

PROGRAMME UPDATE



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

BANGLADESH

Appeal No. MAABD001
28 August 2006

The Federation's vision is to strive, through voluntary action, for a world of empowered communities, better able to address human suffering and crises with hope, respect for dignity and a concern for equity. Its mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January to April, 2006

Appeal target for 2006-2007 revised from CHF 4.97 million to CHF 5.4 million

Appeal coverage is 62% and outstanding needs is CHF 2.05 million (USD 1.65 million, EUR 1.32 million)

[\(Click here for the interim financial report with the latest income and expenditure\)](#)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: South Asia Regional Appeal MAA52001

Programme summary:

During this reporting period the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), with the support of the Federation delegation, continued its strategic work towards becoming a well-functioning national society. Changing its organizational development process towards a more holistic and systematic manner has strengthened BDRCS and integrated local branches with other programme areas. The country did not face any major natural catastrophe during this reporting period. However, BDRCS demonstrated effective response to a number of small-scale events such as tornados, cold waves, river erosion and fires.

The health and care programme continues to be poorly funded except for some HIV/AIDS activities which are being implemented in this reporting period.



Bangladesh Red Crescent youth volunteers.

Due to ongoing challenges and changing needs such as deployment of staff and low funding in some programme areas, the 2006 appeal had to be revised. Despite overall appeal coverage at 62%, funding for programmes in health and humanitarian values will be very much appreciated.

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Operational developments

Bangladesh's most significant and relevant socio-political, economic or natural events

The political scene in Bangladesh is being dominated by preparations for the next general election. The present ruling party's term of office ends in October 2006. Thereafter, power is handed over to a non-partisan caretaker government who'll oversee general elections within 90 days. Escalating violence in the run up to the elections is a major risk. The country experienced an increase in the number of *hartals* (general strikes) which disrupt businesses and daily life. It also slows down the BDRCSs implementation of planned activities.

Apart from the elections, the most pressing issue on the political agenda is how to deal with the terrorist threat posed by militant fundamental religious groups. The simultaneous detonation of 500 small bombs across the country in August 2005 and several suicide bombing attacks after that has added to the country's deteriorated security situation. The threat of escalating violence remains despite assurances by leaders of the militant fundamental group in early March this year.

Despite the many challenges facing the country, steady economic growth during the later part of the 1990s helped placed the country among the top performers within the developing world. According to the UNDP human development report 2005, Bangladesh has made significant improvement in its economic development since 2001, moving from low-development countries status to medium-development countries status, putting it ahead of Nepal and Pakistan in the South Asian context. However, in terms of ordinary people's access to income, Bangladesh continues to remain at the lower end of the scale with an annual income per capita of USD 350 (approximately CHF 316).

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's most significant events

With the assistance of the Federation and its partner national societies, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) continues working towards its aim of becoming a well-functioning national society. In spite of the considerable challenges ahead (particularly its very poor financial situation), it continues to progress slowly but strategically to improve and increase its service delivery to vulnerable communities.

In 2005, BDRCS finalized its second four-year strategic development plan 2005-2008.. This plan, developed in a participatory manner, outlines the year's programme priorities and strategic directions. Lessons learnt in 2005 led to organisational development programmes taking a more holistic and systematic approach with an emphasis on branch development concepts.

Since 1 January 2006, BDRCS has a newly-elected managing board. In December 2005, the BDRCS held its 33rd annual general meeting where four new board members, including a new treasurer, were elected.

The new board, with the support of IFRC, arranged a team-building trip and an orientation workshop on the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at the end of March this year.

Due to the severity of the national society's financial crisis, strong efforts are being made by the Federation delegation to improve financial management and administrative procedures. The BDRCS are reviewing all properties, staff related issues, vehicle fleet and other measures to reduce costs.

Revision of activities for 2006 in this appeal 06/07

There were significant revisions to the planned activities for 2006. Key reasons for these revisions include the changing needs of the population (addressing new needs and threats, such as the risk of avian flu and increase in polio cases), ongoing challenges (poor funding in some programme areas) and strikes and riots due to the tense political situation.

Additionally, many key staff members of the national society and Federation were deployed for short- or long-term emergency relief missions in South Asia. This significantly slowed down the implementation of this year's planned activities, especially in the DM programme. The internal review process concluded that plans developed in 2005 for 2006-2007 was, to some extent, over ambitious.

The re-structuring of the BDRCS and the new approach in organization development (OD) also meant integrating OD's central service functions with other programmes (health, disaster management and humanitarian values).

Efforts are now made to mobilize resources and implement activities and programmes in a coordinated way in order to assist the most vulnerable people in a more efficient way. The figure shown in the table demonstrates the appeal coverage for 2006 by programme before and after the budget revisions which were finalized in August 2006:

	Health and care	Disaster management	Humanitarian values	Organizational development
Appeal coverage for 2006 <i>(compared with original demarcated budget)</i>	45.36%	151.40%	39.51%	33.17%
Appeal coverage for 2006 <i>(compared with revised demarcated budget)</i>	97.76%	111.3%	39.50%	54.80%
Expenditure against funding	7.9%	11.31%	13.9%	50.09%

Health and care

Overview

In spite of the multiple challenges faced by the country, Bangladesh is experiencing rapid advances in its health sector. Health indicators, including those in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) have improved for e.g infant and maternal mortality rates have steadily declined over the past ten years. BDRCS has contributed significantly to this by providing essential health service packages (ESP) especially in areas with no access to government health service. The programme's main focus currently lies in the curative and preventive aspects of health care. This is implemented through five maternity hospitals, two eye clinics, one outdoor clinic, two general hospitals, 57 maternal and child health centres and five blood donor centres.

Even though mortality rates of infants and children under five have declined in the past ten years, measles still pose a major challenge and remains a major cause of early childhood mortality and morbidity.

BDRCS actively and successfully supported the government's nation-wide 'measles catch-up campaign' which took place in February to March 2006. BDRCS mobilized 600 Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers at the community level to achieve the target of 90 percent vaccination coverage.

BDRCS manages five blood centres in five major cities and is recognised as the most reliable source of safe blood in the country. The national society is a leading advocate of a national safe blood policy and works with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and international partners to achieve the objective of ensuring all blood donations are safe. All five blood centres collected a total of 9,026 units of blood between January and April 2006.

Although HIV is not yet widespread in Bangladesh, those rates are very likely to increase because of the population's lack of knowledge about HIV/AIDS and a high prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases and other reproductive tract infections. In 2004, as part of its five-year regional HIV/AIDS programme, BDRCS developed its HIV/AIDS plan, facilitated by the regional health unit of the South Asia regional delegation (SARD). The [annual report on Appeal 2005](#) mention reasons such as procedural problems and the recruitment of a suitable HIV/AIDS coordinator for delaying the start up of the project. However, most of the operational set up is now complete and the project has started during this reporting period. Details are given below.

BDRCS is actively coordinating its activities with the ministry of health and family welfare, the international centre for diarrhoeal disease and research in Bangladesh, the United Nations and other agencies in order to share experience more effectively, improve public health technical knowledge and develop client-centred, quality community health care services.

Except for funds from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), through Swedish Red Cross for the regional HIV/AIDS programme, funding for the health and care programme has been limited in this reporting period.

Revisions to this programme for 2006 [<click here for revised log frame>](#)

Revisions to health activities in 2006 were made to address new needs such as the threat of avian flu, the increase in polio incidences and the need for integration with the other programme areas (see OD section for more details). Poor funding was also a contributory factor.

The narrative below reports against the original log frames, but some significant changes were made in the revised log frames. The major changes are explained under each project objective.

Overall Goal: The health status of the population with special emphasis on most vulnerable is improved through preventive, promotive and curative interventions.

Programme objective: The existing health services of BDRCS are strengthened to ensure quality and sustainable Health Care services, and an integrated and coordinated HIV/AIDS programme is established.

Progress/Achievements

Project Objectives 1: HIV/AIDS Project

BDRCS has contributed to the fight against HIV/AIDS through strengthened local responses, community based prevention, care and anti-stigma activities implemented in collaboration with other partners in the country and South Asia.

Revisions to the project

The expected results for this project have been expanded from four to ten in order to align with South Asia's regional HIV/AIDS programme. Behavioural change among is a long term process, therefore the youth peer education and life skills approach has been confined to two districts and 10 schools and colleges along with 6 communities in each. More emphasis has been placed on addressing anti-stigma and discrimination by involving People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) at various levels.

Establishing voluntary counselling and testing centres was deferred as it required extensive preparatory work. Instead, the training of motivators in voluntary blood donation and counselling of potential donors found to be HIV positive is envisaged. Other new activities include the training on standard infection control and precaution for health personnel and community midwives.

Expected result 1: Contribute to a reduction in incidence of new infections among young people through youth peer education and life skills development.

Expected result 2: The quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and their families has improved through care, support and anti-discrimination activities with a greater involvement of PLWHA.

Expected result 3: There is a reduced transmission of HIV by blood transfusion through increased voluntary non-remunerated blood donation.

Expected result 4: BDRCS capacity to effectively deliver HIV interventions is increased.

A majority of activities planned under the HIV/AIDS project and the four expected results did not take place because of procedural and recruitment delays. However, an HIV/AIDS coordinator has been recruited on 9 February 2006 along with the appointment of a Federation health delegate in March. Since then, BDRCS has developed a draft plan of action which is being amended to include newer activities in the revised appeal log frame. During this reporting period, the operational set up has been implemented and the project is beginning. An advisory committee and a management committee are being formed in order to ensure a well-coordinated and integrated programme.

A planning workshop was organized at BDRCS national headquarters on 11 April 2006. The purpose of the workshop was to share BDRCS's HIV/AIDS programme (based on the regional HIV/AIDS programme and the youth peer education and life skill approach) with BDRCS programme officers of various departments and

selected branches. This workshop had aimed, unsuccessfully, to develop a plan of action. Nevertheless, the workshop provided an opportunity to create understanding and to discuss many key issues such as:

- general existing understanding of HIV/AIDS among the branch personnel, blood centres and key programme officers of BDRCS
- to understand the consensus related to anti-stigma and discrimination
- to involve PLWHA in the programme
- to acknowledge the need for advocacy and sensitization at various levels within BDRCS

This workshop was a good starting point for the project and beneficial in revising the appeal log frame and focusing issues like advocacy within BDRCS at various levels and introducing standard infection control precautions in the BDRCS health facilities.

During the next reporting period, BDRCS will continue to increase its employees' and volunteers' understanding of HIV/AIDS issues and implement the youth peer education and life skills approach in schools, colleges and communities selected from two districts. A network of PLWHA will be more involved in addressing anti-stigma and discrimination issues, while existing information, education and communication (IEC) materials will be reviewed and new materials developed with the objective of encouraging voluntary non-remunerated blood donors to regular blood donors.

Project objective 2: National Measles Immunization Support Project

BDRCS has contributed to measles mortality reduction in Bangladesh through participation in the National supplemental immunization campaigns.

Revisions to this project

In the revised project, BDRCS through its volunteers will support the Bangladesh government's national polio immunization days.

The threat of avian influenza is increasing, with birds infected with H5N1 strain of the virus identified in several countries close to Bangladesh and the World Health Organization (WHO) now considers the country to be within the high risk zone. BDRCS will coordinate with the government and UN agencies in the field, focusing on advocacy and awareness raising regarding the facts and prevention of avian influenza. The Government of Bangladesh has developed a plan of action, including plans for surveillance, early detection and mass campaign, where the BDRCS volunteers can play a significant role.

Expected result 1: BDRCS is part of interagency coordination committee at national and district levels.

According to WHO statistics¹, one million children develop measles every year in Bangladesh, of which 20,000 die due to measles and its complications. The government of Bangladesh conducted a second 'measles catch up campaign' throughout the country between 25 February and 17 March 2006.

The BDRCS continues to assist the Bangladesh government in its countrywide measles campaign. BDRCS actively participated in national level coordination meetings and was involved in micro planning meetings. District branches were provided with guidance and support to get involved at the district level coordination system.

Expected result 2: Volunteers are oriented, equipped and mobilized to their communities to support public awareness and to support immunization teams.

BDRCS provided support to the 'measles catch up' campaign with 600 Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers - 200 each in three districts (Tangail, Jamalpur and Jessore). Those involved actively and proudly took part in the measles campaign for three weeks and successfully



Measles vaccination in Tangail district.

¹ The World Health Report 2005, World Health Organization

supported the vaccination teams in their task.

Each vaccination team included two vaccinators from the government and three BDRCS volunteers. During the first week, children below the age of ten years and attending educational institutions were given measles vaccination. In the second and third week, the children were immunized through vaccination centres in the community.

Nearly 40 percent of the volunteers were women, which was very important in the second and third week of the program. During this phase, vaccination teams worked in the community and women volunteers played an important role by making door-to-door visits and encouraging mothers to bring their children to the vaccination centres. The volunteers attended a one-day orientation before being involved in the campaign. T-shirts and caps were distributed amongst the volunteers (200 vests and 200 caps per unit).

The end result was a successful measles campaign with a very high coverage. In Tangail district, almost 96 percent of the children targeted were vaccinated (97,314 out of 101,444 children). In Jamalpur, about 95 percent of the children targeted were vaccinated (61,864 out of 64,874 children) and in Jessore district it was 92 percent (135,766 out of 147,181 children). This will significantly reduce child mortality caused by measles.

BDRCS is enthusiastic about continuing its support to government efforts in reducing morbidity and mortality of children by taking part in various activities like the measles catch up campaigns and national immunization day.

Project 3: Health Sector strengthening project

Existing Health services of BDRS are consolidated to ensure quality and sustainability and capacity to respond to health emergencies.

Revisions to this project

One of the major health programmes of BDRCS is the implementation of primary health care through its 52 mother-and-child health (MCH) centres. Monitoring and evaluation of this program is integrated in the German Red Cross support of this program hence, establishing a monitoring and evaluation cell has been dropped (see expected result 3 below).

Though there are various health and water and sanitation components in BDRCS disaster management programmes, there is no integration or technical input from the Federation and BDRCS health personnel. Project 3 has widened its focus to include more support to disaster management (DM) projects in line with the delegation's more integrated way of planning and programming, as described in the operational development section. The project now covers health and water and sanitation needs, with expected results related to public health in emergencies, emergency and developmental water and sanitation, and pre- and post-natal care (mainly related to Chittagong Hill tract project).

Expected result 1: Management at divisional, institutional and programme level is effective and efficient.

No activities have been implemented under this result due to a lack of proper human resource therefore some of the activities under this expected result have been postponed and may be taken up next year (for details please see revised log frame).

Expected result 2: BDRCS health department can respond to health emergencies immediately at any point in time.

BDRCS is growing into an important humanitarian agency at the national level especially in disaster management during floods and cyclones which occur almost annually. Along with immediate general relief, BDRCS also provides medical relief. Due to funding constraints, the majority of planned activities were not implemented during the reporting period. They will be emphasized in the next quarter.

Six BDRCS health personnel were selected to attend the regional public health in emergencies (PHiE) workshop arranged by the south asia regional office (SARD) in Dhaka in May 2006. This workshop will help staff understand health policies related to emergencies, emergency response tools, mechanisms and services that Red Cross Red Crescent can deliver in emergency situations. It also helps personnel to familiarise themselves with key

health management issues which health and humanitarian organizations need to address in emergency situations. The BDRCS participants will form a core group of trainers to train more health personnel at the country level in the coming months. The health department, in coordination with disaster management, will also form teams to respond in emergencies. Health personnel trained in PHiE will also take part in the national disaster response team (NDRT).

Expected result 3: Monitoring and evaluation (M& E) of BDRCS health programme is improved

Due to funding constraints, planned activities were not implemented. In the revised log frame for 2006, this expected result has been removed. However, within the programme, there will still be a focus on monitoring and evaluation, ensuring that in each programme, monthly reports from the field/branches implementing the programme is produced, backed up by field visits by BDRCS and Federation representatives. Both the BDRCS health department and the branches use reporting formats based on expected results and indicators in the log frame. They are also encouraged to use this format in other activities that are not supported by the Federation. Because of limited resources, a new M&E officer will not be appointed and computers not procured as reported in the original plan.

Expected result 4: Health facilities of the BDRCS are upgraded

Due to funding constraints, renovations and the upgrading of health centres (procurement of ultrasound machines) could not be carried out. As the situation is unlikely to improve, these activities have been removed from the activities listed in the revised 2006 log frame.

Impact and progress towards meeting programme objectives

To achieve measles control in the country, at least 95 percent of children between nine months to ten years should be vaccinated. The active involvement of BDRCS Red Crescent Youth volunteers in the above three districts helped to achieve this target. On an average, each volunteer helped to vaccinate 492 children over four days. This means 294, 944 children are now protected from measles and its complications, and led to BDRCS and its volunteers being more encouraged to continue supporting government plans to reduce childhood mortality and morbidity. This helps the nation towards achieving Millennium Developmental Goal Four, which aims to reduce child mortality by two thirds by 2015 and reduce the number of measles deaths by half.

The participation of health personnel in regional PHiE workshops and taking it up at the national level will create a change in the understanding and approach of BDRCS towards health issues in emergencies.

Constraints

Lack of donor support during the reporting period and a delay in the recruitment of an HIV/AIDS coordinator were the main constraints in implementing the HIV/AIDS programme and other health projects. Lack of coordination and understanding between different departments and compartmentalizing the programmes unfortunately lead to a duplication of efforts and resources. Secondly, it was apparent that the original log frame for 2006 was slightly over ambitious and not realistic based on existing resources. This has been addressed in the revised 2006 log frame, details of which have been described above.

Disaster Management

Overview

Programme implementation during the reporting period was steady but slow because of political instability, and due to activities brought forward from 2005 and implemented during the first quarter of 2006..

The disaster management (DM) programmes of the BDRCS have continued in 28 selected disaster-prone districts, enhancing the coping capacities of the vulnerable population and sustaining DM development.

During the reporting period, the national society provided effective and rapid responses to a number of small-scale disasters such as tornados, tropical storms ('norwesters'), fires, cold waves etc. When a depression formed in the Bay of Bengal on 23 April 2006, all departments and levels of cyclone preparedness programme (CPP) were alerted and readied in line with the agreed action plan.

The BDRCS is continuing its United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID)-supported activities. During this reporting period, the national society's DM division also signed an agreement with a consortium of British, German and Swedish Red Cross Societies for a project funded by the European Commission (EC) to enhance the coping capacity of people living in the high-risk coastal areas of Bangladesh. BDRCS also signed a bilateral project agreement with the Swiss Red Cross to develop a branch in the north-western part of Bangladesh. The main objective of the project is to strengthen the branch and its selected communities with respect to disaster preparedness and response, and health.



Fire in Dhaka - distribution centre for family kits.

Revised appeal 2006 [<click here for revised log frame>](#)

In order to develop a more holistic approach to disaster management, the programme has been revised, with elements previously grouped under three projects (disaster preparedness, disaster response and effective management of the overall disaster management programme) being further elaborated into eight projects. This revision will allow for a more comprehensive monitoring of the programme since the revised log frames contain more specific and detailed expected results, indicators and means of verification. The elaboration of activities into eight projects will also allow for better alignment with the disaster management activities of the BDRCS disaster management division, which is organized along similar lines. Lastly, it is hoped that this new programme structure will allow for better integration with the delegation's programmes in health, organizational development and humanitarian values

Overall Goal: The vulnerability of people in Bangladesh, particularly of women, to disasters is reduced.

Programme Objective: BDRCS Disaster Management Programs are capable of rendering effective services to reduce vulnerability and achieve the characteristics of a well-functioning national society.

Progress/Achievements

Project 1: Disaster Preparedness

Project objective: The capacities of high-risk communities to mitigate the impact of disasters on life and property are enhanced and sustained, particular in floods, cyclones, tsunamis, conflicts and in the earthquake-prone areas of Bangladesh.

Expected Result 1: High-risk communities, especially women in flood-prone areas, are prepared to the manage impact of severe floods.

The community based disaster management programme (CBDM) of BDRCS has completed the following activities during this reporting period.

Monthly meeting of community disaster response teams (CDRT)

As reported earlier, CDRTs (with around 25 members) were formed in eight communities in each of the ten selected flood-prone districts, making a total of 80 CDRTs (around 2,000 members in total). During this quarter, several CDRT monthly meetings were held in all these 80 communities.

The main issues were risk reduction through preparedness, assessment and emergency response, activities through community contingency plans for evacuation, rescue, shelter and emergency relief, and dissemination of Red Cross Red Crescent Principles.

Monthly meetings of micro groups (MG)

Micro groups meetings (640 groups with 25 to 30 members on average) were held monthly to discuss family-level preparedness, risk-reduction techniques, primary health care issues, first aid etc. More women than men attended

these meetings (about a 60:40 ratio). Its main purpose was to raise preparedness capacity and to manage the impact of disasters at community levels. See also comments in impact section.

Monthly meetings of community disaster management committees (CDMC)

CDMCs held monthly meetings to discuss preparedness issues, organize and participate in training, and make plans of action to support the programme. Being pivotal stakeholders, they provide support to the community for disaster preparedness and disaster response-related activities, facilitate the implementation of community disaster contingency plans and develop linkages with other disaster preparedness actors in the community. Based on feedback from these meetings, a training module has been prepared for a disaster management leadership training, set for the beginning of the next quarter.

Community based first aid (CBFA)

In order to strengthen response capacity and provide service to those sick and injured through disasters, 16 CBFA training sessions were held in 13 communities at eight branches. 325 newly trained community disaster response teams (CDRT) members are now more able to provide first aid assistance to the community.

Essay competition in schools, “Floods and Us”

In order to generate awareness on disaster preparedness at the community level, 15 essay competitions on disaster preparedness were held in schools from 8-31 March. Approximately 300 students participated

Wall paintings

Complimenting this school-based activity, the BDRCS has taken the initiative to paint flood awareness messages on walls or boards to enhance flood awareness in 80 communities. Some 90 percent of site selection is done and four districts have started painting the messages.



Wall Painting at Chandpur District with flood messages

Vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) training

A four-day vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) workshop was held at national headquarters from 20-23 March 2006, with support from the UK Department for International Development (DFID). Ten CBDM officers (one from each unit) attended the workshop to enhance their skills so they can conduct VCA of targeted communities. The outcomes of the VCAs will be used to modify local disaster management plans of action, thereby improving qualitative and quantitative services to the community.

Primary health care and reproductive health

In February, with support from the government of Bangladesh (health departments at district level), the BDRCS organized training on primary and reproductive health care for 24 female volunteers in order to raise health awareness. These trainers will assist micro group members in providing knowledge to the community.

Selection of traditional birth attendants (TBA)

The BDRCS has taken the initiative to select community people to be trained as traditional birth attendants (TBAs). During this reporting period, the BDRCS selected 240 women from all 80 communities who will be sent for TBA training provided by the health department of the government of Bangladesh at district level.

Printing and distribution of calendars

As a tool to raise awareness of disaster preparedness, disaster response and health issues, BDRCS distributed 2,000 calendars (promoting first-aid, blood donation, health care, evacuation during disaster) among all the 80 targeted communities of the community-based disaster management-flood programme in January 2006. The calendars were distributed to houses in the community, and at restaurants, shops, clubs, schools etc.

Monitoring

To ensure the effective implementation of activities, the programme is being monitored and supervised both at field and at national headquarters level. Unit level officers (ULOs) regularly monitored community-level

activities, and officers from national headquarters made field visits to monitor and conduct training sessions. Field personnel produced regular activity reports to national headquarters. With support and assistance from the Federation, the department is also developing and updating existing formats for monitoring and reporting.

Planned activities for next quarter

Painting flood preparedness messages will continue on walls and boards in the communities. A number of skills development sessions for selected groups in different communities will be organised for purifying water, arsenic testing, protection of wells and tube wells, training for TBA, leadership, finance etc. Monthly meetings for the community groups will continue, and drama and art competitions with DM messages are planned. After the flood season, a revision of the disaster contingency plan will be made, first aid, rescue materials and equipment will be restocked, and saplings for household forestry will be distributed.

Expected Result 2: High-risk communities, especially women at household level in 11 coastal districts are prepared to respond to cyclones and tsunamis.

Disaster simulation exercises

More than 10,000 people witnessed two disaster simulation exercises organised in Barguna district on cyclone and tsunami preparedness. Local volunteers, community people and school children participated in the exercise which focused on what to do and what not to do when cyclones and tsunamis hit (the “dos and don’ts”).

Assessment of existing cyclone shelters

The BDRCS Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) is currently assessing the physical condition of existing cyclone shelters in the coastal area for possible maintenance in the coming quarters.

Expected Result 3: The capacity of the coastal population is enhanced and sustained through improved early warning systems for cyclones and tsunamis.

CPP priorities for this reporting period focused on the need to ensure that CPP volunteers and their equipment were in good order prior to the first cyclone of the season anticipated for the end of April 2006.

Distribution and checking of volunteer gear and warning equipment

As reported earlier, distribution of new warning equipment and volunteer gear for 13,500 volunteers is complete, enabling them to face any eventualities. Routine check up of existing equipment was also completed during this reporting period and necessary repairs made. Some 3,320 large and 17,164 medium-sized dry cell batteries were sent to the field stations and distributed among the volunteers before the cyclone season.

Dissemination meeting

More than 500 students, teachers and local leaders participated in a dissemination meeting in Patuakhali district and learnt about the Red Crescent Red Cross Movement and what to do and what not to do before, during and after disasters. Awareness-raising meetings were organized by CPP officers in nine upazillas. Many people from different sections of the community were made aware of disasters such as tsunamis and cyclones. 37 union committee meetings were held with approximately 460 volunteer team leaders attending. The main topics were cyclone warning signals, the role of volunteers before, during and after disasters and the Red Crescent Red Cross Movement context.

Cyclone warning

A tropical depression turned into a severe cyclonic storm on 28 April. An emergency was declared after a coordination meeting at the national headquarters (arranged by BDRCS and the Federation) among the concerned government ministries. BDRCS volunteers in the coastal belt were mobilized according to the government’s standing orders on disaster. The storm weakened gradually and crossed the Myanmar coast; no casualties, injuries or damage was reported.

Directors from national headquarters and deputy directors from zone offices attended meetings with volunteers and officers to motivate and expedite organizational issues; such as the registration of volunteers, training details, meeting minutes, bill vouchers, photographs etc.

Planned activities for next quarter:

Across all 30 upazillas, the program will focus on activities to raise awareness of cyclone/tsunami preparedness measure. These will include 30 sessions for fishermen, 120 campaigns with student participants, and 90 mass awareness-raising rallies. All field stations observed World Red Cross Red Crescent Day on 8 May through seminars and rallies.

Expected Result 4: Nine selected high-risk Upazillas of Chittagong Hill Tracts are brought closer together, through joint participation in, and access to, DP, humanitarian values (HV) and primary health care activities.

The Community Organisers (COs) in the three Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) units have continued awareness raising activities on health issues within programme area communities through the community disaster committees (CDCs) and door-to-door visits to advise people on personal hygiene and provide necessary medicines. In some cases, they have given advice on health-related matters by advising and assisting the severely sick to go to the nearest doctor or hospital.

The 217 traditional birth attendant (TBA) volunteers carried out their duties in all programme areas of the three CHT units. The community is now very much aware of the Red Crescent and relies on its TBA volunteers during pre- and post-delivery, and especially at the time of delivery. All the registered health activities in the first quarter were as follows:

Khagrachori RC Unit:

Upazilla	Home Visit	Health meeting	Health advise	Medicine distributed	Pregnancy Care		Pregnancy Delivery			First aid provided to persons
					Anti-natal	Post-natal	Con-ducted	Alive	Dead	
Khagrachori Sadar	407	107	154	0	281	300	25	21	4	62
Ramgarh	386	101	87	0	144	179	19	18	1	38
Dighinala	317	02	390	518	23	23	13	12	1	368
Total	1110	210	631	518	448	502	57	51	6	468

Rangamati RC Unit:

Upazilla	Home Visit	Health meeting	Health advise	Medicine distributed	Pregnancy Care		Pregnancy Delivery			First aid provided to persons
					Anti-natal	Post-natal	Con-ducted	Alive	Dead	
Kawkhali	797	108	687	00	162	150	150	142	08	295
Barkal	647	107	608	00	185	165	161	152	09	380
Kaptai	731	00	260	00	98	89	52	50	02	145
Total	1378	215	1555	00	445	404	363	75	19	821

Bandarban RC Unit:

Upazilla	Home Visit	Health meeting	Health advise	Medicine distributed	Pregnancy Care		Pregnancy Delivery			First aid provided to persons
					Anti-natal	Post-natal	Con-ducted	Alive	Dead	
Bandar ban Sadar	749	168	731	623	73	56	56	56	00	73
Thanchi	697	257	9697	717	58	28	28	28	00	57
Lama	728	193	503	412	29	09	09	09	00	18
Total	2174	618	1931	1752	160	93	93	93	00	148

As can be seen above, the child mortality rate remains high in the Chittagong Hill Tracts compared to the national average. The project areas are in remote hilly locations, and patients with complications referred to a hospital by the TBAs cannot usually reach a hospital fast enough. The training provided to TBAs is aimed at reducing the mortality rate through anti-natal and post-natal care.

Some 103 CDC meetings were held in three upazillas by the Bandarban Red Crescent unit. Additionally, the 144 CDCs in nine upazillas held monthly meetings on a regular basis. The respective COs and assistant field supervisors (AFSs) met with the CDCs once a month to discuss their responsibilities in the communities. The Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values were discussed at all CDCs and micro group meetings.

Planned activities for the next quarter

Orientations on CDC guidelines in the nine upazillas will be organized for the presidents and vice-presidents of 16 CDCs and concerned field staff and volunteers. There will also be training for field staff, CDC members and

volunteers on CBFA, the Red Cross Red Crescent Principles, basic disaster management, humanitarian values and the BPI concept.

Other activities will include providing revolving funds to the three units for income generating activities, repairing water wells, procuring equipment including first aid kits, umbrellas, raincoats, gumboots and handbags, replenishing first aid kits, and TBA activities.

Expected Result 5: The high-risk population in four cities and towns (Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and Rangpur) is better prepared in case of an earthquake.

Awareness-raising rallies were organized in Chittagong and Dhaka in January and February. Some 70,000 city dwellers in Chittagong and Dhaka witnessed the rally and became aware about earthquakes and preparedness and response measures. Both occasions were well covered by the media.

Posters, leaflets and stickers were distributed in public places to people from all sections of the community. In addition, 50 framed posters at each branch were distributed among offices and institutions. The distribution was carried out by youth volunteers, ward commissioners and Unit Executive Committee (UEC) members, along with community level Red Crescent “squads”, formed in Dhaka, Chittagong, and Sylhet. These squads consist of 25 members, 40 percent of which are female. Red Crescent ‘squad’ members in all branches conducted monthly meetings to discuss matters relating to the earthquake preparedness and response programme (EPRP) and future plans for activities.

Vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCAs) were carried out in three communities of Chittagong and one community in Sylhet. The information collected will be used to provide targeted and appropriate earthquake preparedness services to the targeted population.

A two-day awareness-raising session and simulation drills in 18 schools were organized by BDRCS during this period. Sessions on earthquake preparedness and response initiatives for earthquakes were conducted. Simulation drills were held for 100 students in each school on earthquake “dos and don’ts”. More than 1,800 students gained knowledge and skills about preparatory measures for earthquake mitigation.

Planned activities for the next quarter:

Activities to develop the training module and operation guidelines, to conduct training and orientation workshops, and Training of Trainers (ToT) for staff, squad volunteers and community volunteers on earthquake preparedness, basic DM, CBFA, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement are planned for the next quarter. There will be a re-organization of Red Crescent squads, the organization of advisory committees and procurement of audio-visual equipment for national headquarters to use in training at branch and community level. VCA will be conducted in 16 urban communities and regular monthly meetings for volunteers at branch level, and quarterly coordination meetings with branch field staff and stakeholders at national headquarters will be held. Awareness-raising disaster simulation exercises for school children are also planned.

Project 2: Disaster Response

Project objective: The response capacity of BDRCS units, branches and NHQ is strengthened.

Expected Result 1: The response capacity of RC Units/Branches is further strengthened.

A 25-member gender-balanced unit disaster response team (UDRT) was formed and is functioning as planned. Bi-monthly meetings are being held and the team is assisting in emergency relief operations assessments, distributing relief materials, preparing relevant documentation, facilitating training for Red Crescent Youth volunteers, providing first aid to the sick and wounded and visiting schools to disseminate disaster response information.

Expected Result 2: The response capacity of BDRCS national headquarters is further strengthened.

The national society provided effective and rapid response at a number of small-scale disasters such as tornados, tropical storms (known locally as ‘norwesters’), fire, cold waves and river erosion from the months of January to April. During this reporting period, the BDRCS assisted 21,409 people with various non-food relief materials through its emergency response programmes.

BDRCS trucks were used for transporting relief materials. All vehicles to be used for emergency response purposes were checked regularly and have been found to be in good condition. Stock taking and regular stock register checks have shown that BDRCS currently has buffer stocks of 22,900 blankets and 22,000 family kits stored in Dhaka and Chittagong warehouses.

Relief distribution January to April 2006:

Type of disaster	Families assisted	Items	Quantity
Cold wave	3,050	Blankets/family kits	3,050/0
Tornados & "Norwesters"	2,800	Blankets/family kits	200/2,800
Fire	785	Blankets/family kits	1,020/785
River erosion	200	Blankets/family kits	200/200

Planned activities for the next quarter:

Plans to organize the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT); make the NDRT guidelines, equip the NDRT and purchase office equipment. The disaster relief manual will be updated and training conducted. A quarterly NDRT meeting will take place. Maintenance of fleet and warehouses will continue.

Project 3: Effective management of the overall disaster management programme.

Project objective: The disaster management programme is effectively managed in order to deliver better services to the most vulnerable.

Expected Result 1: The disaster management programme is effectively coordinated, monitored, reviewed, documented, evaluated and the lessons learned distilled for replication.

The BDRCS disaster management division (DMD) organized monthly coordination meeting attended by directors and those in charge of concerned programmes/projects. Participants discussed ongoing activities, problems, solutions, challenges, constraints and opportunities for all programmes/projects. Appeal process issues, Federation funding and the integration of other departments such as tracing and communication were addressed.

Members of the DMD attended many meetings, training sessions, workshops and seminars organised by other departments, enhancing cooperation and coordination among all BDRCS services. In particular, DMD members actively participated in many of the branch development planning meetings conducted by the planning division in respect of the branch development planning process.

The DM division organized a visit from 19 to 21 January for a consortium delegation (made up of British, German and Swedish Red Cross) to discuss the implementation of the bilateral BDRCS-European Commission project which started in April 2006. The representatives discussed project implementation with the Federation and BDRCS, and key follow up steps for the next stage. The main focus of the project is to develop community capacity building on disaster preparedness and response in nine coastal districts of the cyclone prone areas of Bangladesh, especially communities with existing cyclone shelters.

External speakers were invited to provide their expertise in seminars and workshops, enhancing cooperation and coordination among DM stakeholders in the country, which include government representatives from fire service and civil defence to train the volunteers on search & rescue techniques. Cooperation with other agencies was also improved with discussions on the World Food Programme about food distribution procedures and systems. Cooperation with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the Myanmar Refugee Relief Operation also continues.

Planned activities for the next quarter:

Monthly and quarterly progress reports and newsletters will be prepared and workshops on designing programme strategies to identify disasters such as water poisoning by arsenic, population movement, river erosion, accidents and other common disasters such as "norwesters", droughts and tornados will be held. Monitoring tools will be developed or updated and introduced in all projects. Networking will continue with stakeholders such as the government, local and international NGOs and donor agencies to enhance coordination and to ensure DM activities are updated.

Impact and progress towards meeting programme objectives

Some good progress was made on ensuring gender balance in DM activities. In the CBDM-flood programme, micro group (MG) meetings, the ratio of female to male attendees stood at 60:40. At CDMC meetings there were more female participants than male.

Disaster preparedness and response awareness raising

Disaster preparedness and awareness-raising is a long term, ongoing activity with a gradual accumulation of impact. Some of the progress towards meeting the objectives of this project this quarter includes enhancing community awareness through painting targeted flood preparedness messages on walls and boards. The innovative “Flood and Us” school based writing competition acted to improve the flood preparedness knowledge of not only of the students, but also their parents, friends and teachers.

The cyclone preparedness program orientation sessions held immediately before the cyclone season is improving volunteers’ skills and motivating them. Dissemination meetings were held on the “dos and don’ts” before, during and after a cyclone or a tsunami. More than 500 students, teachers and local leaders participated in and contributed to these meetings, raising their awareness and understanding of disasters.

In the earthquake preparedness and response programme (EPRP), around 70,000 city dwellers in two of the largest cities of Bangladesh attended rallies and learned about earthquakes, preparedness and response measures. Media presence provided wider coverage. Apart from Red Crescent staff and volunteers, local elites and other government (GOs) and non-government organizations (NGOs) working in the field of earthquakes attended the rallies. Posters, leaflets and stickers played a significant role in providing basic awareness on earthquake issues.

Simulation exercises organized in 18 schools were seen by many people in the neighbourhood. Schoolteachers were also involved in the event. Some 1,800 students gained knowledge about the preparatory measures necessary for earthquakes.

Building community relations

A necessary prerequisite for long term impact is building and developing solid relations between BDCRS staff, volunteers and the communities they serve. Two specific examples of progress in this area are the good relations and acceptance of the primary health care and reproductive health volunteers and community disaster response teams (CDRT). They are welcomed and trusted within the community, which allows them to carry out more effective training in the community.

In the CHT development programme, the newly formed CDC structure has made good links with the community. Emphasizing the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values earned the community’s confidence. Furthermore, regular meetings and contacts created good rapport and facilitated the exchange of views, which is important in this post-conflict area.

Ensuring that all equipment is in good working order is also a necessary prerequisite to an effective disaster relief operation. The procurement of equipment and accessories for the wireless network at national headquarters, and repairs to the wireless network and warning equipment at the field offices will help the existing wireless network to function smoothly.

Water and sanitation is an immensely important issue in Bangladesh. Providing communities with education on health and hygiene and providing access to safe water and sanitation is contributing to the rate of waterborne diseases gradually decreasing. These activities also serve to increase cohesion between the divisions in the communities of areas like the CHT.

The Micro Group (MG) sessions which teach and disseminate on disaster preparedness have empowered community people to become more organized to respond better in any emergency situation by taking lead roles through their own initiatives. Through unstructured interviews during field visits it was found that the MG members are learning their lessons well and are able to explain and demonstrate many of points they have learnt.

Constraints

Due to instability in the political situation (*hartals* (general strikes), rallies etc), some of the planned activities were not implemented in time. The absence of key personnel (as many staff members last year went on mission to

Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, working in the tsunami and earthquake operations) continues to slow down the implementation of activities.

There were some delays in implementing CBDM programme activities due to staff members from the DM department leaving for tsunami and Pakistan earthquake operations. Some activities planned for the first quarter of 2006 were postponed due to activities brought forward from 2005 which had to be carried out first.

Some CPP warning equipment broke down due to high usage and not all warning equipment and volunteers' gears could be upgraded before the cyclone season (13,500 out of a total 33,000). This could cause operational problems.

Organizational Development

Overview

During the later part of 2005, fundamental weaknesses in the organizational development (OD) approach (both on national headquarters and branch levels) were detected within the BDRCS. In an effort to address these weaknesses, the OD programme initiated discussions and a plan to solve them systematically. Therefore, activities for January-April 2006 were not been implemented as they were planned prior to the identification of these weaknesses. The main focus of OD work during this period was therefore to solve the weaknesses in the manner described below. The issues are such that if not addressed properly, they would hamper the implementation of much of BDRCS's work.

The newly integrated and systematic OD approach (including a new approach to branch development) has brought OD activities somewhat to a halt between January and April. Activities will be taken up during the second half of 2006 after fine tuning the approach and integrating it throughout BDRCS. The new approach also allows a more effective identification and measurement process of BDRCS's development.

Overall Goal: BDRCS is transformed into a well functioning national society, effective and efficient in reducing vulnerability by mobilizing the power of humanity.

Programme Objective: All departments of BDRCS are capable of rendering effective services to reduce vulnerability and achieve the characteristics of a well functioning national society, through improved programme management at all levels.

Progress/Achievements [<click here for revised log frame>](#)

Expected Result 1: BDRCS has increased capacity for strategic planning and effective programme management, through targeted skills development (skill development project)

Through its network of branches, and in coordination with different government and non-government organizations, BDRCS is one of the largest organizations providing humanitarian services to vulnerable people in the country. To operate on such a large scale, BDRCS needs a professional planning process based on a clear vision and strategy. Addressing the need for drastic improvements in systematic planning was therefore the main priority during the reporting period. Discussions between BDRCS and Federation staff led to better understanding the seriousness of the situation, and the creation of five cross-cutting working groups which met regularly during the reporting period. These groups are working on the following issues

- Group 1: revise the BDRCS shared vision.
- Group 2: revise the BDRCS strategy, taking the whole organization into account in a systematic way.
- Group 3: creating a concept and tools for the BDRCS planning cycle (including data collection/assessment, plan, implement, monitor, evaluate and report).
- Group 4: the development of a new approach to branch development, with tools to implement it,
- Group 5: revising the logical frameworks for the 2006 section of the 2006-2007 appeal.



Youth volunteers attending Jamalpur RCY training.

The new branch development approach will be based on the model used by the Swiss Red Cross in Chapai Nawabganj district in the northern part of Bangladesh. The BDRCS will select ten - eleven branches a year to implement the new concept. The BDRCS programme staff, partner national societies (PNS) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are involved in the process. Both the BDRCS and the Federation OD programme have worked intensively to integrate the key functions of the OD process with other programmes (health, disaster management and humanitarian values).

In April, a four-day training on the first phase of the planning cycle (data collection/assessment and planning) was held with selected BDRCS officers forming the cross-cutting branch development teams and other national society officers and directors. The objectives of the training were to create understanding among BDRCS officers of the planning cycle and

to train the branch development teams to facilitate the process in their branches.

During the reporting period a small working group of BDRCS and IFRC worked to solve the financial crisis and human resource reform that BDRCS will undertake.

Expected Result 2: Members of the BDRCS governing board and branch executive committees are well informed of the Movements' Fundamental Principles, values, system and procedure and are highly motivated and committed to applying them to the national society work.

BDRCS has a newly elected managing board with a term effective 1 January 2006. BDRCS, with the support of the Federation, arranged a team-building trip and an orientation workshop on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in Borguna 31 March to 1 April for the newly appointed board members. The Federation head of delegation and OD delegate facilitated the workshop.

In accordance with government regulations, the revised BDRCS constitution has been submitted to the health ministry for approval. Despite repeated attempts by the Federation to convince BDRCS to emphasize the need to get the revised constitution approved by the government of Bangladesh, results have so far been poor. At the time of writing, the Federation had contacted the ministry and a meeting has been planned for the end of May, attended by Federation and BDRCS representatives.

Expected Result 3: BDRCS volunteer base has increased and developed into a gender diverse, well trained, highly motivated, well organized network.

The OD programme financially supported (jointly with the ICRC) a day-long seminar on women's empowerment issues on World Women's Day on 8 March. The objective of the seminar was to create a common understanding and to depict a clear picture on the conditions of women in the country. The seminar, attended by about 60 participants, recommended improving the situation and empowering women of the communities to tackle the issues of gender-based violence and living lives with dignity. The main immediate impact of the seminar was to show that gender issues still exist even after the passing of a gender policy by BDRCS's managing board. Not much has happened to implement the policy within the national society.

Expected Result 4: BDRCS has enhanced capacity to manage effectively its financial and human resources.

The national society earned BDT 40,000 (CHF 730, USD 586, EUR 466) from fees for a three-day basic first aid course conducted by BDRCS training department, for 34 participants from the NGO Christian Aid in Dhaka in February and March.

The fundraising department has procured and placed donation boxes in different entry and exit points of the country including important places in Dhaka city. The department collected BDT 24,242 (CHF 442, EUR 282, USD 355) in the month of January from the boxes. February to April has not yet been collected, it will be reported in next quarterly programme update.

The fundraising department has introduced different kinds of promotional items (pen, key ring, Red Cross booklet, folder, writing pad, Red Cross pin, showpiece, first aid kit, mug and ceramic plates) imprinted with the BDRCS logo and slogans promoting the Movement's activities. So far, BDT 20,000 (CHF 363, USD 293, EUR 233) has been raised to support BDRCS activities.

The fundraising department conducted resource mobilization (RM) workshops in Sylhet and Chandpur branches on 19-20 and 26-27 February. Unit committee members, local life members, Red Crescent Youth volunteers, government officials and important members of the local community attended the workshops. During the workshops, the branches carried out an analysis of strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis) to identify means for fund raising. Donor lists and a one year action plan were prepared. The branches will start implementing the plans this year.

The fundraising department has submitted a project proposal for corporate funding of a gender sensitisation project with an estimated budget of BDT 2,990,000 (CHF 54,580, USD 43,810, EUR 34, 905) to City Cell, one of the major mobile phone operators in Bangladesh. The proposal is being actively considered.

The fundraising department also submitted a second project proposal to Chevron (one of the biggest oil companies in the country) to support the BDRCS blood bank in Sylhet. Chevron has accepted the proposal and has committed to provide USD 2,000 (CHF 2,492, EUR 1,5393) to the national society.

Expected Result 5: BDRCS has established and leads a coordination network with NGO's, governance and civil society, as a platform for communication and advocacy development

The planning & development department began publication of a monthly BDRCS newsletter starting from April 2003. The issues for the month of January to April 2006 have been successfully published and circulated. The newsletter helps to disseminate the BDRCS activities to different stakeholders.

Expected Result 6: Red Crescent youth (RCY) and volunteers have developed skills and knowledge to effectively and efficiently raise awareness, prepare for and response to disaster, and provide key humanitarian services at community level

The youth & volunteers department provided first aid support in various public events during the reporting period for example; at high schools, national festivals and the Asian Football Cup (AFP) etc.

Bogra Red Crescent branch organized their first regional youth camp 6-8 January this year. There was 600 Red Crescent Youth from 17 Red Crescent branches attending the camp. The youth and volunteers, and the training departments provided logistic support in organizing the camp.

Jamalpur Red Crescent branch organized the first Dhaka divisional Red Crescent Youth training camp at Jamalpur stadium 1-7 February. There were about 500 Red Crescent Youth from the division that attended the camp. The theme was on humanitarian values and the camp got financial support from the humanitarian values programme.

The youth & volunteers department organized the first "NHQ Youth Leadership Camp" held at Lalmatia Housing School and College premises 1-5 March. There were 300 participants from 36 schools of Dhaka attending the leadership training. Some of the positive outcomes of these camps are described in the impact section below.

On 26 March on the occasion of National Independence Day, Red Crescent Youth volunteers assisted in organizing the floral ceremony at the national monument. Present from the BDRCS were 80 Red Crescent Youth members, the chairman, vice chairman, acting secretary general and staffs from all levels. Additionally, with the support of the Red Crescent Youth volunteers, four blood collection centres were established in strategic places in Dhaka.

Impact and progress towards programme objectives

BDRCS's work in developing a systematic and integrated OD approach has created an increased interest in the development of the national society, leading to inspiration and learning how programmes can be better implemented. The new integrated branch development approach aims to initiate a long term sustainable development process to enable branches to raise their capacity to implement the BDRCS programmes.

Programme management capacities of BDRCS departments are gradually increasing. Progress in recent months towards a professional implementation of project cycle management (planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluating and reporting) is crucial and will be a significant factor leading towards achieving a positive impact. The establishment (led by the Federation) of an operational alliance between the Federation, BDRCS and the Swiss Red Cross office in Bangladesh has so far been a key outcome of this process. It is expected that the combination of knowledge and expertise established in this alliance will contribute greatly to achieving the objectives of the OD programme, and by extension the objectives of other programmes.

The BDRCS governance is showing more commitment in taking governing responsibility of the organization. It remains to be seen if this commitment will be enough to govern the BDRCS out of the challenges and obstacles it is facing.

In the Red Crescent Youth, development of leadership qualities and the level of commitment towards the development of the national society and the Movement increases during each youth camp and training. The confidence, reach and profile of the Red Crescent Youth are increasing with regular requests to conduct youth programmes in schools, colleges and in other organizations.

The recent initiatives of the fundraising department (supported by an external consultant) have generated confidence and enthusiasm in raising funds and networking with different stakeholders at the national level and made good progress in establishing relations with the corporate sector.

Follow up from last years resource mobilization workshops demonstrated some impact, such as the forming of a fund-raising working group at the branch level, with commitment from some donors to provide financial and other support to branch level activities. The critical factor for success is commitment of the staff and governance in the branches. The impact of the workshops held during this period will be measured in the fullness of time. Other more tangible outputs during this period have been the quality of BDRCS trainings attracting external organizations and income being generated through provision of training courses.

Constraints

During the reporting, implementation of planned activities was delayed for two main reasons. One was the creation of a new OD approach described above. The other was late transfer of funds caused by:

- The common problem of uncertainty around funding during the first months of the year, as confirmed pledges had not been received, meaning that funds were not available
- Late clearance of old working advances (from BDRCS)
- New working advance format, which took some time to be operating smoothly.

Humanitarian Values

Overview

Since last year, the national society has started to place more emphasis on the previously neglected areas of humanitarian values as part of an integrated approach to programming. The main focus of the BDRCS humanitarian values programme is integrating issues of anti-discrimination and tolerance into the ongoing programmes and projects in 2006, including HIV/AIDS, gender and ethnic conflict.

BDRCS has printed a humanitarian values training module (translated into Bangla) that will be used when organizing trainings in the BDRCS programmes, both at national headquarters and branch level.

Revisions to activities [<click here for revised log frame>](#)

The humanitarian values programme appeal for 2006 will be revised because the BDRCS has prepared a new project proposal on reducing domestic violence ('Reduce Violence' project), to tackle the alarming increase of domestic and community violence (revealed by a recent surveys by Dhaka University). The BDRCS will address the issue by aiming to reduce the domestic violence and raise the awareness amongst the programme beneficiaries, volunteers and BDRCS staff. This project will implement as a pilot project through BDRCS Community Empowerment Programme (CEP) and Training department. This activity will be added under the

second expected result, as described below. Depending on available funds the project will start earliest June-July 2006.

In line with the fourth goal in the Federation's Global Agenda ("*Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity*"), the BDRCS with the support of the Federation is working towards promoting respect for all human beings and to establish equal rights of women in the society through the activities described below.

Overall Goal: BDRCS has effectively promoted Humanitarian Values and influenced change in behaviour by applying the Movement's Fundamental Principles and contributed to reducing discrimination and increasing tolerance and mutual understanding and upholding the dignity of the individual.

Objective: A better understanding of humanitarian values is reflected in existing BDRCS' programmes and projects and contributes to influencing behaviour of staff, volunteers, beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: The core area of HV is understood and practiced by all national society staff, volunteers and members in their programme and community work.

A one-day training on humanitarian values was conducted for the Federation staff members of Bangladesh delegation and senior manager of the BDRCS in mid March 2006, all together approximately 30 participants. The HV coordinator from South Asia regional delegation and senior OD programme officers facilitated the training. The objective with the training was to give a clear idea on humanitarian values and discrimination to the Federation delegation staff in order to integrate HV into different programmes.

A humanitarian values workshop was also conducted as part of the Jamalpur Regional Youth camp in February. The objective of the training was to give a clear idea on humanitarian values with an emphasis to reduce discrimination among the participants. As the participants were school students, the training was conducted in an informal way, with the aim to inspire participants to reflect on behavioural changes in their own life that would to reduce discrimination in their family situation, and in the society as a whole.

The story below was told by a young participant in the humanitarian workshop in Jamalpur in February. It is an example of the existence of discrimination at the family level. Traditionally in Bangladesh, boys have generally been considered more important than the girls in a family.

A boy, student of class eight (14 years old) said that he performs family duties with full responsibility. He helps his family by going to the market doing the grocery shopping etc. He also mentioned that he has a sister studying in class five (11 years old) whom washes his and the rest of the families clothes every day. Washing clothes (by hand) is a tough job and heavy burden for a young girl. Very often she also gets told to help with other household tasks, but not the brother. At first he was not aware that it was an injustice done to her, as he was not aware of the sense of discrimination. After attending the workshop, he expressed that his sister was not treated properly and also a victim of discrimination, which he would not allow to continue further. He also showed enthusiasm to address and to reduce the discriminations existing in his family, among his friends and in the society.

After the workshop, the reactions and response of the participants indicated that it is possible to reduce discrimination within families and in the society, through efficient and effective motivation and awareness raising discussions and activities. In the coming months, four youth camps will be organized in four divisional cities to highlight the discrimination issue and follow up how the issue can be dealt with in daily life.

Expected Result 2: BDRCS potential stakeholders have increased awareness of humanitarian values related issues through advocacy campaigns and motivational drives carried out by BDRCS

A workshop was organized 15-16 March with the aim of preparing a project proposal on 'Reduce Violence' under the humanitarian values programme. Local NGOs such as "The Acid Burn Survivals"(working with acid victim peoples), Ain-O-Shalish (supporting people on law), and "Narri Pakkho" (working on women rights) participated

in the “Reduce Violence” workshops organized by the national society. They shared their experiences on how their work has a positive impact to reduce violence in the society.

The purpose of involving other stakeholders in the workshop was to share experiences and to get a clear idea on existing discrimination and violence in the community. Approximately 30 participants from BDRCS and Federation attended the workshop. The “Reducing Violence” project will be implemented through the community empowering programme (CEP) and training department of the BDRCS. Initially it will start as a pilot project. The proposal and log frame was finalized and submitted to the regional delegation management for further action.

Impact and progress towards meeting programme objectives

The orientation workshops have created a sense of the seriousness of discrimination in all spheres of life among the BDRCS staff and volunteers as well as the Federation staff. Meetings were held with programme managers, which made them much more aware of the necessity to integrate humanitarian values in the different programmes. The integration with the CEP programme is one example of how this will be carried out this year. The NGOs mentioned have expressed an interest to work with BDRCS as partners in reducing discrimination and on other related humanitarian value issues.

The reactions and response of the youth participants in the humanitarian values workshop in Jamalpur, indicate that it is possible to enhance people’s awareness as well as to motivate people to work against discrimination and thereby contributing to reducing discrimination within families and in the society.

The BDRCS governing board is also showing their interest in humanitarian values and has recently asked for a workshop especially for them, which is under discussion.

Constraints

As with most “crosscutting” issues, the humanitarian value programme was still not a priority for the national society, although some improvement can be seen this year as highlighted above. The programme is also poorly funded but the main constraint and challenge remains for the BDRCS, especially the senior management to further emphasize and prioritise the programme. However, since the BDRCS is facing some major financial and other challenges, it seems uncertain if humanitarian values can be further prioritised in the near future.

Implementation and coordination

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

During the reporting period the Federation country delegation have continued to work and liaise with UN and government agencies and diplomatic missions, and the Federation and the national society continues to take part in regular coordination meetings. Good cooperation and communication with ICRC has been maintained during the reporting period.

The long-term strategic partnerships continues with the Swedish, Japanese, British and Hong Kong Red Cross societies have continued to create positive results and strengthened BDRCS, especially in the critical areas of disaster management and organizational development. The German Red Cross continues to support the society through its long-term bilateral partnership with the Mother and Child Health centres (see health section above).

The Federation and BDRCS also forged a new “operational alliance” partnership by signing a bilateral project agreement with Swiss Red Cross Society to develop and strengthen selected branch in the northern part of Bangladesh (see OD section above). Monthly meetings and regular interaction take places between the Federation and the German and Swiss Red Cross offices in Dhaka. Collaboration has also increase with local NGOs, especially in areas related to the fourth goal of the Global Agenda, as outlined in the humanitarian values section above.

Below is a table reflecting the support undertaken bilaterally by Red Cross Red Crescent partners in Bangladesh.

RC Partners	Objectives / Progress
ICRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through selected districts units and provide emergency first aid and basic necessities to people affected by internal violence. Disseminate proper use of emblem and International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Supports the BDRCS in their tracing activities.
German Red Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting BDRCS 52 mother and child health (MCH) centres for five years until Dec 2010 Provide essential primary health care services at community level and improve the health status of women and children in unreachable rural Bangladesh 25 MCH centres are now self-sustaining and efforts are underway to develop the other 27 MCH centres in order to make them as self-sufficient as possible and to increase the involvement of the community in BDRCS activities. 37 community midwives were selected by various communities for midwifery training. Upon completion of 18 months training, these community midwives will take care of the MCH centres and other health institutions in the country.
Swiss Red Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting BDRCS branch in the northern part of Bangladesh through community development and branch capacity building. The main objective of the project is to effectively improve the public health situation in Chapai Nawabganj branch (three unions) The project will address public health concerns to improve the well being of women, children and men living in situations of extreme poverty in the Chapai Nawabganj District of Bangladesh
Consortium of British Red Cross (Managing Agency), German Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is to improve the lives of people living in cyclone-prone areas (nine districts) of Bangladesh. Funded by the European Commission.

Management of the delegation

The Federation delegation in Bangladesh has continued to strive to develop capacities and provide necessary support to BDRCS, with the long-term goal of creating a strong, effective and financially sustainable national society. The additional support by the South Asia regional delegation and Federation secretariat Asia Pacific desk and by the regional reporting and finance units in Kuala Lumpur has added to the capacity in the country delegation and to the knowledge sharing, support and development of the national society.

New health and disaster management delegates and a new programme coordinator joined the delegation between March and May. The delegation will also recruit a new OD delegate and reporting officer in next quarter.

In line with the Federation of the Future and the ten areas of improvement the country delegation have emphasized its work in improving the national societies strategic planning and vision, mobilizing the resources towards one goal and thereby making a better impact on the lives of vulnerable people.

In January a management workshop was held at the BDRCS national headquarters and all staff participated. The main objective was to improve the quality of the Federation delegation management capacity and professionalism.

Due to continuing tense political situation and deteriorating law and order, the delegation continued to maintain strict security regulations during the reporting period.

[Click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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.*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering quality and accountable assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federations's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or national society profiles, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAABD001 - BANGLADESH

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/6
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAABD001
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	616'421	3'855'926	71'792	866'554	0	5'410'693
B. Opening Balance	261'511	1'779'343	11'542	6'257	-22'688	2'035'965
Income						
Cash contributions						
British Red Cross		114'750		45'600		160'350
DFID Partnership			7'234	24'946		32'180
ECHO		35'915				35'915
Italian Red Cross	69'468					69'468
Swedish Red Cross		109'096		52'367		161'463
C1. Cash contributions	69'468	259'761	7'234	122'913		459'376
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
British Red Cross		413'941				413'941
Hong Kong Red Cross		-30'414				-30'414
Italian Red Cross	-69'437					-69'437
Swedish Red Cross		109'473		50'526		159'999
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	-69'437	493'000		50'526		474'089
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
Reallocation from						
Bangladesh Floods	20'000			324'170		344'170
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)	20'000			324'170		344'170
Inkind Personnel						
Swedish Red Cross				37'200		37'200
C5. Inkind Personnel				37'200		37'200
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	20'031	752'761	7'234	534'809	0	1'314'835
D. Total Funding = B + C	281'542	2'532'104	18'776	541'066	-22'688	3'350'801

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	261'511	1'779'343	11'542	6'257	-22'688	2'035'965
C. Income	20'031	752'761	7'234	534'809	0	1'314'835
E. Expenditure	-61'395	-366'205	-5'504	-116'539	-32	-549'675
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	220'147	2'165'899	13'273	424'527	-22'720	2'801'125

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INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

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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)		616'421	3'855'926	71'792	866'554	0	5'410'693	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	73'030							73'030
Construction Materials			301				301	-301
Seeds,Plants	83'134							83'134
Water & Sanitation	58'322							58'322
Medical & First Aid	89'049							89'049
Utensils & Tools	1'736							1'736
Other Supplies & Services	40'606							40'606
Total Supplies	345'878		301				301	345'577
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings	15'440							15'440
Vehicles	69'472					-3'752	-3'752	73'224
Computers & Telecom	124'637		2'194			49	2'244	122'393
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	209'549		2'194			-3'703	-1'508	211'057
Transport & Storage								
Storage	40'894	42	185				227	40'668
Distribution & Monitoring			7'480				7'480	-7'480
Transport & Vehicle Costs	181'083	374	26'328	85	3'433	3'703	33'923	147'160
Total Transport & Storage	221'977	416	33'993	85	3'433	3'703	41'629	180'348
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	499'543	14'472	9'869			50'349	74'690	424'853
Delegate Benefits	288'000	21'968	44'758	168	52'984	-50'319	69'559	218'441
National Staff	316'107	2'152	28'132	82	12'113	-1'992	40'487	275'620
National Society Staff	1'072'433	1'773	105'104		29'397	1'992	138'266	934'167
Total Personnel Expenditures	2'176'082	40'365	187'863	251	94'494	30	323'002	1'853'080
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	577'634	913	39'013	1'795	15'054		56'776	520'858
Total Workshops & Training	577'634	913	39'013	1'795	15'054		56'776	520'858
General Expenditure								
Travel	107'998	-177	11'750	7	1'628		13'208	94'790
Information & Public Relation	1'058'212	2'672	9'744	436	14'332		27'184	1'031'028
Office Costs	241'617	1'980	11'035		1'788	15'396	30'200	211'417
Communications	99'215	596	5'839	6	1'400	13'172	21'012	78'204
Professional Fees	5'262				7'780	12'553	20'333	-15'071
Financial Charges	14'697		7'212		6	-67	7'151	7'546
Other General Expenses	877	6'469	21'573	38	1'266	-41'054	-11'707	12'584
Total General Expenditure	1'527'878	11'540	67'154	486	28'200	0	107'380	1'420'498
Depreciation								
Depreciation			2'764				2'764	-2'764
Total Depreciation			2'764				2'764	-2'764
Program Support								
Program Support	351'695	3'991	23'803	358	7'418	2	35'572	316'123
Total Program Support	351'695	3'991	23'803	358	7'418	2	35'572	316'123
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		4'171	9'119	2'529	-32'060		-16'241	16'241
Total Operational Provisions		4'171	9'119	2'529	-32'060		-16'241	16'241
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	5'410'693	61'395	366'205	5'504	116'539	32	549'675	4'861'018
VARIANCE (C - D)		555'026	3'489'721	66'288	750'015	-32	4'861'018	