first was a

regional response and contingency planning training workshop in Nepal in June, the outcome of which was the first draft of response and contingency plans developed for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, India and Pakistan. The second was a regional national disaster response team/ management (NDRT/NDRPM) training in Sri Lanka in August, attended by 24 representatives from the six South Asian national societies. The outcomes of this workshop will contribute to developing standard modules/curriculum for NDRT training in South Asia.

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 second annual DMWG meeting was held from 28-30 November in Sri Lanka. The meeting was part of a series of meetings; two and a half days were assigned for parallel sectoral meetings (health, OD, DM) and then two days for a joint forum involving all sectors. The overarching theme of this series of meetings was the "integrated programming approach", as described in more detail in the OD section. Especially relevant for DM was the integrated nature of disaster risk reduction. In addition, the DMWG itself was endorsed by the secretaries-general of the national societies through their regional meeting, held concurrently with the joint forum.

The central theme of the DMWG meeting was '*Building safer communities in South Asia*'. For this DMWG meeting, more than 30 participants came together to discuss and clarify terminologies, concepts and frameworks relating to DRR, new and innovative mechanisms for working together and knowledge sharing.

There was also active participation from external partners (ProVention/World Bank, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction [UNISDR], Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre [ADPC]), and Movement partners – representatives from the disaster preparedness and shelter departments of the Geneva secretariat, from South Africa (DM coordinator) and from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This participation provided a variety of expertise and perspectives on disaster risk reduction that facilitated learning and discussion.

In order to enhance and support the well-prepared national society (WPNS) process in the region, the WPNS programme officer from secretariat in Geneva made individual visits to national societies in the region, in which partner national societies will also be encouraged to participate. The collection of information from these visits (mapping exercise) will enable the South Asia regional office to better track and support the WPNS process in 2008.

In October, the regional office DM and OD teams spent time discussing and identifying action points to build capacity in volunteers and emergencies to advance gender balance and participation in Red Cross Red Crescent DM activities in South Asia. A joint concept paper will be developed, outlining how DM and OD will work together on these issues in 2008-2009.

Further to this, members of the DM team have participated and/or facilitated at a number of international conferences, meetings and trainings in this reporting period as part of cross-regional knowledge sharing and networking initiatives. These include participating in the UNISDR meeting “*Enhancing regional coherence and cooperation on disaster risk reduction in Asia and Pacific*” in Bangkok, the Federation secretariat recovery workshop in Geneva, the Federation secretariat disaster risk reduction meeting in Nairobi and the *People in Aid* human resources in emergency workshop in Bangkok. In addition, the DM team also participated and/or contributed to the RDRT technical meeting Geneva, the emergency response unit (ERU) relief workshop in Geneva (that includes four participants from Nepal Pakistan India and the South Asia regional office), RDRT logistics in Bangkok (cross regional) including ten participants from South Asia (two participants from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal, and one each from India and the South Asia regional office) as well as the international disaster response laws (IDRL) training facilitated by the SEA regional legal delegate and jointly hosted by the India Red Cross Society and the Federation’s India delegation. The outcomes/resources from these events have been circulated throughout the region.

Constraints and challenges

The funding for the disaster response project is very low (21 per cent). As a consequence, the position of disaster management coordinator remains unfilled. Some activities also had to be postponed, including support for RDRT staff-on-loan, financial support for training opportunities, procuring RDRT response kits and visibility materials, and the holding of a shelter and relief workshop. Some funding for specific activities was sought from Geneva-based ECHO thematic funding (response and contingency planning and NDRT/NDRPM training), allowing these activities to proceed.

The time and resources devoted to the floods operations in three countries made it difficult to carry out the planned capacity building activities related to DRR and disaster preparedness such as a vulnerabilities and capacity assessment (VCA) regional workshop, advocacy skills development training and case study visits. These and other activities were postponed to 2008.

Working in partnership

The most significant development in this area in the past five months was the development of the new project with DIPECHO and Swedish Red Cross. As also mentioned earlier, there was significant participation from external partners during the DMWG meeting. The endorsement of the DMWG as a key regional coordination mechanism by the secretaries-general of the region was also significant.

Contributing to longer term impact

As with all South Asia regional office programmes, the progress made towards more sustainable and effective programming during the joint DM/Health/OD forum was significant. Particularly relevant for DM was the progress made on linking the cross-cutting aspect of disaster management, especially risk reduction.

The monitoring visit in Nepal and other interventions in support of regional disaster response operations reinforced the importance of non-discriminatory disaster response activities based on the Code of Conduct and the

Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE) standards. Advice was also given to the national societies on how to integrate these aspects into the continuing response & recovery efforts.

The various disaster management trainings in the region bore fruit as more than 20 people trained in NDRT and RDRT were mobilized for the flood operations. People trained in CBDM and CBDP under the DRR project were also very active in responding to the floods in the region and detailed monitoring reports from the field indicate that the impact of floods was lessened in areas where this project is being implemented (reports available upon request).

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.

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.

HIV and AIDS

The past five months have seen active participation by South Asia national societies in three important HIV and AIDS related events, supported by the regional delegation along with its regular ongoing technical support.

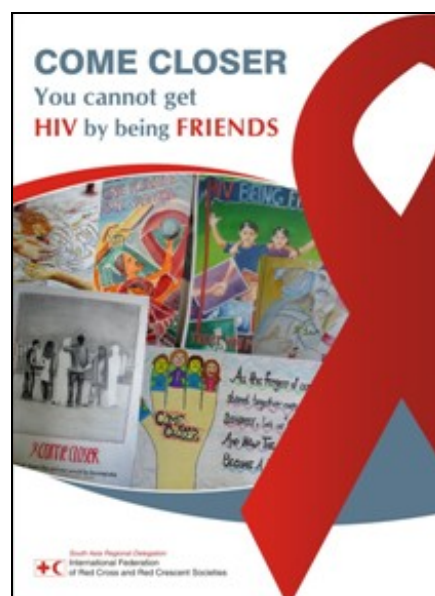
The regional health unit (RHU) facilitated participation from the region in the International Conference on AIDS in Asia Pacific (ICAAP), held in Colombo from 19 to 23 August. A Red Cross Red Crescent pre-ICAAP meeting in Colombo was organized on 18 August, during which the Afghan Red Crescent Society and Nepal Red Cross Society shared their on-going HIV programmes. The partnership mapping conducted in the region was also shared in the conference.

This conference was followed by the planning meeting for the Federation's Global Alliance¹ (GA) on HIV in South Asia, held in Delhi from 11 - 14 September 2007. The national societies of Bangladesh, India and Nepal who chose to be part of the GA conducted baseline assessments and drafted preliminary plans for scaling-up their programmes. The strategies, targets and activities of these programmes were presented and peer-reviewed during the September planning meeting. The programme documents are now in the process of being reviewed in Geneva.

The outcomes of this GA planning meeting were followed up during the South Asia HIV and AIDS workshop and health managers' meeting held from 28 - 30 October in Colombo prior to the joint forum (described in more detail in the OD section of this report). A presentation of the programme plans of the three national societies participating in the GA was made during the HIV meeting and during the health managers' meeting, a global overview of the GA process was presented.

The meeting of health managers focused on three key themes – follow up from previous health meetings (including revised community-based first aid [CBFA], HIV and AIDS stigma and discrimination issues), updates on progress in national society health programmes in the region and guidance on fundraising at the country level. A number of key recommendations for improving health programming in the region were made. The follow up of these will be facilitated by the RHU. During these meetings, the RHU continued to emphasize the importance of using resource persons from within the region (see working together section).

The RHU continued to provide technical support to national societies on various components of the HIV and AIDS programme through country visits as well other communication channels. These included follow-up on practical use of the youth peer education resource pack developed by RHU and compilation of planned activities



A poster with winning entries from the South Asia children's poster competition – copies have been disseminated across the region.

¹ Global Alliances are one part of the Federation's "New Operating Model" which was one outcome of the "Federation of the Future" process. The Global Alliance on HIV is a partnership among different components of the Movement and external partners which aims at integrated planning and programming.

of the national societies on the blood safety component of the HIV programme (progress on this issue was also taken up at the South Asia Red Cross Red Crescent HIV and AIDS programme workshop held in October).

Drawing upon the award winning entries from the poster competition held on World AIDS Day 2006 across the region, the RHU developed and disseminated a poster on HIV related anti-stigma and discrimination. All the health resources available at the South Asia regional office were catalogued in a database as the first step towards creating a resource centre in the region.

Public health in emergencies

The RHU contributed towards preparedness and response planning on Avian and Human Influenza (AHI), as well as further development of community health programmes, following the revitalized CBFA approach. In collaboration with the health and care department in Geneva, focal persons for AHI were identified to administer a questionnaire to select national societies to pilot a programme on pandemic preparedness with multi-year support from USAID.

The national society and Federation staff from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated in the CBFA master facilitators' training workshop held in Indonesia at the end of June, creating the beginnings of a strong network for the revitalized CBFA² in South Asia. Sri Lanka Red Cross has started to integrate this new approach to CBFA in their long-running CBFA programme.

The RHU also coordinated with the water and sanitation officer in Geneva on a number of cross-regional learning initiatives, with representatives from the Nepal Red Cross Society attending a participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) workshop in Sri Lanka and possibly other Nepal Red Cross staff attending a water and sanitation ERU workshop in Pakistan.

Health inputs into the planning and programming of flood/cyclone response in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan was carried out in collaboration with the regional disaster management unit and country delegations.

The Afghanistan and Pakistan Red Crescent Societies were supported in investigating the possibility of funding for their programmes related to immunization or related child health care services for hard-to-reach populations from the GAVI Alliance³.

Project 2: Regional Partnership Development

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

The joint health/humanitarian values initiative on reduction of HIV related stigma and discrimination mentioned in the previous update is now being implemented. This initiative is part of the regional office's contribution to the regional HIV and AIDS programme. The workplan has been shared with country delegations and national societies in the region. Planned activities include a baseline survey to assess knowledge, attitudes and practice (KAP) on HIV and its related stigma and discrimination as well as sensitisation sessions on the issue at national societies, country delegations and the South Asia regional office.

A questionnaire for the baseline survey was prepared (in cooperation with INP plus⁴ and the ILO), pilot tested at ICRC in Delhi and then shared with country delegations and national societies. To date, the baseline survey has been completed by the India country delegation and by the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society. A variety of information, education and communication resources and tools have been compiled on the issue and were disseminated for feedback at the South Asia Red Cross Red Crescent health managers' meeting. Development of partnerships with people living with HIV (PLHIV) networks to take this venture forward and other organizations working on the issue have also been planned. It is envisaged that this process will lead to a HIV workplace plan for the national societies.

Meetings with technical representatives from the WHO South East Asia regional office (SEARO) were held to discuss the detailed development of the joint workplans for HIV/AIDS and EPR and their implementation. The plans are part of the extension of the MoU between WHO/SEARO and the Federation, signed on 28 March 2007.

² "CBFA in action – learning by doing"

³ Formerly the "Global Alliance for Vaccines and immunization", GAVI is a public-private global health partnership

⁴ The network of people living with HIV and AIDS in India, linked to the Asia-Pacific Network of people living with HIV and AIDS (APN+)

A World First Aid Day information pack was disseminated to national societies and country delegations, and the RHU coordinated with the information unit to follow up on the World First Aid Day (WFAD) photo competition.

Constraints and challenges

The programme plan for 2007 was based on the assumption that the unit would be staffed by seven members. For various reasons such as completed missions and delayed recruitment of key positions due to funding constraints, the RHU has been operating with only two staff during the entire reporting period. This has limited the support the RHU can provide to the national societies in all programme areas.

In addition, the implementation of the Global Alliance on HIV in the region has been a very labour intensive activity, requiring the majority of staff time to be dedicated to this initiative for long periods.

The lack of funding and staff related to public health in emergencies (PHiE) activities has caused delays in the implementation of activities which are essential in emergency health preparedness and response capacity building at country and regional levels.

The staff shortage is also the main reason why funds allocated for HIV and AIDS activities remain unspent. After the regional HIV delegate completed his mission, the HIV programme manager who was to take over management of the programme, has been on medical leave during the entire reporting period, which also prevented the post of HIV officer from being filled. This has hampered the completion of planned activities for this period, with the situation worsened by the positions of some national society HIV coordinators remaining vacant, and lastly by intensive floods operations drawing resources away from the HIV activities.

Working in partnership

In the Global Alliance meeting and the South Asia Red Cross Red Crescent health managers' meeting and HIV programme workshop contributions were given from regional resource people from Mamta⁵ (on advocacy), UNAIDS (on fundraising⁶) and the Salvation Army and Lanka Plus (on "HIV prevention, treatment, care and support").

In the development of joint workplans with WHO, progress was made on collaboration in the area of community empowerment programming related to emergency preparedness. Representatives from WHO, MAMTA and Indian Network of people living with HIV, ICRC, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Italian Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross participated actively in the South Asia GA planning meeting on HIV.

During this period, there has also been ongoing communication with representatives from APN+ and INP+⁷ regarding HIV related anti-stigma activities. ILO, BBC, UNAIDS and UNESCO were also followed up on for material and resources on HIV related stigma and discrimination.

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, as well as global frameworks such as the Millennium Development Goals and the Hyogo Framework for Action. Funding to the regional HIV and AIDS programme has been extended for two more years to enable a sustainable impact as a result of long term funding.

It is envisaged that the doubling up of efforts as part of the GA scaling up will contribute considerably to mitigate the impact of HIV in the region.

Organizational development/ capacity building

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

The funding picture for the organizational development (OD) programme remains strained, with the funding coverage of the programme at 49 per cent overall. Progress has been made in advancing an integrated planning approach, development of national societies' legal base, and modernizing the financial systems of national societies. The planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) project was largely occupied with intensive

⁵ "Key concepts on advocacy for creating an enabling environment for prevention of HIV in youth"

⁶ "Strengthening fundraising efforts: How to access funds at country level"

⁷ ANP+ is the Asia Pacific network for people living with HIV and AIDS and INP+ is the Indian network for PLWHA

work on providing support and advice for the preparation of the Appeal 2008-2009, and appeals and reports for the region's response to what the UN described as the "worst flooding in living memory". The regional communications team supported frequent and high quality media coverage of the floods.

Project 1: Strategic Planning and management development

Objective: Capacity of national societies to deliver effective programmes and services to the most vulnerable is strengthened.

The most significant area of progress was towards integrated programming⁸. The benefits of programmes working in a more integrated manner in planning and implementation have been increasingly emphasized by the regional office, forming a cornerstone of its plans for 2008-2009.



The participants of the ground-breaking OD/ DM/Health joint forum, and the 18th session of the South Asia secretaries general forum, which took place in Sri Lanka at the end of October.

In order to lay firm foundations for increased progress in this area, a ground-breaking regional joint forum comprising DM, Health and OD representatives was organized at the end of October in Sri Lanka. The forum provided the opportunity for over 90 representatives from all sectors of all national societies in the region to discuss issues around integrated programming.

Central to the forum was examining how to put an integrated programming approach (IPA) into practice, through developing country-specific models with proposals for the key steps for implementation. The joint forum was held concurrently with the 18th session of the secretaries general's forum, allowing senior national societies' leadership of the region to immediately consider and discuss the outcomes of the forum. Their approval and commitment of the IPA models and implementation plans will be of great support in ensuring effective follow up of these plans.

Following the request of the joint commission in October, the regional office's OD team is providing support to national societies to review their legal base, encouraging them to review and if necessary revise their statutes to be in alignment with Federation's Guidance for National Societies' Statutes. Support was provided to the Afghanistan delegation as the Afghan Red Crescent are in the final stages of revising their statutes.

The regional OD consultant participated in the 2nd Joint Assessment Mission in the Maldives, during which detailed planning for key tasks for the formation of the Maldivian Red Crescent was drafted - primarily election of representatives of the Maldives Red Crescent, holding the first general assembly and designing future activities of the Maldivian Red Crescent Society.

Constraints or challenges

The lack of OD human resources in several national societies and in-country delegations seriously curtailed planned activities. Previous South Asia regional office initiatives in human resource development and resource mobilization do not currently have focal points at the national level to ensure follow-up. The lack of staff is due to the high level of turnover as well as the fact that organizational development generally continues to be a low priority in terms of allocation of resources in all national societies.

In addition, low funding prevented travel by the regional OD team to national societies in the region, making it difficult to directly address these problems. The main way many of these issues are now being tackled is through the integrated programming approach, as described below under "contributing to longer term impact".

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.

⁸ Expected result 2 in the logframe

The major activity was working closely with country delegations to ensure wide and positive media coverage of the Red Cross Red Crescent response to the floods across the region on TV, radio, print, and internet. Press releases and web stories were posted on a dedicated page of the Federation website.

The South Asia Regional Information Sharing System (SARISS) continues to progress, providing information on seven or more monthly parameters which are then fed into the regional and international media. The pace of the Media Bridge slowed during this quarter, due to the focus of our country delegations and national societies being at the national level only (see constraints).

Key principles taught in the previous media training by national counterparts are making an impact, with many countries providing clear information and quality photographs very quickly. To further improve this capacity in India, a three-day communications training was held for 30 communication staff from the Indian Red Cross branches (with a BDRCS representative present as observer) focused on creating networks and systems to speed up information flow. This resulted in a noticeable improvement in reports, updates and photographs from the field.

Support for the information campaign for the creation of the Maldivian Red Crescent included providing holiday cover for the communication delegate, facilitating the production of 2,000 copies of a brochure in English and Dhivehi and a poster on HIV/AIDS.



A postcard with a female Afghan Red Crescent volunteer, one of the visibility materials developed for a community-based disaster management project, supported by a partnership between ECHO, Danish Red Cross and supported by the Federation regional and Afghanistan delegations.

The South Asia regional office coordinated the region's participation in the three-day Zonal communications meeting to be held in Kuala Lumpur in early November. The regional senior communications officer also participated in the tsunami communications meeting prior to the third commemoration, which enabled good preparation for this important event. The recruitment process of a regional communications officer for the DIPECHO project has been completed, and will support significantly the visibility component of this project. In a similar collaboration with the disaster management unit, promotional materials to highlight the success of the ECHO-sponsored project in Afghanistan were produced.

Constraints or challenges

The Media Bridge has slowed progress somewhat, partly because country delegations and national societies are more focused on the national media. Using the regional network to produce and promote more regional and globally related stories is something that still needs further development. Communication focal points across the region will be encouraged to work in a more integrated manner.

Project 3: Finance development

Objective: National Societies have strengthened capacity in financial accountability, reporting and management, leading to improvement in quality and timeliness of reports

A training workshop on basic budget management and Federation financial systems was organized and held in Delhi for programme managers from the South Asia regional office, India country delegation and the new head of delegation from Afghanistan and Federation representative for Nepal. The training was facilitated by financial management staff from the South Asia regional office and Zone finance unit in Kuala Lumpur.

In India, discussions continued on the Navision software upgrade. The software will be provided free of cost (under agreement with Microsoft), but the procurement of the hardware and finalizing service agreement is taking some time.

In Afghanistan, preparations took place for the peer-study visit to Nepal to learn about their financial management and reporting systems. The regional finance management delegate will visit Afghanistan in December to follow up on this and the previous assessments by implementing computer training and English language training necessary for basic finance management (in consultation with reporting colleagues).

In Bangladesh, a proposal for the second phase of the financial development project was sent to the national society. This proposal focuses on installation of software for the medical college and hospital, and a solution for linking these systems and the headquarters' systems together. Training on the software will be given by the staff already trained in the headquarters.

Constraints or challenges

The main constraint was also related to funding, although the use of country-level resource allowed most activities to continue as planned.

Project 4: PMER development

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

The two main areas of focus were the development of the planning documentation for annual programmes in 2008-2009, and supporting the development of emergency appeals and reports on the response to the “worst flooding in living memory”⁹ across the region.

The development of planning documentation was time consuming and challenging due to the implementation of a revised planning and appeal system with new requirements. Extensive support and guidance was given by the South Asia regional office, building as much as possible on the training and orientations given in the four priority countries (India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Nepal) earlier in the year as described in programme update 3. Countries sent early drafts of plans, largely on time, allowing adequate time for technical feedback and further development and refinement of the plans.

The floods operations in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and India from June onwards also required intensive support (in collaboration with the Zonal PMER unit), with frequent operations updates in the early stages of the operations.

The combination of these two main activities and low funding of the project meant that there was no further travel to countries since June. The review and editing of the programme updates and appeals/reports linked to the emergency floods operations was used as an opportunity to provide feedback and guidance, as was the reviewing of annual appeal reports.

The PMER training package developed during 2006 in South Asia was shared with the PMER department at the Geneva secretariat, along with additional technical inputs to feed into the development of a global PMER training package, to be implemented as a pilot initiative to build on existing PMER resources at the field level.

Due to the development of this pilot training package, the proposed regional PMER workshop was put on hold as the pilot workshop for Asia Pacific Zone is tentatively scheduled for early 2008 and there would be a risk of confusion to implement a regional workshop a short time before. The low funding of the project (13 per cent of the 2007 budget covered) also meant that it would only have been possible to run the workshop with financial support from other programmes.

Constraints and challenges

The combined pressure of the floods across the region and the 2008-2009 planning documents, the transition to a zonal structure, and low funding of the project meant that the PMER focal points in the region were unable to spend time focusing on direct development activities. Although no national-level scheduled activities were cancelled, there was no opportunity to develop new initiatives for direct training.

Working in partnership

The work in the Maldives and much of the work on legal base is being carried out in close cooperation with the ICRC. ICRC and partner national society representatives also participated in the joint forum. Collaboration with the ICRC is strong in communications, with ICRC regional delegation linking to the South Asia regional office with stories related to the flooding, and funding the production of the brochure for the proposed Maldivian Red Crescent.

The three-day communications training for the Indian Red Cross Society communication staff was also organized jointly by the ICRC, India delegation, the regional office and the Indian Red Cross Society. ECHO funded the

⁹ According to a UNICEF press release

production of the visibility material for Afghanistan, and Reuters in Bangladesh provided some excellent photos for the Federation's use during and after the South Asia floods.

Contributing to longer-term impact:

Strategic and management support

The regional joint DM/Health/OD forum was a major step forward in addressing the issue of low priority often given to OD. The forum reinforced the strong need for OD initiatives in all national societies in the region and the need to provide OD interventions as an integrated part of programmes. This is likely to strengthen the OD commitment in the national societies and access more human and financial resources. The integrated programming approach will be followed up in all national societies as a way to provide capacity building and stronger programmes.

Communications

Following the wide media coverage received during the South Asia floods, Red Cross Red Crescent action in the region has been highlighted and positioned as an important source of information pertaining to disaster and disaster preparedness. The trainings and meetings during this period have proved to be important steps in creating a united response from the field to the global headquarters.

PMER

The trainings given earlier in the year, coupled with the extensive technical guidance led to improvements in the technical accuracy in terms of planning structure and the quality of the indicators in the planning documents. Feedback from the review of these documents in Geneva and zonal offices confirmed this for many of the region's projects.

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

Progress towards objectives

Project 1: Understanding Humanitarian Values (HV)

Objective: National societies have increased understanding of HV and increased capacity to incorporate HV in their ongoing work.

The regional HV coordinator supported two youth camps held in August and October by the India Red Cross's Punjab state branch. The two youth camps look at the issue of female foeticide, an issue of huge importance in many parts of India. The regional HV coordinator proposed to have one camp with gender balance, but in the end the IRCS decided to have two camps, one for young women and another for young men.

Plans are underway to organize a third youth camp in Maharashtra state in December this year, with the participation of both young men and women from all sections of society strongly encouraged. Such issues have been used as an entry point to widen discussions within the India Red Cross on the issue of diversity beyond gender to include ethnicity, caste, religion, and people living with HIV, a significant step forward.

A coordination meeting was held in New Delhi with the HV regional coordinator, focal persons from Nepal and India present and those from Bangladesh and Pakistan, joined also by the acting head of the HV department in Geneva.¹⁰ The meeting was useful for planning for 2008-09, and a wider discussion of HV issues at the national, regional and global level. The engagement of the head of the HV department was greatly appreciated, and sharing of future priorities at the global level was very informative and useful for regional and national planning.

The focus on integration with other programmes continued, with national society HV national focal points working with their counterparts in health, DM and OD to include HV as a cross-cutting issue in the planning for 2008-2009. Progress has been made in Bangladesh, where the BDRCS has initiated monthly meetings to take forward the process of integration of HV issues and activities into other programmes. It is reported that the initiative has met with a good response from headquarters staff in the BDRCS, and further integration is also a good solution to the lack of funding for the programme in Bangladesh.

¹⁰ Representatives from Bangladesh, Pakistan and the head of department all joined in by Skype (internet telephone)

The regional HV coordinator toured Sri Lanka to initiate the process to draw up a policy paper on HV. Besides colleagues from the Sri Lanka Red Crescent Society and the Federation delegation in Colombo, the meeting was attended by many representatives from partner national societies and ICRC. The Canadian Red Cross wants to support the SLRCS in this work, but little headway has been made in this direction due to competing priorities in the national society.

Project 2: Reducing Discrimination

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

The jointly planned HV and health initiative on HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination has been initiated - the details of the progress were given in the earlier health section.

As part of this collaboration with the regional health unit, discussions are ongoing with the country delegations and the national societies in the region regarding observing World AIDS Day. In Bangladesh, the positive experience from last year's street theatre events will hopefully be repeated.

Constraints or challenges

The period also saw a few lost opportunities due to the intensive flooding in the region. Plans for HV-led youth camps in Pakistan (September) and in Nepal (in October) had to be cancelled as resources of the national societies were redirected to the flood operations.

The camp in Nepal will now be held towards the end of the year and the youth camp in Pakistan has been postponed until next year. During the preparations in Pakistan, significant progress was made in getting agreement on 50 per cent participation of young women in the camp, instead of the men's only participation originally proposed by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society.

The biggest challenge has been to work with very little donor support in 2007 for the HV programme. The activities described above have mostly been managed through requesting country delegations to fund some activities (where they have better support). However, the importance of increasing funding for the regional programme cannot be more strongly emphasized.

Working in partnership

The regional HV coordinator worked with the outgoing ICRC cooperation delegate to incorporate HV-related aspects to ICRC planning for 2007 with respect to India, Bangladesh and Maldives. This will be followed up with the incoming cooperation delegate.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The national workshop held for India Red Cross Society in August 2006 on the Code of Conduct for Disaster Relief and SPHERE Standards facilitated by the regional HV coordinator showed some impact this year. Two participants from that workshop facilitated a similar event on the same topic for the DM team of the Assam state branch of IRCS in July. The feedback from this workshop was very positive and was significant as it was the first introduction to the humanitarian charter and SPHERE standards for many participants. The regional programme hopes to build further on this successful transfer of knowledge in India.

The HV programme and the activities outlined above, carried out in collaboration with the health and care department, represent some of the South Asia regional office's main contributions to Goal 4 of the Global Agenda.

Implementation and coordination

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

The integration agreement with Danish Red Cross (DRC) has been finalized, and the regional head of the DRC has joined the regional office. This significant agreement may lead to similar agreements with other partner national societies (PNSs) and a possible key role for the regional office in support of the new Federation-wide operating model. In the same context, PNSs were updated on the legal status of the South Asia regional office and the possibilities for PNSs within the agreement.

The organization and implementation of the meetings on the India HIV consortium and the Global Alliance on HIV (see health section for more details) were facilitated by the regional office, as were the organization of the

steering and working groups for the development of the GA in the region. During these meetings, an understanding was arrived at how the consortium and the GA can complement each other without duplication, with the consortium supporting the methodology of the GA and hopes to align more in the future with the GA.

The new ICRC cooperation delegate had a detailed briefing with the OD team and the regional office's management team. The new Federation head of regional delegation (HoRD) for the regional office had a thorough and fruitful discussion with the ICRC regional head.

Management of the delegation

This period saw a high staff turnover in the delegation, most significantly with the departure of the head of regional delegation (promoted to Head of Europe Zone) and the arrival of a new head. In addition, the health coordinator, HIV and AIDS coordinator and communications delegate all completed their missions. Only the communications delegate was immediately replaced, by a locally hired senior communications officer. A grants manager took up her newly-created position toward the end of October. The new head of delegation/Federation representative in Afghanistan/Nepal came to the regional office for a detailed briefing prior to starting their mission.

An extended management meeting (EMM) was held in June for a more detailed orientation and discussion on the creation of the zonal offices and how the South Asia regional office would fit in, and allowed for debriefing by the outgoing head of regional delegation. The new head arrived in late September, and following an initial briefing with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, held a first head of delegations' meeting on 8 October in Kuala Lumpur, followed by the Zonal EMM.

The first discussion on reviewing the possibilities of "consolidating" some of the functions of the South Asia regional office and the Federation's India office were held on 19 October. A review of the scope for consolidation of administrative and finance functions was concluded by both offices and submitted for further decision.

The South Asia regional office, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society and Sri Lanka country delegation discussed the re-integration of Sri Lanka into normal South Asia management structures – the meeting decided to look for the best areas of collaboration.

Looking Ahead

By the end of October, the critical nature of funding at the South Asia regional office did not greatly improve, the only new source of funding being DIPECHO. This meant that key positions for 2007 remained unfunded, and a number of activities had to be postponed or cancelled. The picture for 2008 remains very uncertain for many individual projects. Fundraising has therefore become the first and foremost priority of the new head of regional delegation and grants manager, based on a new strategy for proactively seeking diversified and sustainable funding sources from new funds, preferably multi-year sectoral funding.

The firming up of the integrated programming approach in the joint forum will be built on during the last quarter of the year and into 2008-2009. Extending the same integration principle to funding mechanisms may also be explored.

The funding strain on some projects has meant that some of the progress made in 2005 and 2006 has been difficult to maintain or build on, and additional efforts will be needed to re-build the momentum.

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. See www.ifrc.org for more details

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

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA52001 - South Asia

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2007/10
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	2,395,613	1,442,162	177,187	1,012,689	500,675	5,528,325
B. Opening Balance	202,502	90,978	217	68,954	4,939	367,590
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross					1,019	1,019
Australian Red Cross		22,072				22,072
British Red Cross	2,525	0			3,585	6,110
British Red Cross (from British Government)		128,436				128,436
Canadian Red Cross					1,015	1,015
Danish Red Cross				1,424	3,000	4,424
Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government)				67,807		67,807
ECHO		438,240				438,240
Finnish Red Cross					4,950	4,950
German Red Cross					1,000	1,000
Japanese Red Cross	28,537	28,537	4,786	18,965	9,482	90,308
New Zealand Red Cross		60,565			1,700	62,265
Swedish Red Cross	81,501		1,128	3,721	2,821	89,171
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	654,882		16,602	54,788	1,615	727,887
C1. Cash contributions	767,446	677,851	22,516	146,705	30,187	1,644,705
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
British Red Cross		-35,333				-35,333
British Red Cross (from British Government)		-48,249				-48,249
ECHO		110,418				110,418
New Zealand Red Cross		-16,348				-16,348
Swedish Red Cross	1,157		1,157	4,651		6,965
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	17,033		17,033	68,473		102,539
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	18,190	10,488	18,190	73,124		119,992
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
British Red Cross	38,853					38,853
Danish Red Cross				40,507		40,507
New Zealand Red Cross		56,833				56,833
Spanish Red Cross					2,787	2,787
Swedish Red Cross	55,800				62,000	117,800
C4. Inkind Personnel	94,653	56,833		40,507	64,787	256,780
<u>Other Income</u>						
Services & Recoveries					7,974	7,974
C5. Other Income					7,974	7,974
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	880,289	745,172	40,706	260,336	102,947	2,029,451
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,082,791	836,150	40,924	329,290	107,886	2,397,041
Appeal Coverage	45%	58%	23%	66%	22%	43%

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	202,502	90,978	217	68,954	4,939	367,590
C. Income	880,289	745,172	40,706	260,336	102,947	2,029,451
E. Expenditure	-555,772	-345,751	-31,080	-249,794	-109,034	-1,291,431
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	527,020	490,399	9,844	79,495	-1,148	1,105,610

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MAA52001 - South Asia

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		2,395,613	1,442,162	177,187	1,012,689	500,675	5,528,325	
Supplies								
Teaching Materials	2,100							2,100
Other Supplies & Services	8,000							8,000
Total Supplies	10,100							10,100
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	56,000		66				66	55,934
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.					-350		-350	350
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	56,000		66		-350		-284	56,284
Transport & Storage								
Storage						199	199	-199
Distribution & Monitoring						1,505	1,505	-1,505
Transport & Vehicle Costs	43,200	9,808	6,169		2,113	4,277	22,367	20,833
Total Transport & Storage	43,200	9,808	6,169		2,113	5,981	24,071	19,129
Personnel								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	1,365,913	275,730	95,986		140,216	90,179	602,110	763,803
Delegate Benefits	205,000							205,000
Regionally Deployed Staff	48,900	2,474	36,544				39,018	9,882
National Staff	331,848	51,549	39,288	27,514	25,732	6,862	150,945	180,903
National Society Staff	27,166	4,561			1,112		5,673	21,493
Consultants	206,007	10,090	13,706		27,778		51,574	154,433
Total Personnel	2,184,834	344,405	185,523	27,514	194,839	97,041	849,321	1,335,513
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1,131,397	64,730	48,697	55	13,224	2,246	128,952	1,002,445
Total Workshops & Training	1,131,397	64,730	48,697	55	13,224	2,246	128,952	1,002,445
General Expenditure								
Travel	531,479	24,993	34,516	1,052	15,114	3,722	79,397	452,082
Information & Public Relation	135,176	1,370	6,240		4,961		12,571	122,605
Office Costs	309,250	69,687	31,653	43	-397	-7,252	93,734	215,516
Communications	67,888	6,134	8,962	397	3,538	283	19,314	48,574
Financial Charges	1,200	142	64		272		478	722
Other General Expenses	698,460	503	203		3	200	908	697,552
Total General Expenditure	1,743,453	102,829	81,638	1,491	23,490	-3,047	206,402	1,537,051
Programme Support								
Program Support	359,341	33,364	22,234	2,020	16,066	6,814	80,497	278,844
Total Programme Support	359,341	33,364	22,234	2,020	16,066	6,814	80,497	278,844
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		636	1,425		412		2,473	-2,473
Total Operational Provisions		636	1,425		412		2,473	-2,473
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	5,528,325	555,772	345,751	31,080	249,794	109,034	1,291,431	4,236,894
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,839,841	1,096,410	146,108	762,894	391,640	4,236,894	

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IV. Project Details

Project	Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Budget	Variance
		A	B	C	A + B + C	D	D - C
Health & Care							
P52401	Regional HIV/AIDS	142,452	774,453	-400,902	516,003	1,467,143	1,066,241
P52902	Regional Health	60,051	105,836	-154,870	11,017	928,470	773,600
Sub-Total Health & Care		202,502	880,289	-555,772	527,020	2,395,613	1,839,841
Disaster Management							
P52160	Disaster Preparednes	85,494	694,563	-300,041	480,015	1,126,829	826,787
P52165	DPP DFID	0	0		0		0
P52502	Regional Disaster Re	5,485	50,610	-45,710	10,384	315,333	269,623
P52503	Population Movement	0	0		0		0
Sub-Total Disaster Management		90,978	745,172	-345,751	490,399	1,442,162	1,096,410
Humanitarian Values							
P52301	Reg.Humanitarian Val	217	40,706	-31,080	9,844	177,187	146,108
Sub-Total Humanitarian Values		217	40,706	-31,080	9,844	177,187	146,108
Organisational Development							
P52901	Regional Communication	11,964	17,062	-18,957	10,069	109,529	90,572
P52904	Regional Reporting	9,525	17,062	-24,340	2,246	269,160	244,820
P52905	Institutional Develo	32,600	128,703	-122,875	38,428	313,468	190,593
P52906	Finance Development	14,865	97,509	-83,622	28,752	320,530	236,909
Sub-Total Organisational Development		68,954	260,336	-249,794	79,495	1,012,689	762,894
Coordination & Implement							
P52101	RD Management	0	0		0		0
P52201	Regional Cooperation	0	0		0		0
P52601	Federation Coordinat	4,939	102,947	-109,034	-1,148	500,675	391,640
P52900	Regional Delegation	0	0		0		0
P52925	Regional Delegate Re	0	0		0		0
Sub-Total Coordination & Implement		4,939	102,947	-109,034	-1,148	500,675	391,640
Total	South Asia	367,590	2,029,451	-1,291,431	1,105,610	5,528,325	4,236,894