

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Reducing Discrimination and Changing Behaviour

Appeal No: MAA00005

08/08/2008

This report covers the period of 01/01/08 to 30/06/08.



Training of taxi drivers in El Salvador on HIV anti-stigma and prevention. **International Federation**

In brief

Programme purpose: The Principles and Values (P&V) department seeks to promote (i) understanding of principles and values, (ii) their mainstreaming in all operational activities, (iii) P&V capacity building of National Societies, with the ultimate aim of contributing to behavioural change and a global society based on respect for human dignity and diversity, solidarity, equity, peace and friendship between all peoples.

Programme summary: The programme on reducing discrimination and changing behaviour aims to champion community values which facilitate attitudes and behavioural change to fight discrimination and promote respect for diversity. The programme originates from, and has remained in line with, the International Federation's past work in reducing discrimination and violence in the community. The only major change to the programme and its budget in 2007 is the addition of a new portfolio on migration.

Financial situation: Total budget CHF 2,089,344 (USD 1,989,851 or EUR 1,284,170) out of which 21 per cent covered.. Expenditure overall was 1 per cent. While the general context of the programme remains unchanged, the organization's implementation capacity has increased significantly since January 2008. This will result in higher spending levels during the second half of the year, relative to those recorded to date.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

Our partners: The International Federation, together with the National Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), works in coordination with United Nations (UN) agencies,

Context

In an environment characterized by increased tensions, conflicts and violence, mutual respect and understanding is essential to allow the International Federation fulfil its mandate to alleviate human suffering and help vulnerable people. In this respect, the Principles and Values department works in coordination with National Societies, governance and the secretariat towards reducing discrimination and changing behaviour.

The general context of the programme remains unchanged, with the exception of the inclusion of the migration portfolio. In 2007, a decision was taken to transfer the migration portfolio to the Principles and Values department due to, among others, migrants' limited access to services and increased xenophobia towards foreigners. Migration was also high on the agenda of the statutory meetings in November 2007. In the beginning of 2008, the Principles and Values department helped translate the statutory decisions on migration into practice, supporting the creation of an operational structure, advocating on its future work, and planning for its establishment. Operational activities however, were not initiated in the beginning of 2008, accounting for some of the underspending on the budget. Instead, these activities were put on hold until the hiring of a Special Envoy for the Secretary General on Migration.

While the general context of the programme remains unchanged, the organization's implementation capacity has increased significantly since January 2008. This will result in higher spending levels during the second half of the year, relative to those recorded to date. The new head of the Principles and Values department, was hired in January 2008, and has set up the necessary human resource capacity, support structures, and strategic partnerships so that principles and values and gender work can move efficiently forward during the next half of the year.

Progress towards objectives

Objective 1. Promoting Red Cross/Red Crescent fundamental principles and humanitarian values, in particular respect for diversity, non-discrimination and non-violence in the community.

Achievements

1.1. Enhanced understanding, ownership, visibility, and sharing of best practices in the area of fundamental principles and humanitarian values.

- An updated DVD-ROM **From Principles to Action** (version 2008) was produced in February, integrating the decisions and background documents of all statutory meetings in 2007. Three hundred and fifty copies have been distributed to date.
- Two **case studies**, on Violence Against Women in Argentina and on an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign in El Salvador, were finalized and also made available online on YouTube.
- A video on "**discrimination and disasters**" covering the 2007 Tabasco floods in Mexico was produced.
- **Two quarterly e-newsletters** (March and June) were sent to all National Societies and International Federation staff, reaching 1,500 readers. The e-newsletters seek to enhance

- The P&V section on **FedNet** was updated and improved.

1.2. Operationalized and mainstreamed P&V in International Federation and National Societies' activities in disaster management, health and migration.

- Work has been carried out to develop a **checklist on “Mainstreaming P&V in disaster management operations”**, and a first draft is available. A senior officer will join the department at the end of August 2008 with the main responsibility to help further integrate P&V into operational programming.
- A **programme guidance note** for Principles and Values was developed as part of the 2009-2010 planning guidelines.
- A **progress report on diversity** was submitted to the governing board in May 2008.
- Ongoing **technical support** was provided to zones and field delegations, for instance in South Africa in light of xenophobic violence. P&V presentations and feedback were provided in two zonal planning meetings, respectively for Southern Africa and Asia Pacific.
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1.3. Completed training and capacity building with a view to “being the living example”.

- The P&V department, in collaboration with the Youth section of the organizational development (OD) department, has started a project to develop **skills-based training for youth**, which promotes youth as agents of behavioural change to address situations of discrimination, violence and cultural confrontation. The project received active support from the International Federation's **Youth Commission**, which incorporated it into its 2008-2009 action plan. A concept paper was developed and a network of 15 National Societies engaged in P&V training were set up, with a view to organizing a first interactive production meeting in September. The training is to be finalized for delivery at the 2009 youth camp being organized in Solferino, Italy.
- The P&V department provided technical support during the second meeting of the focal points for the **joint EU/National Societies campaign to promote respect for diversity and non-discrimination** (June). The P&V department led a discussion on the fundamental principles' link to diversity. The EU National Societies, together with the Norwegian Red Cross Society, committed to contributing to the skills-based training for youth project by organizing a workshop on respect for diversity in the Solferino 2009 youth camp.
- As part of the ongoing work to develop a self-reflection and **self-training** module on non-discrimination, the department finalized a chapter on non-discrimination and disability.

1.4. Enhanced P&V international representation and advocacy

- In the first semester of 2008, nine statements on P&V/gender were delivered to international forums, comprising the United Nations Human Rights Council, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the UN General Assembly, and the Commission on the Status of Women. All are available on: http://www.ifrc.org/news/speeches.asp?navid=06_03.

Objective 2. Integrating a gender perspective into programming and contributing to gender equality.

Achievements

- 2.1. **Supported the implementation of the gender policy and enhanced knowledge sharing.**
 - A study commissioned in 2007 on the implementation of the 1999 gender policy was finalized in early 2008.
 - A briefing paper on *The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' Action on gender* was produced and shared with directors, e-news readers and the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway (NORAD)
 - Two quarterly e-newsletter provided updates on recent activities and tools of Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies in the field of gender.
- 2.2. **Integrated a gender perspective into programming and development of specific programmes to reduce gender inequalities.**
 - In view of understaffing of the department, work on this strategic direction is to start only in the second semester of 2008, when the senior gender officer joins the department (October 2008).

Objective 3. Supporting migration policy and programmes

- 3.1. **Provided an adequate follow-up to the statutory decisions 2007, including the support of the development of a new migration policy.**
 - As requested by the last General Assembly held in 2007, a **reference group** for the development of a new migration policy was established. Its terms of reference were adopted by the governing board in May.
 - All preparatory work to set up the **migration unit** in the secretariat was finalized by April 2008.
 - A new Special Representative on migration was recruited in June 2008.
- 3.2. **Increased knowledge sharing, networking, advocacy, and representation in the field of migration.**
 - Updates of National Societies and Federation activities on migration were covered by the March and June editions of the **P&V e-newsletter** (prior to the transfer of the migration portfolio out of the P&V department and to the new Special Representative on Migration).
 - **“Vulnerabilities and capacities related to migratory movements”**: This forum on migration was organized by the Spanish Red Cross Society, in collaboration with the International Federation **zone office in the Americas**, in Guatemala (March).
 - The International Federation and the ICRC organized the **annual meeting for Participating National Societies** on 16 to 18 June in Geneva. Migration figured high on the agenda. The Moroccan Red Crescent and Spanish Red Cross Societies gave a presentation, respectively on different challenges for National Societies in a country of origin, transit and destination; and the trail of a migrant from Africa to Spain and return.
 - **Five statements on migration** were delivered internationally, including the Council of

- The International Federation took part in **major meetings on migration**, including the NGO Consultation of the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the International Dialogue on Migration Workshop, and a meeting organized by the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) to support the Council of Europe's work on traumatized victims of trafficking.

With the arrival of the Special Representative and the establishment of the migration unit, work on migration is expected to increase and expand in the second half of 2008.

Working in partnership

The P&V department is developing a strong network of National Societies committed to P&V and gender. It has been sharing materials for feedback and input with an increasing number of National Societies, whose support and advice has been greatly appreciated.

Specific collaboration was set up with the Argentina Red Cross Society (to celebrate International Women's Day), the French Red Cross Society (participation in its Journées Civiq), the Italian Red Cross Society (participation in a workshop on psycho-social support and presentation on "promoting a culture of tolerance"), and the Belgian Red Cross Society (French and Flemish sections; participation in contact persons meetings from the European Union)

Within the Secretariat, P&V has also been the focus of increasing inter-departmental team work, in particular with the OD department (youth section), health department (HIV/AIDS, Community Based First Aid), international relations team, communications department and the operations and coordination team.

Contributing to longer-term impact

This appeal has improved awareness and implementation of Global Agenda Goal 4. Changing attitudes and behaviour is a long-term process that can only be measured over a period of three to five years. Indicators to measure progress made on the Global Agenda Goal 4 are expected to be developed in 2007.

Looking ahead

The following activities will be carried out in the second half of 2008:

- Two **P&V and gender e-newsletters**, highlighting National Society and Federation secretariat activities and materials will be produced. For previous numbers, see: <https://fednet.ifrc.org/sw11422.asp>
- The **P&V and gender database**, containing information on material, tools and activities of National Societies, will be piloted on Fednet.
- Work on **gender programming** is set to begin in October 2008, including integrating gender into existing programming, and developing programmes to fight gender inequality. Gender workshops will be organized with support from the P&V department, such as the gender forum in Argentina (Nov. 2008) and the gender meeting in Asia Pacific (Dec 2008). Gender networks will also be developed in two zones by the end of 2008.

- **The development of a Federation strategy on addressing the social culture of violence will be initiated, as requested by the 30th International Conference.** With specific support of the Canadian and South African Red Cross Societies, a meeting will take place in Geneva in November 2008, bringing together National Societies that have experience conducting activities to address the social culture of violence. At the meeting, National Societies will help map current Federation activities and brainstorm on a strategy going forward. A network of National Societies working on violence will also be set up
- The development of a **Federation policy for Global Agenda Goal 4** will be initiated. An action plan will be proposed as to how to develop a policy, and tools for monitoring and implementing the policy in practice. Consultations will occur during meetings scheduled in the second half of 2008.
- **The “skills-based training module”** (see 1.3 above) will continue being developed, for pilot testing in the **Solferino** youth camp in June 2009. Before the end of the year, a network of youth National Society leaders will be set up.
- The P&V department will also provide support to zones organizing P&V workshops for National Societies, in the Middle East, Africa and the Americas.

How we work	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. • Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. • Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. • Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
Contact information	
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