

# Programme Update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Central America and Mexico

Appeal No. MAA43001

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This report covers the period 01/01/2008 to 30/06/2008.



National Societies participants in the ToT workshop for the use of Guide to elaborate Response and Contingency Plans. **International Federation**

## In brief

### Programme purpose:

During the first semester of 2008, the aim of the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico is to support scaling up the efforts of National Societies in the region to develop and execute programmes in an efficient and integrated way. And so, helping to create resilient communities and a culture of prevention, while spreading the fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the Movement.

### Programme summary:

The Regional Health and Care programme is implementing successful and valuable initiatives to create a culture of prevention, especially regarding HIV and AIDS infection. Now more than ever the support to National Societies is necessary: four National Societies will be launched as new members of the Global Alliance on HIV. The programme is also helping National Societies to become stronger in the area of Non-Remunerated Voluntary Blood Donation. Thus, the regional programme is intensifying its contribution to targeted groups through capacity-building, social mobilization, strategic alliances and awareness-raising initiatives.

Similarly, the Disaster Risk Reduction Programme focused its efforts and actions on building resilience at the community level through tools, methodologies and training sessions. Also, efforts were focused on strengthening National Societies in the region to respond to the most pressing necessities with the cooperation of the Centres of Reference in El Salvador and Costa Rica.

The Humanitarian Principles and Values programme, during the first six months of 2008 placed an emphasis on the areas of migration, non-discrimination and anti-stigma for people living with HIV, as well as the promotion of the Red Cross humanitarian principles and values and gender policies at the community and National Society level.

During the period at hand, the regional Organizational Development programme placed an emphasis on assisting National Societies to develop Strategic Plans in line with the International Federation Policies, the XVIII Inter-American Plan and the Guayaquil Commitment. It has also worked extensively in promoting peer to peer cooperation between regional National Societies. Moreover, the department jointly with the International Committee of the Red Cross coordinated follow up actions with the provisional Intervention Committee on the Nicaraguan National Society intervention. All actions focused on improving National Societies management and volunteer systems at headquarters and branch level.

**Financial situation:** The total 2008 budget is CHF 2,481,547 (USD 2,190,122 or EUR 1,627,953), of which 82 per cent covered. Expenditure overall was 32 per cent.

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

**No. of people we help:** The Regional Representation Office works on building the capacities of National Societies in the region. Hence, direct beneficiaries of the Regional Representation's programmes are the National Societies themselves including their personnel at headquarters and branch level, governance bodies and volunteers. In effect, the Regional Representation's indirect beneficiaries belong to the civil society since it is through the strengthening of National Societies' capacities and the technical support offered, that methodologies, initiatives and activities as a whole can be carried out and executed accordingly.

**Our partners:** The work of the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico receives support from several Red Cross and non-Red Cross partners through operational alliances and joint collaborations. Partners assisted programme areas by providing technical or/and financial support. Partners include International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Finnish, German, Italian, Netherlands, Norwegian and Spanish Red Cross. Additionally, the Regional Representation continues to reinforce its relationships with other organizations such as Plan International, ProVention Consortium, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO), International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), Organization of American States (OAS) and ECHO.

## Context

In recent years, in the Central America region the economy has grown favourably after a long period of stagnation. Poverty has been reduced in some countries while it has increased in others. The region continues to be characterized by extreme inequality as economic growth has not translated into adequate distribution of wealth. Major differences can be seen between areas of wealthy populations, and vast zones of poverty and low productivity. Furthermore, these differences have a stronger effect on vulnerable social groups such as indigenous populations, afro-descendants, women and other marginalized groups. The persistent socio-economic trends in the region are contributing to the increase in social violence. The dimensions of violence include domestic violence, gender-based violence, social unrest and youth violence and can be felt across all sectors of society.

Also, socio-economic conditions have fuelled the spread of HIV and AIDS in the region, with a devastating effect on productivity and human and economic development. Moreover, Central America and Mexico comprise a region prone to all types of natural hazards, which accounts for high vulnerability of populations. This reality presents a major challenge as regards disaster risk reduction and mitigation, and highlights the need to reinforce local capacity to cope with and

avoid disaster situations. In addition, the effects of climate change such as changes in rainfall patterns pose the risk of increased impact of floods and droughts for the region.

Thanks to the support of the International Federation, ICRC and Partner National Societies (PNS), the seven Red Cross National Societies of the region have a long history of responding to these challenges. The Red Cross actions in the region placed more emphasis in developing a culture of prevention and self-reliance at all levels and, importantly, also across all programmes and structures, particularly in high risk communities.

## Progress towards objectives

### Health and Care Programme

**Programme objective:** The seven National Societies in the region have increasingly adhered to the commitments to scale up efforts in the health and care programmatic area as set out in the Plan of Action of the XVIII Inter-American Conference; particularly with respect to the development of their health departments, and in the areas of HIV and AIDS, health in emergencies, community health, the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD), Psychosocial Support Programmes (PSP), and water and sanitation.

#### Achievements

The Regional Health and Care programme continues to scale up its efforts against HIV and AIDS as stated in the 2008-2009 Plan. The team in Geneva provided feedback for the Global Alliance on HIV proposal, modifications were incorporated and sent back for final approval. The proposal was ready to be launched during the XVII International AIDS Conference, Mexico



August 2008. As for the 2009 – 2010 Planning Process, it was necessary to prepare two separate work plan and budgets, one for National Societies who are part of Global Alliance on HIV and other for National Societies who are not.

Launching the Americas Global Alliance on HIV requires strong commitments from each National Society Governing Board in close collaboration with the Regional Representation office. Three steps are suggested: The first one is the Continental launch at Mexico 2008 AIDS Conference, the second one will take place in Panama with related UN agencies, and other NGOs and donors; finally at country level each National Society will prepare their launch with the support of a private marketing enterprise.

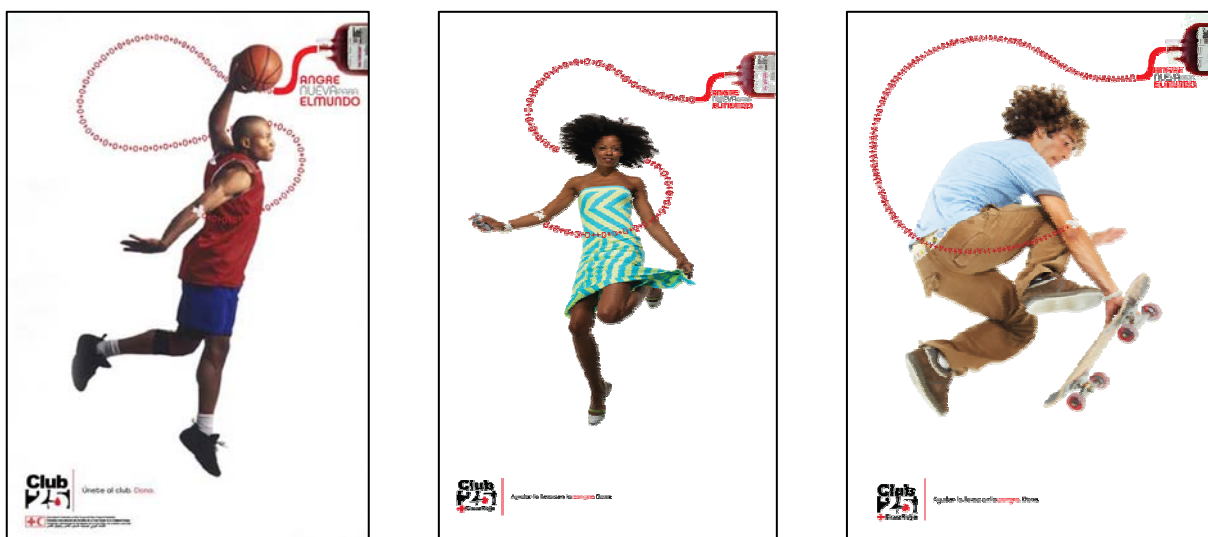
In preparation for the International AIDS Conference in Mexico, HIV prevention materials such as condom cases with the “Faces” campaign and “Come Closer” anti-stigma campaign were printed and are ready for distribution during the conference. Because of internal matters, Mexican Red Cross was not able to assume the responsibility of managing 2,000 volunteers for the Congress, although it informed all of its volunteers about this event for those who wish to independently volunteer; and it confirmed its interest in supporting the Conference, in coordination with the Mexican state government, to provide pre-hospital attention during the event and well as hosting National Societies’ participants in the Conference.

The Health programme continues to focus on the expansion of prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with HIV (PLWH). The Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support training package was translated into Spanish and



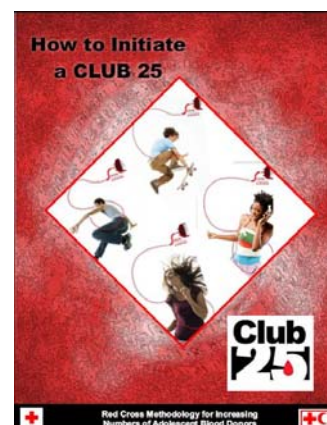
adapted to the Central American context. The Regional Representation office has the first module and brochure ready. The rest of the manuals are expected to be completed by the end of July and will be presented during the Conference in Mexico.

As for Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donation (VNRBD), the Central America and Mexico Regional Representation Office participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> Colloquium on VNRBD in Cairo, in January and presented on the progress of Club 25 in the Americas from 2006 to 2008. In addition, the Strategic Alliance with McCann Erickson and its development of the Club 25 marketing campaign was also explained.



Club 25 campaign posters: “New Blood for the World”, “Club 25: Join the Club. Donate.”

The regional programme continues to support National Societies in the implementation of Club 25 with the support of the Finnish Red Cross; this year the Honduran and Guatemalan Red Cross received seed fund, completing a total of four National Societies. The other two National Societies implementing Club 25 are Panama and El Salvador. The Regional Representation Office distributed promotional material to National Societies, and designed a Monitoring and Evaluation toolkit in addition to the manual “How to Initiate a Club 25”.



The Guatemalan Red Cross runs one blood bank located in Coatepeque. This branch showed great interest in having Club 25 as part of their blood donor promotion and they started the programme in 2006, after the 1<sup>st</sup> Continental Club 25 workshop held in Panama.

Since then, the promotion of Club 25 has been carried out in high schools and universities. From January to June 2008, the clubs have reached 704 students through presentations from members of the blood bank and Club 25 members. The objective of these presentations is to raise awareness on basic knowledge about blood, different types of groups and the way blood is used for health matters and to clarify myths and misperceptions regarding blood donation. After this activity, a total of 121 young people signed the agreement of Club 25 as new members. Recruitment of new blood donors was also carried out through blood donation campaigns at the Central Park; these campaigns have engaged 27 new members. Statistics shows that 69 per cent (of the recruited people) are men and 31 per cent are women. Currently, 17,6 per cent of the total blood units collected in Guatemala come from Club 25 members.

The Panamanian and Salvadorian Red Cross started Club 25 in 2007. The Red Cross Society of Panama signed a MoU with the Ministry of Health and is by National Law the organization in charge of blood donation promotion. Club 25 members set up a website [www.club25panama.es.tl](http://www.club25panama.es.tl) to promote the initiative. Sustainability of Club 25 in the country is supported by the Rotary Club, Lions Club and local enterprises. Similarly, Salvadorean Red Cross has partnerships with PAHO, Ministry of Education, and media centres to support Heroes 25 (as they call their club). This National Society also runs an important blood bank in the country.

Regarding the key area of Psychosocial Support Programme (PSP), the Health programme for Central America and Mexico is in the process of completing the validation of the Spanish version of the "Helping to Heal" tool kit and the adaptation of the graphics, images and pictures toolkit to the Latin American context and reality.

### **Constraints or Challenges:**

Concerning HIV and AIDS, the programme continued to define, together with the Mexican Red Cross, its role in the International AIDS Conference. A positive Mexican Red Cross involvement is extremely important for the region.

One of the main challenges for the rest of 2008, 2009 and 2010 is to ensure increased technical and management capacity in the Health programme, to fill gaps that currently exist. Also, in order to be able to implement the 2009-2010 Plan of Action, funds will have to be ensured. For 2008, no funds were budgeted for the community Health component. Finally, funds are actively being sought to cover the Club 25 MTV campaign.

## **Disaster Risk Reduction**

**Programme Objective:** Strengthened National Societies are working at the community, national and regional levels to reduce risk, making communities safer and more resilient to disasters. The strategy for Central American countries is based on an integrated approach for community disaster risk reduction. Efforts for Central America and Mexico focused on the areas of community based disaster prevention, preparedness and risk reduction; institutional preparedness for disaster risk reduction; disaster risk reduction coordination and advocacy; and disaster risk reduction coordination and advocacy.

### **Achievements**

During the first six months of the year, the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction programme has maintained an emphasis on working closely with National Societies in the region to create a prevention culture at community level, enhancing skills and systems to face disasters and reduce risks. The level of cooperation between the regional programme, National Societies and both Centres of Reference has increased through the development of disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities in this period.

In the key area of **community-based disaster and risk reduction**, the Regional Programme continued supporting the seven National Societies in the region in the development of activities. Based on the result of the Vulnerability Capacity Assessment the programme supported the identification and elaboration of 16 micro-projects in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Belize. Jointly with the Organization of American States (OAS), four national forums were carried out in order to present these micro-projects to local authorities and the private sector. This process was supported by the ProVention Consortium and the implementation of the micro-projects will also be supported by Finnish Red Cross funds.

Also, the programme, in order to address the current issue of food security, supported a training workshop on food security assessment held in Panama for countries affected by Hurricane Felix. This workshop was facilitated by experts from the Spanish Red Cross and the Secretariat in

Geneva. The Food Security Assessment Guidelines, produced in Geneva, were adapted to Spanish and shared with the workshop participants. Food security is a relevant topic and it is important for National Societies to be aware of its challenges and to have the skills and knowledge on how to address it.

Following the activities carried out during 2007, the regional programme continued to support youth activities on DRR, especially awareness-raising campaigns, and volunteer training. As an example, the Red Cross Society of Panama carried out a national Youth Camp to promote the DRR topic, and other National Societies have presented small youth projects to develop a prevention consciousness among peers.

The **Centre of Reference for Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction – CRREC** - continued to provide technical support on community risk reduction activities in Central American countries. Workshops on VCA methodology (Mexico and El Salvador), regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on micro-projects undertaken in Costa Rica and El Salvador, and application of the “Better Be Ready” series (Guatemalan Red Cross, Plan Guatemala), and Community Shelter Management in Costa Rica were carried out. The Centre is working with National Societies through internships, during which experts of National Societies are trained. Additionally, the Centre is developing software that will support the harmonization of the collection of information for community diagnosis.

During this period, the CRREC supported through ProVention funds finished translating the English version of the 14 modules from the “Better Be Ready” series<sup>1</sup> and printed 1,000 copies of the first four modules to be shared with National Societies in the Caribbean and the Asia-Pacific region. The ‘Community Disaster Risk Reduction Teams’ module was printed in Spanish and adaptation of the interactive CD containing the first four modules to English was completed.

The CRREC carried out an internship to validate the lessons plans that include methodology and activities for the “Better Be Ready” series with participation of the Costa Rican, Panamanian and Salvadorean Red Cross. In February a coordination meeting with the Regional Representation for the Caribbean took place to understand the work of the Centre. Later, an internship with Caribbean National Societies was carried out (Jamaica and Saint Lucia).

Additionally, CRREC held a presentation on the VCA methodology for the Regional Disaster Systems, such as the Centre of Coordination for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de Desastres Naturales en America Central – CEPREDENAC) that work with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) support in the implementation of a regional project. The systems are currently analyzing the possibilities of using the methodology in the development of the mentioned project. The centres also participated in the meeting on Central American School Plans, organized by UNICEF in order to identify if and how schools can be used as temporary shelters.

In the area of **institutional preparedness**, the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction programme together with the Climate Centre in The Hague are working to support National Societies (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador) to understand climate risk in their countries and help them to integrate actions in their National Plans to address this issue. For the second semester, a regional workshop will take place as part of the third step of the programme.

With support from the Climate Centre an internship was organized by Columbia University, the International Federation, CATHALAC, and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society to understand the needs of the Red Cross on the use of weather and climate information

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<sup>1</sup>Community First Aid, Education, Organization and Community Preparedness in Risk Reduction including Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment, Family Preparedness Plan, Safe Schools, Floods, Psychological First Aid, Early Warning System for Floods in Small River Basins, Community Maintenance of Schools, Healthy Homes, Community Dialogue on Water and Climate, Community Manual for the Prevention of Disasters on Rural Water Systems, Management of Temporary Shelters, Social Micro-Projects, Community Disaster Risk Reduction Teams

for decision-making and disaster response. The interns went to the CRREC. A list of available tools and recommendations for Red Cross resulted from this exercise, and a coordination meeting with the CREPD to support the dissemination of these tools was held.

Following the long term plan financially supported by DFID, the regional programme supported previously planned actions in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador for the strengthening of capacities of National Societies in response and DRR through community-based activities. Moreover, these three National Societies finalized their diagnosis for the Well Prepared National Societies (WPNS) assessment; additionally Costa Rican Red Cross and the Red Cross Society of Panama received support to initiate their WPNS assessment. This process is carried out in coordination with National Societies branches, in order to analyze their current baseline and necessities to achieve future goals. Due to DFID's contribution, both Centres of Reference provided assistance to National Societies through technical support, training and materials

Also, at institutional level the **Centre of Reference for Disaster Preparedness** continued working on the revision of the training material for the Response and Contingency Plans to be used during the first ToT workshops. The workshops are programmed for the second semester of 2008. Also, the Centre printed the Drills and Simulations, Management of Emergency Operational Centres (EOC) modules, and the first workshops for its validation were carried out in El Salvador. Moreover, the Centre carried out a ToT for Basic NITs Training and supported a Basic NITs in Guatemala in which the Dominican, Honduran, Mexican, Panamanian and Salvadorean Red Cross participated.



**The Regional Programme held a presentation during the Regional ToT Workshop for the use of the Guide to elaborate Response and Contingency Plans. Source: International Federation.**

In close coordination with Guatemalan and Norwegian Red Cross, the CREPD finalized the first specialized curricula for NITs on water and sanitation hygiene promotion. Through internships it now begins the preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> specialized curricula for Health in Emergencies.

During the first semester of the year, activities planned for the regional DiPECHO V Project were finalized. Both Centres of References and the Regional Representation participated in the Knowledge Fair organized by UNDP held in El Salvador, and presented the results of the project. The project aimed to complete the harmonization, printing and distribution of materials and tools; which are now being used by National Societies and external partners. Lessons learned from the implementation of these materials and case studies from country experiences were also collected from this process. As well, at the level of communication for DRR, the programme completed the development of the National Communication strategy and DRR materials to raise awareness, communication tool kit, and updating the website to include the regional and country-based activities. Finally, this contribution helped to increase internal cooperation between the Regional Representation, National Societies and PNS working in the countries.

The Regional Risk Reduction Programme during these months, seeking to enhance DRR coordination and to present its work, participated in the Plan International Continental workshop on Risk Reduction focusing on livelihoods. In April, the programme supported the ProVention forum held in Panama where more than 170 participants from different parts of the world met.

After the forum, participants from National Societies and Zone offices from Asia, Africa and Americas met in a special session to share experiences on DRR activities and to review the global DRR Framework. During this session the work of both Centres of Reference was discussed and received praise. At the same, the programme supported the consultation process with the Disaster Management Team, which is a Secretariat's initiative to analyze jointly with National Societies the role and services of the Secretariat regarding this topic. The programme participated in the Pre-Hurricane Meeting held in Panama, where both Centres presented their materials and methodologies.

During these months, constant meetings with National Societies, PNS and the Regional Representation Office took place in El Salvador and Nicaragua aiming to initiate the coordination process for the DiPECHO VI proposal for Central America which has already been launched. Five National Societies (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador) are working on possible National Projects proposals and the International Federation will support these national proposals through a Regional Proposal.

### **Constraints or Challenges:**

During the beginning of the year, some delays were encountered due to administrative, financial, and political conditions that presented difficulties. Therefore, the biggest challenge is to be able to finish the various activities on time. In addition, the projects face challenges due to the hurricane season that causes heavy rain, floods and mudslides. This can delay the implementation of activities as efforts will then have to be focused on Disaster Management, rather than Disaster Risk Reduction activities.

## **Organizational Development**

**Programme purpose:** The Regional Organizational Development programme's aim is to scale-up National Societies' institutional capacities at all levels, as well as to promote and develop the volunteer system. Strengthening management at both areas will create stronger National Societies staff members and volunteers, which will help the Health and Care, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Principles and Values programmes deliver more organized and effective actions to vulnerable groups.

### **Achievements**

In order to address the component of National Society development at headquarters and branch level, the regional Organizational Development programme is working to improve the training and coaching of leaders by coordinating the participation of regional National Societies in the Leaders Workshops to be held in Geneva jointly with the ICRC.

Also, to ensure Strategic Plans are in line with the International Federation' policies and the XVIII Inter-American Plan, the programme acted as facilitator of the Management Workshop for the Honduran Red Cross with the objective of drafting that National Society's Strategic Plan with support of Shoken funds. As part of improving management and accountability, six National Societies representatives attended the Accountability workshop (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and El Salvador). In addition, the Salvadorean Red Cross presented a proposal on accountability standards at regional level.

The regional Organizational Development programme promoted peer to peer support and the improvement of the organizational development network by encouraging South-South cooperation, cooperation agreements and exchanges. The programme supported the drafting of the MoUs between Guatemalan Red Cross, Salvadorean Red Cross and the Red Cross Society of Panama in the South-South cooperation framework. Also, the presidents of the Salvadorean and Guatemalan Red Cross signed the "Agreement for Collaboration between Guatemalan Red Cross and Salvadorean Red Cross" through which volunteer capacity building activities have been implemented and which encompasses volunteer and staff capacity-building of both

National Societies. In addition, both presidents met with representatives from non-governmental organizations from El Salvador in order to exchange information on projects' progress and support each other on the lifeguard services.

Likewise, the National Societies of Guatemala and Panama are implementing a cooperation agreement. The Red Cross Society of Panama shared experiences on the Capacity Building Centres with the Guatemalan Red Cross and the latter will support the drafting of the Panama National Society project portfolio by sending technical experts.

Following the Guayaquil Commitment and Complutense University Plan, a total of six National Societies in the region completed a consultation resulting in an analysis by country and by region. The results of this consultation process help to picture what the priority areas are for each National Society, and that will help to harmonize the efforts of the Regional Representation with those priority areas.

The Organizational Development programme achieved the accomplishments of several objectives related to volunteer promotion and development. With support from the Finnish Red Cross, the Youth Network strengthening project was further developed: funds were transferred to the Costa Rican Red Cross, for the volunteer capacity building project; in addition, a focal point who will support the network from Panama was identified. Finally, the Organizational Development programme supported the Red Cross Society of Panama during the National Youth Meeting in the validating of their volunteer management manual.

The Organizational Development programme increased programme cooperation by providing financial support to the Humanitarian Principles and Values programme for the drafting of the Regional Volunteer Guide. Also, in order to improve volunteer management by increasing the number of trained and satisfied volunteers, the Regional Representation and the Zone Office supported the Guatemalan Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross in carrying out the volunteer reorganization and resource mobilization workshops.

### **Nicaraguan Red Cross Intervention**

With the support of the Secretariat and ICRC, the Organizational Development programme was able to provide support to the Nicaraguan Red Cross and their institutional problems. Funds for special cases were assigned and the revision phase of the institutional-legal framework has been concluded. The Nicaraguan Red Cross and its provisional authorities now have a quick diagnostic on the financial, administrative and warehouse management situations; a budget and proposal for the electoral process and a technical report on legal and institutional aspects is still being revised. With this information, a cooperation appeal will be drafted during the first weeks of July.

### **Constrains or Challenges:**

After the Nicaraguan Government officially intervened in the National Society in March, a provisional Intervention Committee was set into place. The deputy head of zone, the Regional Representation and one ICRC representative met with the Committee to analyze the intervention, concluding that the intervention was confusing and is presenting important gaps. A plan was drafted and revision and adjustment of the institutional juridical framework will be the first phase. The follow up process poses a challenge as coordination and mutual support are vital to secure a diligent administrative and technical execution of the projects.

## **Humanitarian Principles and Values**

**Programme Objective:** The Humanitarian Principles and Values programme focuses its efforts on promoting the Red Cross principles and values at community level. Also, it encourages the establishment of a Gender Policy in line with the Federation Policies and the XVIII Inter-American Plan.

## Achievements

During the period at hand, the Regional Humanitarian Principles and Values programme focused on the effective dissemination of the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values. For example, the programme supported by the Organizational Development programme provided assistance to the Honduran Red Cross in follow up activities regarding the implementation of the project “Dissemination of the Humanitarian Principles and Values”.

In the area of non-discrimination and respect for diversity, the Regional Humanitarian Principles and Values programme encouraged the development of a National Gender Policy for the Honduran Red Cross; the proposal was finalized as a result of two follow-up and revision meetings, and presented to the Executive Committee for its approval. The planning process for its implementation was supported by the programme through bilateral coordination with the Canadian, Italian, Netherlands, Spanish and Swiss Partner National Societies; and the implementation of the Gender Policy in this National Society has been prompted. Also, the programme participated in the evaluation of the “Awareness Raising and Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values” project of the Honduran Red Cross.

The Regional Programme and National Societies also focused on the issue of migration in the region as the issue gains importance for National Societies. Following Geneva’s workgroup on Migration, the programme developed a regional National Societies interventions map on migration. The programme also drafted a summary of the trends in the law system in the Central American region with the support of the National Migration Forum in Honduras.

In coordination with the Spanish Cooperation Agency for Development (Agencia Espanola de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo – AECID), the Zone Office, and the Regional Humanitarian Principles and Values Coordinator for South America, actions for the Continental Forum with the AECID on Migration were carried out. These activities included participants’ criteria selection, gathering of information on the possible participants and the sharing of ideas to draft the agenda. The Latin-American Migration Forum was held in Guatemala in March, in coordination with the Zone Office, the AECID with 35 participants, including NGOs, government and National Societies representatives.



**Training of children on disaster preparedness through the DIPECHO V Project in El Salvador. Source: International Federation.**

The programme has embarked on promoting new initiatives to raise awareness on Humanitarian Principles and Values across Central American countries. For example, thanks to the collaboration of AudioVideo, a new radio campaign project was developed for the promotion of the Humanitarian Principles and Values in early 2008 jointly with the Honduran Red Cross. The campaign released four different radio messages to raise awareness on the importance and respect of the Red Cross emblem.

Drawing lessons from successful pilot efforts in Humanitarian Principles and Values, to provide National Societies

with the necessary tools and methodologies to tackle crucial issues such as stigma and discrimination against People Living with HIV (PLWH) is vital. The programme promoted respect and non-discrimination for PLWH in Honduras and El Salvador through four new interventions. In coordination and with the support of the regional HIV unit, the programme was able to finance the successful Non Discrimination – Taxis project in both countries.

Regarding the key area of volunteering, the Regional Humanitarian Principles and Values programme supported the revision and validation of the Volunteers Manual. 120 volunteers of 15 Honduran Red Cross branches were trained in Fundamental Principles and Values within the framework of the National Meeting on Risk Reduction. Also, thanks to the financial support and collaboration of the regional Organizational Development programme, more funds have been allocated towards training of volunteers and managers. This will help mobilize the great potential present in the Red Cross volunteers and youth.

Current and future efforts are coordinated and implemented thanks to the financial and technical support of Red Cross partners (International Federation, the ICRC, and Canadian, Finnish, and Spanish Red Cross) and non-Red Cross partners (AudioVideo, UN International Organization for Migration, ACNUR, OIM, Regional Migration Forum, AECID, FONAMIH, UNICEF, among others).

#### **Constraints or Challenges:**

No constraints and/or challenges were encountered during the implementation of the above-mentioned activities.

## Working in partnership

During the period at hand, the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico scaled up its efforts in Disaster Risk Reduction, Humanitarian Principles and Values, Health and Care and National Societies' Organizational Development through partnerships, alliances, exchanges and joint ventures as parallel initiatives to resource mobilization actions. It actively worked to strengthen and improve cooperation, coordination and support mechanisms as well, in order to facilitate collaboration with external and internal Red Cross partners. Day to day cooperation amongst National Societies in the region progressed, in part due to the increased contact that regional networks provide and due to new and updated internet-based communication tools.

The Regional Health and Care Team, regarding the Club 25 initiative, continues to receive requests from other National Societies in relation to the McCann Erickson designed campaign "New Blood for the World" and has sent material to the Australian, New Zealand and Spanish Red Cross. After various meetings and the presentation of the Global Alliance on HIV in the region, the Norwegian Red Cross showed strong interest towards financing the coordination of the Global Alliance on HIV in the Americas. The Regional Programme also participated in an Operational Alliance meeting with Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) where they presented their Plan of Action using health and particularly malaria as an entry-point. Conversation with the Health and Care Department in Geneva took place to assist the HNRCS and the PNS with beginning the process.

Regarding the Risk Reduction programme, conversations to facilitate further collaboration and support to National Societies were carried out with various organizations interested in coordinating efforts and proposals in the region. Coordination between actors involved in disaster risk reduction activities is important to enhance community capacities to face and recover from disasters and to deliver integrated and effective projects to communities. UNICEF, PAHO, CRID, ISDR and other regional organizations such as Regional Committee for Hydrological Resources (CRRH), Handicap International, Centro American Committee for Environment and Development (CCAD), Committee for Educational Coordination in Central America (CECC). Also, OAS continues to support the Regional Representation Office and the Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) initiative with the aim of presenting the result of the assessment to a larger group of local partners, and identifying possible donors for the micro-projects to be implemented. The joint efforts with PNS, National Societies, Centres of References carried out through internships, workshops, use of material has helped to harmonize and increase the cooperation and work with common criteria and standards.

The Regional Humanitarian Principles and Values programme collaborated with Red Cross and non Red Cross partners for the implementation of activities. Canadian Red Cross supported the Guatemalan Red Cross in drafting its Gender Policy and Strategy. Coordination with the Spanish Red Cross continues for the implementation of the Regional Violence Prevention Strategy through contributions for the projects being implemented. The programme is also coordinating actions with Spanish Red Cross to support migration issues in the region. ICRC has shown interest in supporting the Regional Communication Network in its 2008 Plan. The Audio-Video partnership helped with the advocacy initiative to promote the principles and values of the Red Cross.

Similarly, the Regional Organizational Development programme for Central America continues to develop and support activities jointly with Movement partners for the revision and implementation of guides, plans of actions and projects; for example, the sharing of information and recommendations with the Spanish and Norwegian Red Cross on the Guatemala Red Cross Plan of Action 2008. The Finnish Red Cross expressed interest in providing funding for the Regional Youth Network, and cooperation terms have been defined with the programme. Regarding the intervention process in Nicaraguan Red Cross, ICRC cooperation was vital to ensure the transition occurred smoothly and following the Red Cross standards.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

Throughout the reporting period, the Regional Representation worked on improving the region's capacity to prepare for disasters through the implementation of the communication strategy and the scaling up of information dissemination. It also significantly promoted respect for human dignity through tolerance, anti stigma and non-discrimination messages in terms of HIV and AIDS, as well as advocacy initiatives for the promotion of the fundamental principles and values of the Movement. It collaborated with regional National Societies and strengthened their institutional capacities through the development, monitoring and evaluation of their Strategic Plans and Plans of Actions. Hence, the Regional Representation contributed and continues to contribute to the International Federation's Global Agenda.

Moreover, the Central American region is starting to see a significant scale up in the work against HIV and AIDS with the launch of the new members of the Global Alliance on HIV, the implementation of the Global Alliance Plans of Action, and the Health and Care programme participation in the World Aids Conference which will consequently contribute to the Millennium Development Goals.

The work carried out by the Regional DRR Programme is focused on strengthening National Societies' capacities to assist vulnerable communities and it has helped to position them at the national level. As well, the opportunity to work closely with PNS has increased the harmonization and created a common approach to direct our efforts. During the first semester of 2008, the Regional Programme in coordination with both centres imparted and developed training and internships for the National Societies of the region. Both Centres of Reference have positioned themselves as leaders in the development of tools, methodologies and training session to enhance communities and institutional capabilities

Efforts have been made by the Regional Representation to encourage the development of Gender Policies, Volunteer Manuals, management and accountability systems at the National Societies in line with the Guayaquil Commitment and the Inter-American Plan in order to work towards the Global Agenda Goals.

## Looking ahead

For 2008, the Regional Representation will focus on carrying out actions in line with the regional plan for 2008-2009. This plan, in alignment with those prepared by the two other regions in the Americas - the Caribbean and South American -, places its programmatic work within the framework of the Global Agenda and responds to the strategic priorities laid out in the new Inter-American Plan and the Complutense University consultation.

Despite funding matters, the regional Health and Care programme has great expectations for the next months as the new members of the Global Alliance on HIV and AID will be launched prior to the World AIDS Conference in Mexico. The global alliance promises to scale up action against HIV and AIDS as well as roll out methodologies such as Together We Can.

The Disaster Risk Reduction programme during the next six months will continue developing activities planned for in the 2008-2009 Plan, as well as the Centres of References. There will be an emphasis on expanding and supporting actions with the two other regional programmes.

The Humanitarian Principles and Values programme is in conversation with CONCACAF directors in Honduras for the negotiation of the "Come Closer" campaign launch during the soccer matches of the South Africa 2010 World Cup. This awareness-raising initiative could reach large numbers of beneficiaries due to the exposure of the matches.

Finally, the regional office in Panama will continue within the new Americas Zone structure and will further assist and support the consolidation of the Zone Office.

How we work	
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".	<b>Global Agenda Goals:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li><li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li><li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li><li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li></ul>
Contact information	
For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:	
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To support or find out more about the Federation's programmes or operations, click on <a href="http://www.ifrc.org">www.ifrc.org</a>	

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - Central America

Mid-Year report 2008

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2008/06
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Appeal	MAA43001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	1,429,587	784,208	181,283	86,470	0	2,481,547
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	86,962	254,747	-31,665	2,403	795	313,241
<b>Income</b>						
<b>Cash contributions</b>						
<i>Andorra Red Cross</i>			1,668			1,668
<i>Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)</i>			27,563			27,563
<i>Capacity Building Fund</i>			26,625			26,625
<i>DFID Partnership grant</i>	25,401					25,401
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	12,749	3,200	4,007			19,957
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>	72,247	18,133	22,708			113,088
<i>Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)</i>	27,370					27,370
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>		100				100
<i>Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)</i>		896				896
<i>Other</i>			-273			-273
<i>ProVention</i>	156,897					156,897
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>				9,959		9,959
<i>Swiss Red Cross</i>			34,757			34,757
<i>Unidentified donor</i>		11,005				11,005
<b>C1. Cash contributions</b>	<b>294,664</b>	<b>33,333</b>	<b>117,056</b>	<b>9,959</b>		<b>455,012</b>
<b>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</b>						
<i>DFID Partnership grant</i>	663,611					663,611
<i>ECHO</i>	91,531					91,531
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	12,800	2,978	2,243			18,021
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>	72,531	16,878	12,712			102,120
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>		40,260				40,260
<i>Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)</i>		362,340				362,340
<b>C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</b>	<b>840,472</b>	<b>422,457</b>	<b>14,955</b>			<b>1,277,884</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>	<b>1,135,136</b>	<b>455,790</b>	<b>132,011</b>	<b>9,959</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,732,896</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	<b>1,222,097</b>	<b>710,537</b>	<b>100,346</b>	<b>12,362</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>2,046,137</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>#DIV/0</b>	<b>82%</b>

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	86,962	254,747	-31,665	2,403	795	313,241
<b>C. Income</b>	1,135,136	455,790	132,011	9,959	0	1,732,896
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	-552,461	-178,964	-46,957	-15,956	-2	-794,340
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	<b>669,636</b>	<b>531,573</b>	<b>53,389</b>	<b>-3,594</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>1,251,797</b>

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - Central America

Mid-Year report 2008

Selected Parameters	
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Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
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Budget	APPEAL

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### III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>1,429,587</b>	<b>784,208</b>	<b>181,283</b>	<b>86,470</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,481,547</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Construction Materials	152,435	3,399					3,399	149,036
Medical & First Aid	3,000		219				219	2,781
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>155,435</b>	<b>3,399</b>	<b>219</b>				<b>3,618</b>	<b>151,817</b>
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>								
Computers & Telecom	5,066	31	2,616				2,647	2,419
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.		0					0	0
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>5,066</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2,616</b>				<b>2,647</b>	<b>2,419</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage		263					263	-263
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,035	502	1,220	1,083	19		2,824	212
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>3,035</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>3,087</b>	<b>-51</b>
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff	159,466	46,905	63,317	4,305			114,528	44,938
Regionally Deployed Staff		2,409			6,664		9,073	-9,073
National Staff	159,393	33,021	19,080	29	4,698		56,828	102,566
National Society Staff	325,500	57,155	5,002				62,158	263,342
Consultants	97,560	28,042	-2,236	7,353			33,159	64,402
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>741,920</b>	<b>167,533</b>	<b>85,163</b>	<b>11,686</b>	<b>11,362</b>		<b>275,745</b>	<b>466,175</b>
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	893,488	121,062	22,820	12,707			156,589	736,899
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>893,488</b>	<b>121,062</b>	<b>22,820</b>	<b>12,707</b>			<b>156,589</b>	<b>736,899</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	144,488	35,857	11,498	10,929			58,284	86,204
Information & Public Relation	236,990	28,994	16,696	-1,826			43,863	193,127
Office Costs	21,501	4,737	2,974	17	3		7,732	13,770
Communications	33,678	8,484	3,220	408	365		12,476	21,202
Professional Fees	3,070	3,114	2,320				5,434	-2,364
Financial Charges	8,273	22,169	8,819	58	199	2	31,247	-22,974
Other General Expenses	73,303	23					23	73,280
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>521,303</b>	<b>103,377</b>	<b>45,527</b>	<b>9,585</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>159,059</b>	<b>362,244</b>
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	161,301	36,423	12,975	3,260	1,037	0	53,695	107,605
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>161,301</b>	<b>36,423</b>	<b>12,975</b>	<b>3,260</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53,695</b>	<b>107,605</b>
<b>Operational Provisions</b>								
Operational Provisions		119,871	8,424	8,635	2,970		139,900	-139,900
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>		<b>119,871</b>	<b>8,424</b>	<b>8,635</b>	<b>2,970</b>		<b>139,900</b>	<b>-139,900</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>2,481,547</b>	<b>552,461</b>	<b>178,964</b>	<b>46,957</b>	<b>15,956</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>794,340</b>	<b>1,687,208</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>877,126</b>	<b>605,244</b>	<b>134,326</b>	<b>70,514</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>1,687,208</b>	