

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

INDIA

Appeal No. MAAIN001
30 June 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 183 countries.

In Brief

Programme Update no. 01, Period covered: January to May, 2006;
Appeal target for 2006-2007: CHF 8.8 million (USD 7.1 million or EUR 5.6 million);
Appeal coverage: 75%;
Outstanding needs: CHF 2.2 million (USD 1.8 million or EUR 1.4 million).

(click here for the interim financial report with the latest income and expenditure)

Related Appeals: [South Asia Appeal 2006-2007 \(MAA52001\)](#),
[Revised Tsunami Plan of Action 2005-2010 \(28/2004\)](#)

Programme summary:

Under the leadership of the new secretary general, the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) is gaining momentum in programme implementation, compared to its performance in 2005. The HIV/AIDS consortium was made active and is now functioning effectively. The disaster preparedness and mitigation projects are progressing well with the increased capacity of the IRCS national disaster response team. The state branches of Assam and Bihar have also successfully completed the floods 2004 mitigation activities.

Minor budget changes are made to the organizational development and implementation and coordination due to amendment of some activities. All the programmes for 2006 are adequately funded.

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Operational developments

State elections were held in India during April and May, but are not expected to undermine the stability of the ruling United Progressive Alliance (UPA) coalition at the centre, led by the Indian National Congress. With three years of its five-year term still left, the Congress-led central government will have to tread a fine line between its reform ambitions and policy compromises with its political allies.

Another major political move during this year was the institutionalization of military training and exercise exchanges between India and China. There was an improvement in India's budget this year, with regard to improvements for the poorer sections of society, as seen in an increase of 31% for the education budget and 54% for rural infrastructure.

One major negative economic impact was the effect on the country's poultry industry of bird-flu. The health ministry is preparing to respond to a possible crisis, and the IRCS has also carried out many awareness and preparedness activities.

The Indian early tsunami warning system, which will be operational by September 2007, will ensure that no false alerts are generated and will spread confidence in the government response system as well as that of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS).

The national society made a headway in strengthening its preparedness by forming a second national disaster response team (NDRT) for emergencies as well as addressing long term issues by undertaking a disaster risk reduction project to tackle the problems of drought and floods in Rajasthan and Bihar respectively, in cooperation with the British government's Department for International Development (DFID).

Major constraints in previous years were addressed by the IRCS during the first half of 2006, with regular cooperation from the India Delegation. In the past six months, considerable improvements have been made related to two longstanding major concerns - (a) the speed of reporting on working advances and (b) the lack of human resources. The IRCS is also attempting to streamline its procedures, for example issuing tenders, now follows the process followed by the World Bank.

The IRCS hosted a number of visitors from existing and potential partners, as well as from the Federation secretariat. This has helped in understanding the partners' requirements and their expectations while reviewing the national society priorities.

Two budgets have been revised during the reporting period i.e. organisational development and the core cost, while those of the health and disaster management programmes are in the process of being revised.

Health and care

Overview

In line with the concept of scaling up in the Global Agenda, the IRCS (especially the Maharashtra branch) proactively responded to the potential pandemic threat of avian influenza by increasing its preparedness level. The Irish Red Cross (IRC) provided multilateral funding for the IRCS avian influenza programme.

All seven partner national societies of the India HIV/AIDS consortium met in January 2006, to discuss the amendments in the consortium agreement. The outcome of the meeting was that the British Red Cross and German Red Cross representatives offered support for the HIV/AIDS project in Uttar Pradesh as well as for the avian influenza programme.

A national level workshop on public health in emergency (PHIE) was organised to develop the capacity of the IRCS state branches to institutionalise the preparedness and response mechanism on PHIE.

Overall Goal: The health status of the vulnerable population has improved and the spread of HIV/AIDS contained through concerted efforts of the government, IRCS and all other actors.

Programme Objective: The capacity of the targeted communities to prevent and respond to health problems, including HIV/AIDS, has increased through prevention and promotion, and through effective response in emergencies.

Progress/Achievements

Project 1: HIV/AIDS

Project objective: The impact of HIV/AIDS in targeted communities has been reduced through prevention, promotion, care and support

Expected Result 1: IRCS capacity to address HIV/AIDS is strengthened at levels through the work of consortium/programme support unit (PSU)

The IRCS appointed an HIV/AIDS coordinator at the IRCS national headquarters. The coordinator participated in various meetings, including the HIV/AIDS consortium, and regional health meetings. The coordinator also participated in the first meeting of the newly formed HIV/AIDS project steering committee, and visited states where the HIV/AIDS project is being implemented. These meetings and visits helped the coordinator to understand the project structure, strengths and constraints, and to develop an HIV/AIDS project proposal for India, as a part of the South Asia regional project. The HIV/AIDS project was restructured after field visits to the programme states by the IRCS health team

The HIV/AIDS India consortium met on 18 January 2006 to discuss the revised consortium agreement and mode of project implementation, which led to all partners signing the revised agreement. The IRCS will be the lead partner and the secretary general will be the chairman of the consortium. The other six consortium partner national societies include the British, Canadian, Danish, Spanish and Swedish, along with the Federation. The American Red Cross and the German Red Cross participated in the consortium meeting as potential partners. It was agreed that the project would be implemented through the IRCS state branches with technical support from the IRCS national headquarters and the Federation health team. The British Red Cross (BRCS) offered bilateral assistance to initiate HIV/AIDS activities in the vulnerable state of Uttar Pradesh. A team from BRCS completed a pre-project assessment visit in Uttar Pradesh in May 2006 and the project is expected to begin in July 2006.

A two-day orientation was organized for HIV/AIDS programme coordinators from the state level. The purpose of this orientation was to familiarize the coordinators with the youth peer education project activities, log frame, reporting requirements and financial formats and guidelines and finalise project activities for the year 2006. The participants were also familiarized with the youth peer education strategy of the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), by a facilitator from NACO.

A consortium meeting is planned in July 2006. The purpose of this meeting is to provide an update to partners, review new developments, identify any requirements and discuss the future course of action. Three state-level workshops have been planned for HIV/AIDS project staff in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, to familiarize district level volunteers and workers on the programme and its reporting requirements/formats, both narrative and financial.

Expected Result 2: Impact of HIV/AIDS among youth is reduced in targeted districts, through Junior Red Cross and youth Red Cross network, effective awareness raising, life skills development and counselling

Andhra Pradesh: The programme is operational in four districts of the state - Chittoor, Nalgonda, East Godavri and Mehaboob Nagar. As part of the youth peer education strategy, 1,170 peer groups have been formed and 890 counselling sessions held, covering 1,250 school and college students who participated in project activities. Under

the outreach activities of the programme, 360 villages were visited where 445 peer group interactions took place and 330 cases were taken up for follow up. These activities helped to enhance awareness among youth on issues like HIV/AIDS and safe sex, as well as contributed towards increasing the number of volunteers joining IRCS.

Maharashtra: The programme is operational in two districts of the state, (Pune and Akola), but activities are not being carried out on a regular basis due to a shortage of staff, resulting from a number of vacant positions for personnel at the district level. The programme celebrated World Health Day by providing free medical check-up to 107 people, and is developing a brochure to promote the spirit of volunteerism.

Tamil Nadu: The programme is operational in four districts of the state – Dharmapuri, Salem, Erode and Namakkal. To promote the HIV/AIDS message among youth, an essay competition was held in two colleges in which about 200 students participated. A youth fair was also conducted in which about 500 youth participated. These activities, along with blood donation camps and counselling sessions, have helped in improving the level of awareness on HIV/AIDS and related issues.

Expected Result 3: Impact of HIV/AIDS reduced among PLWHAs and their families through nutritional and hygiene support, counselling and advocacy in targeted community based centres and hospital support centres

Nutrition and hygiene play an important role in prolonging the life of a person living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and help in preventing opportunistic infections. In Thambaram hospital in Chennai in the state of Tamil Nadu, a nutritious mid-day meal (consisting of beaten wheat, Bengal gram/dates and curd) is distributed to HIV+ patients. During the period January-March 2006, 43,924 patients were provided nutrition support, 1,883 patients were provided hygiene kits and 480 patients were provided referral services.

Expected Result 4: The impact of stigma and discrimination is reduced in targeted communities, through awareness raising campaigns and community outreach activities

Anti-stigma and anti-discrimination activities have been inbuilt into the youth peer education and care and support strategy, to enable an improvement in the quality of life of PLWHA and their families. As part of the youth peer education activities, awareness sessions were held on stigma and discrimination, which have helped to improve awareness among youth and family members of HIV+ persons.

Most of the activities under this component are related to the world AIDS day celebration in December 2006. In addition, under the Thambaram hospital programme in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, hospital patients and their families were counselled on ways of dealing with stigma and discrimination.

Expected Result 5: Non-remunerated voluntary blood donation is increased through promotion amongst youth in selected communities

On the occasion of world health day, awareness raising activities on non-remunerated blood donation were carried out for 3,200 villagers in 8 villages lying in four project districts in the state of Andhra Pradesh. After the meeting, the villagers voluntarily donated blood at the nearest blood banks. In Mehboob Nagar district, the local district branch organised blood donation camps in three villages and collected 223 units of blood.

In Tamil Nadu, two colleges conducted blood donation camps and collected 74 units of blood. Blood donor motivation camps were organized, in which 96 students participated.

Project 2: RCV network capacity building

Project objective: IRCS has increased capacity for effective response in preventive health and in public health in emergency by building the Red Cross Volunteer (RCV) network

Expected result 1: IRCS capacity (headquarters, state/district branches) to address preventive health and public health in emergency is strengthened.

The IRCS has appointed a health advisor and a health coordinator at the national headquarters to take charge of the programme on preventive and public health in emergencies. They have participated in various high profile events such as the HIV/AIDS consortium meeting, regional health meeting, avian influenza task force meetings, public

health in emergency workshops and global health and care forum. These forums have equipped them with a contextual understanding of preventive health and public health in emergencies.

A member from the IRCS district branch in Porbander in Gujarat was selected (based on his performance in the national PHIE workshop) to attend the South Asia regional public health in emergency (PHIE) workshop in Bangladesh. The secretary of Uttar Pradesh state branch visited Geneva to participate in the global health and care forum. Such exposure visits have helped in enhancing awareness about Red Cross (RC) functioning as well as on the technical areas of health. The member from Gujarat will act as a resource person to organise a state level PHIE workshop in Gujarat in 2006.

Expected result 2: IRCS response in preventive health and at community level through RCVs is improved in 5 selected states.

The IRCS, in principle, has agreed to use volunteers under the HIV/AIDS programme, but is still to make a decision regarding how to put this into practice. These will be discussed in detail with the IRCS during the next quarter. The states identified for the RCV programme are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa and Tamil Nadu.

Expected result 3: IRCS response in public health in emergency at community level through RCVs is improved in five states

A national level training of trainers (ToT) in PHiE was conducted from 26 February - 3 March 2006. The workshop was attended by 20 participants from seven Indian states, who were either closely associated with the IRCS or had previous experience of working in health emergencies/disasters. The five day workshop covered four topics related to PHIE. Questionnaires given to participants before and after the workshop showed that their knowledge had increased by 26%.

Andhra Pradesh and Bihar have organized state level PHiE ToT and the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Punjab have also been identified for conducting such training programmes.

The IRCS has formed a task force on avian influenza which has already met twice, once before and once after the confirmation of avian influenza cases in India in February 2006. The IRCS has sent to all branches a list of frequently asked questions on avian influenza and 525,000 brochures. The branches distributed these materials (in eleven local languages) which focus on behaviour change among the community. Banners with similar messages were also put up in public places in the state of Maharashtra.

The brochures were also shared with participants of the global health assembly in May 2006 in Geneva. Although no avian influenza cases have been reported in India since March 2006, preparedness activities will continue through the PHiE workshops and other related forums.

Avian influenza activities have been funded by the Irish Red Cross (CHF 18,259) multilaterally for dissemination activities) and the German Red Cross (EUR 100,000) bilaterally for future sensitization activities).

Expected Result 4: Health of women of reproductive age and children is improved through community based RCH programme in 4 Red Cross mother and child (MCH) health (MCH) centres

The IRCS and the Federation delegation agreed to initiate the MCH activities in four centres in the state of Uttaranchal. The IRCS health coordinator will visit Uttaranchal in July 2006, to hold discussions with the RC state branch on the location of these health centres.



Field exercise during a state level PHIE workshop

Impact

The long awaited filling of three health positions provided the required impetus to the IRCS health programmes, and the increased enthusiasm is evident from the number of activities that were completed or initiated during the reporting period.

The avian influenza interventions ensured good internal and external coordination by the Federation. Being a priority for the IRCS, the avian influenza activities were carried out as required and received a good response at national and global forums. The various activities described above helped in showing the IRCS to be proactive in countering the potential threat of avian flu.

Constraints

In view of the potential catastrophic impact of the avian influenza emergency, the health teams of the IRCS national headquarters and the Federation had to devote a lot of time and resources for developing avian influenza preparedness and response strategies. This affected work on the planned health and care project, especially volunteers and mother and child health activities. It also prevented regular monitoring and programme review visits to the project states/areas due to limited staff in the IRCS national headquarters and the Federation India delegation.

There was a lack of clarity, at the state and district levels, regarding the HIV/AIDS programme and funding guidelines (clarified during the meeting and visits of the consortium, as mentioned above). Similarly, the questions surrounding the consortium had meant there was a backlog on transfer of funds, which led to non-receipt of salaries and resulted in a drop in human resources and a number of positions falling vacant, especially at the district level. To address this, the IRCS and Federation health teams visited all three HIV/AIDS programme states and the IRCS national headquarters was in touch with these states to clarify the financial issues. As the existing funding for the HIV/AIDS programme is only available till September 2006, a second consortium meeting is planned to be held in July 2006, to inform other programme partners on the balance of funds.

Disaster Management

Overview

During the reporting period, the IRCS and the Federation were active in strengthening the disaster preparedness and response mechanism of the national society through a number of measures. Emergency control rooms were established in seven programme state branches out of the selected eight disaster-prone states and regional warehouses were provided with computers for fast information transfer and stock keeping. Databases have been developed on trained response personnel, resource persons and volunteers, on suppliers and on DP stock. DP stock procurement, for replenishment of relief items used during the 2005 tsunami and flood relief operations, is in process and will be completed by the end July 2006.

Key initiatives were to prepare a national plan on disaster preparedness and response and to form a second national disaster response team (NDRT), with members selected through a training course. It was proposed to establish state level disaster response teams (SDRTs) in the remaining four programme states (West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Tamil Nadu), and district level disaster response teams in the states where SDRTs have already been formed.



NDRT-II members interacting with village women

Under the disaster risk reduction programme, supported by the DFID phase-II, the IRCS developed a plan of action for the year 2006. The activities under the plan include an orientation programme for state/district level focal points on the programme, and on vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) methodology in Rajasthan

and Bihar, as well as a VCA training programme for DM focal points in both states. The plan also incorporates finalization of guidelines for implementation of the risk reduction programme.

Overall Goal: Vulnerable communities are able to mitigate and cope with the effects of disasters, reducing losses in lives and property.

Programme Objective: The IRCS has strengthened capacity in disaster preparedness and response to floods, cyclones, earthquakes and communal riots and improved cooperation with the government and other stakeholders.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: The IRCS has improved the efficiency of its response at national and state level through the formulation and application of a DP plan in line with the government systems and procedures in disaster response

Despite a rich experience in disaster response and relief operations, the IRCS has no specific plan or document at the national or state level for disaster preparedness and response. The current draft contingency plan that was in existence was reviewed during the reporting period.

A consultant is to be identified to work on the draft document, develop guidelines for preparation of the disaster management (DM) plan and develop a national/state level DM plan. Draft terms of reference for work to be carried out by the consultant have been drawn up, with inputs from the IRCS.

The India delegation DM team participated in a regional DM team meeting, coordinated by the South Asia regional delegation, to discuss the monsoon preparedness plan of the national societies in the South Asian region. In February 2006, three participants, one from the Federation and two from IRCS state branches (the DM coordinators from the Bihar and Rajasthan branches) attended a training course on VCA in Nepal. As a follow-up measure, the IRCS national headquarters instructed state branches to conduct VCA studies at the district level. Orissa, one of the programme states, finished a VCA study in six districts of the state, based on which a draft DM plan for the state is being prepared.

The IRCS national headquarters has planned two workshops on lessons learnt, to enable the development of guidelines for preparation of state/district contingency plans and to develop disaster preparedness plans for the state branches of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar for the year 2006.

Expected Result 2: IRCS has a robust disaster response system that is maintained in line with standard procedures and protocols

The IRCS national headquarters organized a second training course, to select members for the national disaster response team (NDRT), from 22-26 May 2006. In addition to four national headquarter employees, there were 33 participants from 17 states, including 10 women.

The IRCS West Bengal state branch conducted a state disaster response team (SDRT) training course in June 2006, with representation from every district. Similarly, the Orissa state branch is organizing a second SDRT training in June 2006, which will focus on the remaining districts that had not been represented in the previous SDRT. Two district level disaster response teams have also been formed in the state. The IRCS Assam branch has also proposed to establish its SDRT this year.

One mobile disaster unit has been kept in readiness for deployment for any forthcoming disaster situation which may arise in the



Briefing of NDRT members by the regional disaster response coordinator

coming monsoon season. A priority of the IRCS national headquarters is to constitute a trained water and sanitation team/unit at the national level.

A draft disaster response strategy had been developed by the IRCS national headquarters and shared with the state branches during the DM Conference held in 2005. The modified draft document is awaiting endorsement.

Expected Result 3: Logistical and warehouse management capacity of the IRCS at national and state level is strengthened

The Vasana warehouse in Gujarat was provided with the essential equipment to ensure safety and security for the relief materials stored in the warehouse.

A database of suppliers was developed at the IRCS national headquarters and the draft procurement procedures are to be endorsed by the management. The planned training course on logistics could not be conducted during the reporting period, as the DM programme for the year 2006 has not yet been approved by the national society. One training course is planned for warehouse staff on warehousing and logistics management during 2006.

A team comprising IRCS representatives, the Federation DM delegate and construction officer visited the warehouses in Kolkata (West Bengal) and Arakonum (Tamil Nadu) to verify the disaster preparedness stock position and to oversee the progress in renovation of the warehouses. Computers have been provided to three regional warehouses for managing information on stocks and supplies.

Expected Result 4: Reduced vulnerability of community level is achieved and sustained in eight existing operational states and three new ones, through an established coordination and knowledge sharing network, with improved communication between district, state branches and national headquarters

Disaster preparedness capacity building (DPCB) workshops, planned in programme states during the reporting period, were postponed due lack of human resources causing to a delay in IRCS national headquarters releasing working advances to the state branches. A DM conference is planned in the second half of 2006, to develop contingency plans for four state branches and to conduct DPCB workshops in three states.

Though delayed, the procurement of IT and communication equipment for state disaster emergency centres (control rooms) in seven branches is now underway and is expected to be completed within this year. It is proposed to raise the issue of a warehouse maintenance fund with the IRCS management.

A mechanism to monitor floods and other seasonal disasters has been established through the establishment of a disaster management centre at IRCS national headquarters. Communication channels between the national headquarters and the state branches have been active and NDRT members are on high alert during the monsoon and cyclone seasons.

Expected Result 5: Community capacity in four targeted states is increased to address vulnerability to disasters

In the state branches of Gujarat and Orissa, awareness raising and community training on disaster preparedness are ongoing activities. The projects target the general public, with a special focus being placed on village disaster preparedness committee members. The training includes basic first aid, search and rescue, as well as hazard and vulnerability/capacity mapping. The proposed activities during the reporting period could not be taken up because of non-approval of the programmes by the IRCS national headquarters.

A humanitarian values workshop focusing on Sphere standards is planned in July 2006. This workshop is targeted at state level RC members and volunteers. In the second half of the year, it is planned to organize community based disaster preparedness (CBDP) training in six programme states, a DP course with integrated components of health, volunteer management and conflict preparedness with the ICRC in two states and volunteer training programmes in the states of Bihar and Assam. The development and dissemination of IEC materials is also planned.

The floods 2004 operation in Assam and Bihar contained a mitigation component (the construction of raised tube wells in the selected areas of the two states), aimed at reducing the community's vulnerability to flooding and

health related problems. This component was incorporated in the annual programme and completed during the reporting period. In Assam the second raised platform in Choravi Haju (Kamrup district) was completed. This 3,000 square feet platform has two tube wells, two toilets and two bathrooms, and can provide shelter to almost 2,500 people and their cattle. While tarpaulins have been provided, the construction of a permanent shelter is underway. The platform was recently used for conducting a CBDP training workshop and disaster simulation exercise, attended by 40 participants, the majority being village headmen, childcare (*anganwadi*) workers and teachers.

In Bihar, the construction of 30 tube wells brought the total of tube wells constructed to 70 across four districts (40 tube wells were completed in Samastipur and Muzaffarpur in 2005).

Expected Result 6: IRCS has six regional warehouse complexes in Tamil Nadu (Arakonam), Haryana (Bahadurgarh), West Bengal (Kolkata), Maharashtra (Vikroli), Gujarat (Viramgam) and Assam.

The IRCS took a major step towards ensuring accountability in the construction project by standardizing the process for selecting consultants and issuing tenders based on the World Bank procedures. The entire process of hiring consultants and contractors was carried out by the national society, with the Federation providing financial assistance and technical inputs. By the end of the project, the warehousing capacity of the national society would have increased. A separate logframe for this project is created to provide better clarity in terms of activities.

[<click here for revised logframe>](#)

The construction project targets to:

- Renovate and retrofit IRCS central warehouse and allied buildings at Bahadurgarh.
- Renovate, retrofit and refurbish IRCS regional warehouses and allied buildings like staff quarters, office building toilet block in Arakonam and Kolkata.
- Renovate and retrofit disaster management centre.
- Construct district level warehouses.

The following progress was made during the reporting period:

Bahadurgarh and Kolkata:

A committee was formed by the IRCS, with participation from the Federation, to shortlist consultants and discuss procedures to be followed after publishing an Expression of Interest (EoI) document in leading national newspapers. About 10 bids were received from different consultancy firms expressing an interest in the projects in both Bahadurgarh and Kolkata. The consultants were short listed by the committee and the tender documents were converted according to the World Bank format.

Given the current situation and limited human resources, even if the IRCS confirmed that they will support the process and provide necessary approvals for future plans and transfer of funds, it may still be a challenge to complete the planned activities within this year. It is planned that the tender documents will be sent to the short listed consultants for technical and financial proposals at the beginning of June. Taking into account the procedures involved, it is estimated that the consultant will be finalized by end September.

Arakonam:

During the reporting period, the IRCS secretary general decided to publish a fresh EoI for hiring consultants and the previously short-listed consultants were invited once again at the beginning of June. The EoI document, for procurement of consultancy services, will be published in newspapers in beginning June. Due to a number of procedures, the consultant will probably be finalized only by the end of September.

Disaster Management Centre:

The professor and head of Department of Earthquake Engineering at I.I.T Roorkee, provided some inputs on retrofitting of the disaster management centre (DMC) building at IRCS national headquarters. In a meeting with the secretary general, it was decided to arrange an interaction with the professor for further guidance on the project. Another meeting will be held with the professor in beginning June, regarding renovation work of the DMC building. The EoI document for procurement of consultancy services will be published in newspapers in June.

District-level Warehouse:

The secretary general decided that the Gujarat state branch will immediately start looking for a suitable location to build a new district warehouse. It is proposed that a location for building a new warehouse will be finalized by mid June. The EoI document for procurement of consultancy services will also be published in the same month.

Impact

The concept of connecting national disaster response teams with state level teams has helped in speeding up response at the local level, by mobilizing local human resources who have been trained using the same methodologies for assessment and disaster response as the NDRT methods. This is in keeping with the learning from the tsunami and flood operations in 2005, which had shown the importance of developing disaster response capacity at the state and district level.

Disaster monitoring and communication between the IRCS national headquarters and its state branches has improved significantly, which was evident during the regional DM meeting organized by the South Asia regional delegation. The coordination between the DM teams of the regional delegation, country delegation and the IRCS national headquarters, along with the neighbouring national societies of Bangladesh and Nepal, have also improved significantly. There has been a regular demand, from IRCS, for technical support from the regional and country delegations for training programmes at national and state levels.

The DM programme partially but effectively achieved its planned objectives, despite constraints and delays in transfer of funds to the branches due to delayed decisions at the national headquarters.

Constraints

Like last year, the human resource issues at IRCS national headquarters remains a major constraint. The post of disaster preparedness supervisor is still vacant. The DM focal point, who is new and in the process of understanding the organizational procedures and programme activities, has to handle the Federation supported DM programme, as well as various other DM related projects of the partner national societies, private companies and NGOs. Similarly at the state level, the DM coordinators in Gujarat and Assam are new and will take time to understand the programme and procedures. As a result of these factors, the national headquarters and the programme state branches have been able to carry out only a few of the activities planned for the reporting period and have not achieved all the required results expected. The Federation has taken up these constraints with the IRCS leadership and hopefully they will be addressed in the next half of 2006.

The delay by national headquarters in releasing money to the state branches also led to unnecessary delay in programme implementation and in the attainment of programme objectives. It is hoped that a joint initiative of the Federation and national headquarters will address this problem.

During the reporting period, the planned construction activities were substantially delayed due to high turnover among senior and key IRCS staff. Consequently, delays occurred in the programming activities such as hiring of consultants. The Federation regularly liaised with the IRCS, at all levels, to expedite the process of selection of a consultant and contractors to start the construction work. Because of these delays, the construction timeframe will have to be extended from end of 2006 to end of 2007. This resulted in the need to increase the delegation's implementation and coordination budget to support the extended overhead costs.

Organizational Development

Overview

With a full time secretary general in place, the IRCS is recovering from the setbacks it suffered due to a gap in human resources, which was created by the departure of key personnel at the IRCS headquarters in 2005. A number of experienced personnel have been recruited in different positions, including a Deputy Secretary at the senior management level. This has led to a significant improvement in the relationship between the national headquarters and its branches. However, there are still several positions in the national society that still need to be filled to enable more development plans to be implemented in a better way. These positions have been advertised and are expected to be filled up by the middle of the year. Interviews for some key positions have already been conducted.

During this period, the national headquarters has also been making efforts to win back the confidence of its branches. Meetings and discussions, regarding the ongoing programmes, were held with branch representatives. One of the major outcomes of these meetings was recognition of the need to focus on branches with high degree of vulnerability but having limited capacity to take up programmes.

A continuing challenge for the national society has been to facilitate the smooth transfer of working advances from the national headquarters to the state branches and to ensure subsequent timely reports from the field. The possibility of setting up a finance project cell at the IRCS national headquarters, to manage project accounts, is being discussed again.

The 8 May Red Cross Day was celebrated by organizing a seminar on the theme of volunteering, which was a global theme of the RC movement this year. Besides representatives from the regional delegation, ICRC and partner national societies, the seminar was also attended by senior representatives from the government who spoke about volunteering in India.

Some activities within the programme budget have been reallocated in order to accommodate some of the emerging priorities. One vehicle was seconded to the national headquarters, through the organizational development (OD) programme, as part of the support to the IRCS national headquarters in view of IRCS scaling up activities under tsunami and avian influenza programmes.

The IRCS has now assigned a focal point for its OD programme. Currently, this assignment is in addition to other responsibilities the counterpart has within the national society.

Overall Goal: IRCS has the capacity to provide effective services to reduce vulnerability, by achieving the characteristics of a well-functioning national society.

Programme Objective: IRCS's capacity to mobilize, organize and manage local resources, and to advocate on behalf of the vulnerable, is strengthened at all levels.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: The capacity of the national headquarters and state branches to provide development support to the district branches has increased

Proposals were received from the Assam and Tamil Nadu state branches to conduct branch development planning exercises. Draft branch development plans were submitted by the state branches of Gujarat, Orissa and Bihar, following similar exercises conducted last year. The state branches of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal have very limited capacity, though they are located in disaster prone states. Both these branches are being assisted by the Federation delegation in developing a branch development plan. The outcome of these initiatives will contribute to the development of the IRCS national branch development policy.

The Gujarat state branch development plan, however, received a setback with the decision of the state branch development officer to leave the RC. The national headquarters has prioritized assisting the state branch in finding a suitable replacement.

Expected Result 2: IRCS integrity has been strengthened by revising the constitution, improving organizational structure, rules, policies and procedures in accordance with the needs of the organization

After the new management took office in December 2005, the IRCS initiated a process of branch consultations, held through three separate meetings according to different categories 1) the 10 states receiving support from the Federation, 2) the seven northeastern state branches and 3) the 12 other states which were not receiving any support from the Federation. The main objective of these consultations was to review the status of the ongoing programmes, identify priority areas, discuss statutory issues and invite programme proposals from the branches.

Several briefing sessions on IRCS organizational development plans were also held with the IRCS senior management. This included a session, together with the Asia Pacific/regional delegation OD team, in which the status of the review of the IRCS constitution, its branch rules and overall human resource policies were discussed. These meetings have helped in better clarifying the IRCS goals in organizational development. A crucial outcome of these sessions is the focus on vulnerable states with very limited branch capacity, other than the selected eight disaster-prone states.

Expected Result 3: IRCS has strengthened capacities for effective financial and human resource management

The post of the IRCS finance director has been vacant since the beginning of the year. The post was advertised, interviews conducted and the selected candidate is awaiting the approval of the IRCS chairman.

During this period, a major positive step was to streamline the IRCS financial management procedures. A finance working group has been formed to meet regularly on finance development issues, comprising of finance personnel from the IRCS, the Federation country and regional delegations, the ICRC and the partner national societies. The meetings, coordinated by the Federation's regional finance unit, initially aim to facilitate a more efficient transfer and reporting of working advances. Finance trainings are planned in the coming months and will be linked to the outcome of the finance working group meetings.

IRCS expressed its intentions to make fully operational the Navision ERP software, which currently is being only partially used by the IRCS finance department.

Expected Result 4: IRCS capacity for effective information and communication at the branch level and at national headquarters is strengthened

The Federation has been working closely with IRCS on information and communication development. The IRCS website was reviewed, redesigned and updated during the reporting period. The new website is still not operational as some information remains to be completed. In order to regularly update the website and facilitate effective exchange of communication, IRCS has identified the need for a qualified information officer.

World Red Cross day was celebrated with the theme "our strength, our future, Red Cross volunteers" on 8 May at the IRCS national headquarters, by conducting a seminar attended by IRCS staff and representatives from the Federation, ICRC, partner national societies and the government.

An information documentary on "good practices in Indian Red Cross" is planned to be developed later this year. The other plan is to develop information materials on membership to raise the number of members and more financial resources through IRCS branch network.

Expected Result 5: IRCS has improved its capacity for effective volunteer and youth/junior RC management system, including relief and emergency volunteers

Following the branch development planning exercise conducted in September 2005, Orissa state branch developed a proposal for strengthening volunteers and volunteer network in the state. The proposal is being considered by the national headquarters.

Volunteer management, as a concept, was introduced through comprehensive sessions held during the national level trainings such as those on public health in emergencies (PHIE) and NDRT. Issues related to management of relief and emergency volunteers and development of a volunteer management system for strengthening the IRCS PHIE and NDRT teams were addressed. Volunteer information materials on avian influenza were also partially supported through the OD programme.

IRCS developed a slogan 'our strength, our future volunteers' to celebrate the World Red Cross day. A concept note on volunteering and a draft national volunteer policy and development strategy was prepared by the headquarters and shared with all branches prior to the Red Cross Day.

Expected Result 6: IRCS staff, members and volunteers have better understanding of the Movement's principles and values

In the 2006-2007 appeal, the humanitarian values programme was integrated with the OD programme. However, for clarity, this expected result is reported on separately below, under the Humanitarian Values section.

Impact

After nearly a year of transition and departure of several key and experienced officers, IRCS activities began to gain momentum during this period. Some new officers were recruited and a second phase of recruitments was planned, as the IRCS leadership recognized the need to further strengthen human resources at national headquarters.

Consultation with branches and proposing to streamline the communication and reporting procedures have helped the headquarters to provide the branches with better support. The states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and the northeastern states have been identified to be in need of branch development support, and new programmes will be starting there in the coming months.

The redesigning of the IRCS website presents a better image of the organization and provides more information. The need for greater visibility for the IRCS activities to mobilize resources and support during emergencies is being emphasized.

Volunteer development and management has been getting increased recognition within the IRCS, both at the branch and national levels. Proposals submitted from branches for volunteer development trainings, the theme of volunteering on Red Cross day, and emphasis during workshops and trainings, showed the focus of IRCS on developing long-term committed volunteers. After these events, NDRT volunteers, national headquarter participants and branch representatives demonstrated a better understanding of their rights and responsibilities, what to expect from the branches and how a volunteer can support the branches in managing volunteers better. There is an increased awareness on the need to recognize the work of IRCS volunteers and develop strategies to mobilize, train and develop volunteers who want to continue working with the Red Cross. It has been agreed that at least four volunteer management training of trainers workshops will be supported in selected states before the end of 2006. Work has also been initiated to make available information on membership, with the objective to diversify the IRCS membership base and to raise more funds.

Constraints

Implementation of activities did not take place as scheduled, as the new management required time to understand the organizational challenges within the IRCS and to support them. As a result, OD support to branches was limited. Several discussions with the senior management of the national society have helped in reaching a better understanding of the subject, as have visits from partner national societies, the Asia Pacific OD coordinator, and the regional OD delegate.

Human resource challenges at the national headquarters have only been addressed partially. Several more positions are to be filled, in order for headquarters to take up various developmental programmes in a better way.

The organizational development programme for 2006 is well covered through Swedish Red Cross and Japanese Red Cross (JRCS) funding. However, extension for use of JRCS funds beyond 2006 will need to be negotiated

with the donor, based on progress made in the previous plan and the changed context brought but the new management within the IRCS.

Humanitarian Values

The promotion of humanitarian values is integrated in the organizational development as expected result 6 of the organizational development programme)

Expected Result 6: IRCS staff, members and volunteers have better understanding of the Movement's principles and values

A two-day induction course for 10 newly recruited staff of the national society, along with participants of the country delegation, regional delegation and partner national societies was conducted in February 2006. The course focused on the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, history, Fundamental Principles, Code of Conduct, humanitarian values and other related subjects. Two similar courses had been planned but only one could be conducted. Further induction courses, for the national society, are planned this year.



A group exercise during the induction course.

A national workshop, focusing on Sphere standards and their relation with the movement's principles and values, is planned for July 2006. The agenda for this has been finalized after several discussions with the IRCS counterparts.

The IRCS is revising its corporate brochure, an important dissemination tool for the community and programme stakeholders. The content includes IRCS mission, brief history, current activities and fundamental principles. The Federation has made extensive input into the revision, now waiting finalization by the national society to be ready by end of June.

Impact

The induction course was organized at a good time, when a lot of new staff was recruited into the Red Cross and needed an orientation on the Movement and its principles. The course attained its objective in raising the participants' level of awareness and overall understanding of the Movement and its principles. These induction courses act as a good coordination forum that encouraged active facilitation from ICRC, the regional delegation and partner national societies.

The IRCS brochure is seen to be a good dissemination tool and would lead to a better understanding of the IRCS and its activities, mission, principles and values.

Constraints

A major constraint was that the proposed humanitarian values workshop, focusing on DP/DR activities, has not been prioritized by the national society, which led to considerable delays in the process of planning the workshop.

The newly recruited senior staff members of IRCS were not able to attend the induction course due to other priorities.

Implementation and Coordination

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

The IRCS continues to make progress in establishing itself as a leading collaborating agency in the humanitarian aid arena. IRCS and the Federation delegation have continued to lay the groundwork for the development of operational alliances. The IRCS leadership, with continued support from the Federation delegation, has recognized

the benefit of maintaining good relations with multilateral and bilateral agencies and with government institutions such as the national disaster management authority and the national institute of disaster management. These agencies act as a technical knowledge-sharing base for various forums and initiatives.

Partnership with the health ministry has included providing technical guidance and data on avian influenza, and their support was demonstrated by the strong government presence at the World Red Cross Day celebrations and the NDRT opening ceremony.

The World Health Organization is a leading partner in the promotion of safe blood and polio eradication. The Federation has been liaising with the DFID for over six years, on behalf of the national society. DFID has invested heavily in the national society to improve its disaster preparedness and response system. The European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has recognized IRCS as a potential partner and the national society, along with the country delegation, has been sharing information with them on a regular basis.

The Federation has been liaising with ICRC and various partner national societies to ensure progress in a coordinated and consistent manner, to ensure transparency and avoid duplication. Below is a table reflecting the activities undertaken bilaterally by Red Cross Red Crescent partners in India:

RC Partners	Summary of activities during the reporting period *
ICRC	Invited to participate in the HIV/AIDS consortium meeting Support to Jammu and Kashmir state branch Dissemination seminars and tracing Joint cooperation programmes of the ICRC/IRCS New projects: Rehabilitation project at Karbi Anlong (Assam) Post-tsunami tracing projects Assistance to vulnerable communities in Maharashtra Relief assistance to the earthquake survivors in Kashmir
British Red Cross	Supported IRCS in preparing an HIV/AIDS project proposal to be submitted to BRCS. Facilitated visit of BRCS representatives for pre-assessment of HIV/AIDS project.
Canadian Red Cross	Oriented IRCS Karnataka state HIV/AIDS coordinator in the induction programme for HIV/AIDS state coordinators.
British, Canadian, Danish, Spanish, Swedish RC	Jointly coordinated an HIV/AIDS meeting.
American, Canadian, Spanish RC	Regular update on avian influenza status
German RC	Donation of CHF 160,000 for the emergency response units

International representation and advocacy

Representation and advocacy activities were mainly focused on annual programming especially the HIV/AIDS consortium, disaster mitigation, avian influenza and volunteer development.

Federation governance support

As a follow up to the participation of the IRCS secretary general in the Federation General Assembly in 2005, the IRCS participated in the membership consultation process initiated by the Secretariat in Geneva. The feedback was forwarded to the Federation's secretary general facilitated by the India delegation. The IRCS secretary general and the director of dissemination are scheduled to attend the General Assembly in 2006.

Management of the delegation

The India delegation provided strategic support to the IRCS to help implement the planned annual programmes. Presently, the delegation has two delegates (the head of delegation and the tsunami recovery coordinator) and 29 national staff, including drivers and other support staff.

The delegation has gone through a transitional phase, with the departure of the acting head of delegation (HoD). The DM delegate took up the additional responsibility of being acting HoD and made an effort to institutionalize a system of 'management by objectives' in the delegation. The local staff members have been supported and motivated to act as focal points for the country delegation in the absence of an acting HoD, a positive step towards sustainability and continuity in the management of the delegation.

[Interim financial report below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve 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 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 quality and accountable assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAIN001 - INDIA

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/5
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAAIN001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	3'719'708	3'929'598		1'163'782	0	8'813'087
B. Opening Balance	1'101'606	3'863'044		1'151'620	-72'491	6'043'778
Income						
Cash contributions						
British Red Cross		299'498				299'498
Irish Red Cross Society	18'259					18'259
C1. Cash contributions	18'259	299'498				317'756
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
British Red Cross		-2'975				-2'975
Finnish Red Cross		-475				-475
OPEC Fund For International C		-26'840				-26'840
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		-30'290				-30'290
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
British Red Cross	0					0
Canadian Red Cross Society		234'882				234'882
Other	0					0
Swedish Red Cross	0					0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)	0	234'882				234'882
Inkind Personnel						
Swedish Red Cross					11'160	11'160
C5. Inkind Personnel					11'160	11'160
Other Income						
Miscellaneous Income					6'487	6'487
C6. Other Income					6'487	6'487
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	18'259	504'089		0	17'647	539'995
D. Total Funding = B + C	1'119'864	4'367'133		1'151'620	-54'844	6'583'773

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	1'101'606	3'863'044		1'151'620	-72'491	6'043'778
C. Income	18'259	504'089		0	17'647	539'995
E. Expenditure	-164'717	-683'396		-68'389	-102'578	-1'019'080
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	955'147	3'683'737		1'083'231	-157'422	5'564'694

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAIN001 - INDIA

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/5
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAAIN001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		3'719'708	3'929'598		1'163'782	0	8'813'087	
Supplies								
Construction	818'489		61'972				61'972	756'517
Clothing & textiles		8	11'607				11'615	-11'615
Food	246'261	739					739	245'521
Seeds,Plants		14					14	-14
Water & Sanitation	110'000	70	46'477				46'547	63'453
Medical & First Aid	88'348							88'348
Teaching Materials	88'435							88'435
Utensils & Tools	1'739	23	2				25	1'714
Other Supplies & Services	685'652	128	345'827				345'955	339'697
Total Supplies	2'038'924	983	465'885				466'868	1'572'056
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings			10'390				10'390	-10'390
Vehicles	18'500							18'500
Computers & Telecom	15'847		1'866		194		2'061	13'786
Office/Household Furniture & Ec	33'024							33'024
Total Land, vehicles & equipme	67'371		12'256		194		12'450	54'921
Transport & Storage								
Storage	161'080		7'005				7'005	154'075
Transport & Vehicle Costs	165'082	6'895	4'145		1'317	7'549	19'905	145'177
Total Transport & Storage	326'162	6'895	11'150		1'317	7'549	26'910	299'252
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	443'300		37'313			5'945	43'258	400'042
Delegate Benefits	273'000	9'049	30'959		4'510	2'829	47'346	225'654
National Staff	612'986	22'986	41'772		20'096	44'254	129'109	483'877
National Society Staff	1'190'345	30'110	12'618		16'808		59'536	1'130'809
Consultants	99'035	286	7'593		1'732		9'612	89'423
Total Personnel Expenditures	2'618'666	62'432	130'255		43'147	53'028	288'861	2'329'805
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1'454'114	11'173	26'956		11'651	510	50'290	1'403'824
Total Workshops & Training	1'454'114	11'173	26'956		11'651	510	50'290	1'403'824
General Expenditure								
Travel	398'492	9'541	15'401		3'504	1'739	30'185	368'307
Information & Public Relation	739'437	17'964	2'886		25'110	257	46'217	693'220
Office Costs	366'286	8'865	6'867		59	40'663	56'455	309'831
Communications	168'363	2'119	4'434		748	6'020	13'321	155'042
Professional Fees	58'510					9'122	9'122	49'388
Financial Charges	2'161					-2'492	-2'492	4'653
Other General Expenses	1'750	9'665	9'818		4'796	-22'260	2'020	-270
Total General Expenditure	1'734'999	48'154	39'407		34'218	33'049	154'828	1'580'172
Depreciation								
Depreciation						2'034	2'034	-2'034
Total Depreciation						2'034	2'034	-2'034
Program Support								
Program Support	572'851	10'707	44'421		4'445	6'620	66'193	506'658
Total Program Support	572'851	10'707	44'421		4'445	6'620	66'193	506'658
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		24'375	-46'935		-26'583	-212	-49'355	49'355
Total Operational Provisions		24'375	-46'935		-26'583	-212	-49'355	49'355
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	8'813'087	164'717	683'396		68'389	102'578	1'019'080	7'794'007
VARIANCE (C - D)		3'554'990	3'246'202		1'095'393	-102'578	7'794'007	