

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bangladesh

Appeal No. MAABD001
27/08/2008

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



Bangladesh Red Crescent Society with its active volunteers helping to distribute the urgently needed blankets during the cold wave in January 2008. (Photo: International Federation).

In brief

Programme purpose:

The four programme goals that reflect the four Global Agenda goals are:

1. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) disaster management (DM) programme is capable of rendering effective services to reduce vulnerability in disaster-prone areas, thereby contributing to achieve the characteristics of a well functioning national society (Global Agenda goal 1).
2. Capacity of BDRCS health department and selected existing health programmes are supported to ensure more appropriate health services to the most vulnerable and contribute to reduce the burden of HIV through community based, integrated intervention (Global Agenda goal 2).
3. BDRCS capacity is improved at all levels in assisting the most vulnerable (Global Agenda goal 3).
4. A better understanding of humanitarian values is reflected in existing BDRCS programmes and projects and contributes to influencing behaviour of staff, volunteers, beneficiaries and other stakeholders (Global Agenda goal 4).

The International Federation will continue its' long-standing support to Bangladesh Red Crescent Societies (BDRCS), by advising and assisting the National Society in general operational and institutional management. It will also continue to attract and coordinate international support for BDRCS humanitarian operations and institutional development. Further support will be provided to develop national headquarters (NHQ) and branch capacity to manage, monitor, evaluate and report on programme development financial management.

Bangladesh is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones, earthquakes, tidal surges, tornadoes, floods, river bank erosions, droughts and cold waves. The extent of any natural disaster impact on the country is usually massive and often exceeds the capacity of local coping mechanisms.

The purpose of the disaster management (DM) programme is to reach out to the most vulnerable, alleviating human suffering resulting from natural catastrophes by capacity building through prevention, response and recovery with an emphasis on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and ultimately safer communities contributing to Global Agenda goal 1. With increasing poverty and disasters, the organizational development programme aims to build the capacity of National Society and supporting the local communities to become resilient to disasters and climate change (Global Agenda goal 3). Over the last 30 years, the country has generally improved its health indicators especially infant and maternal mortality rates. Bangladesh still faces a number of health problems due to widespread poverty, over-population and lack of access to basic health services. The number of deaths, illnesses and the impact from diseases and public health emergencies are being addressed by the health programme through awareness building and implementation of the planned activities (Global Agenda goal 2). As part of Global Agenda goal 4 the humanitarian values programme is addressing various forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on gender and ethnicity that persist in the country by trying to reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion in its ongoing and future programmes. Details of how the four Global Agendas has been achieved are stated below under the four core programmes.

Programme summary:

Significant progress has been accomplished during the reporting period despite instability in the economy resulting in price hikes and the effects of two major disasters that struck in the country in 2007. BDRCS has focused on its priorities, utilising its comparative advantage in disaster preparedness and response, and prevention of epidemics.

BDRCS conducted the regular activities under the community-based disaster management (CBDM) programme, which contributed to prepare the community better respond to the potential disasters and to adopt with the climate change affects at community-level. Cyclone preparedness programme (CPP) disseminated the cyclone warning signals as the severe Cyclone “Nargis” was formed and Bangladesh was under potential threat. Trained and enthusiastic volunteers disseminated early warning messages, conducted preparation meetings for effective evacuation, provided First Aid, and participated in assessments, beneficiary selection and relief distribution processes. Relief activities were well planned, with the provision of food and non-food items. Awareness raising was conducted on earthquake preparedness with the community and squad volunteers.

Under the health programme, trained volunteers were engaged in anaemia awareness campaign implemented in northern and southern parts of Bangladesh. With anaemia being a growing problem among women in the community, the volunteers carried out door-to-door surveys and educated children and women on the causes and prevention of anaemia. Training volunteers and youth peer educators on HIV prevention, life skills and building awareness on Avian Influenza at the community-level by training key staff of BDRCS helped in carrying out the planned activities more efficiently. Under PLHIV¹, an income generation project is being developed to provide livelihoods and food support to the most vulnerable.

In May 2008, the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day was celebrated. Dissemination of Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values (HV) via print and electronic media was done. In addition, rallies, discussion sessions, cultural and art competitions were conducted to commemorate the day.

¹ PLHIV: People living with HIV.

From 20 till 22 May 2008, BDRCS along with the support of the International Federation initiated the Strategic Planning (SP) process for 2009-2011. The initial indications point toward a new focus on several key strategic directions from the existing 2004-2008 BDRCS SP, which are critical in strengthening the foundation of BDRCS and thus building the overall capacity and enhancing performance throughout the organization. Relevant personnel from BDRCS, the Federation country delegation, International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and certain partner national societies (PNS) took part in the planning process.

Financial situation: The total 2008 budget is CHF 3,019,617 (USD 2.8 million or EUR 1.8 million), of which 36 percent covered. The overall expenditure against the budget for 2008 was 33 percent.

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

Number of people we help: During the reporting period, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society assisted 1,146,550 people under the four Global Agenda goals.

Our partners: BDRCS has around 40 partners comprising of community-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government bodies, UN agencies, and Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement partners. Main donors for 2008 so far include the Swedish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Hong Kong branch of the Red Cross Society of China, SIDA² through Swedish Red Cross and DFID³ through British Red Cross.

Context

The level of poverty in the country has increased in the past year. A large section of the population is food insecure as prices of essential items have increased by 20 to 25 percent, while the income of people working in the agricultural sector has decreased by two to five percent according to a recent study conducted by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). The population affected by Cyclone Sidr who already had their livelihoods destroyed have especially been affected by the price hikes. The wage earners are also affected as wages have not increased in line with the inflation rate in the country. The number of vulnerable people rose during the reporting period. The increase in the prices also affected the Federation's procurement of rice and oil since there had to be a re-tender. This caused a delay in the distribution of relief items by 20-25 days to the beneficiaries in the most affected cyclone hit areas.

Despite the good rice harvest, food grains are high-priced and this trend will continue in the months to come due to increase in production costs which shot up by 54 percent in one year. Additionally, back-to-back floods and Cyclone Sidr in 2007 damaged at least 1.8 million tonnes of standing crops, posing a serious threat to the country's food security. The unstable political situation in the country (state of emergency declared in 2007) still persists.

Thus, disaster resilience and coping capacity of the already vulnerable people is reduced as the economic vulnerability increases. With the approaching monsoon season, it is essential that those living in disaster prone areas are assisted so they can prepare themselves to combat the seasonal disasters.

² SIDA: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

³ DFID: UK Department for International Development

Progress towards outcomes:

Disaster Management (DM):

Programme Component	Outcomes
1. Community-based disaster management (CBDM)	Targeted high risk flood-prone communities are better able to mitigate, prepare for and respond to floods and other disasters.
2. Cyclone preparedness programme (CPP)	Capacities of targeted vulnerable coastal communities to respond to cyclonic disasters are strengthened.
3. Chittagong Hill Tracts development programme	Living conditions and peaceful co-existence among the various ethnic groups in targeted communities of Chittagong are improved.
4. Earthquake preparedness and response programme	Targeted high-risk communities are better prepared to respond to earthquakes.
5. Disaster response	Disaster response capacities of the National Society are further strengthened.
6. Climate change	National Society and targeted communities are better prepared with appropriate knowledge and measures for reducing the potential risk to climate change.

Achievements:

Expected Outcome 1: During January and February 2008, the BDRCS conducted 10 vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) exercises in four areas (Sirajganj, Tangail, Lalmonirhat and Kurigram), in northern part of the country. Based on the findings of the VCA small scale mitigation and livelihoods activities were implemented. A total of 45 participants from International Federation country delegation and South Asia region participated at the regional VCA workshop held by South Asian Regional Delegation (SARD) in February 2008.



The objective of the workshop was learning by doing, putting together cross country knowledge to define vulnerability and capacity of communities for reducing risks. In the regional disaster risk reduction (DRR) training curriculum development workshop organized by SARD in April, participants from BDRCS and Federation country delegation took part. Bangladesh is part of regional initiative on “Building Safer Communities in South Asia”. Thus, to maintain the process of a standardized DRR training curriculum for South Asia, materials related to the community-based DRR (CBDRR) training was obtained from different DRR practitioners including the government of Bangladesh.

Over 30 rickshaws were given to beneficiaries in the district of Kurigram. (Photo: International Federation)

Expected Outcome 2: The BDRCS, with the support of the Federation country delegation, responded to a series of natural catastrophes, along with the on-going operations of flood and Cyclone Sidr. During the warning preparation for Cyclone Nargis, BDRCS CPP disseminated cyclone warning signals as Nargis became a potential threat to Bangladesh. CPP control-room was activated for 24 hours. All volunteers of CPP were kept on stand-by while community preparedness meetings were held around the coastal areas for quick and effective evacuation if needed. CPP and the Federation delegation established a good communication network through

series of meetings that took place with the Bangladesh Meteorological Department and the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management to accumulate more information and establish cooperation linkage with the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme of the government for immediate response according to the development of the situation.

Upgrading and maintenance of the wireless network were regularly carried out to ensure its smooth functioning. In April 2008, before the cyclone season, new batteries for hand megaphones were distributed around the coastal area of the country to prepare for warning signal dissemination.

Expected Outcome 3: No activity under this outcome was carried out during the reporting period.

Expected Outcome 4: Under the awareness raising programme on earthquake, 250 students from 10 selected schools received basic First Aid training. They have staged dramas on earthquake preparedness that reached 3,000 students in the same schools. Blood-typing of 1,100 students and teachers were also done.

Community and squad volunteers disseminated messages with different IEC⁴ materials on earthquake preparedness by going door-to-door to the targeted families. As part of awareness campaign, the dissemination was done in the old part of the Dhaka, which is prone to the earthquake damages.

Expected Outcome 5: BDRCS provided assistance to the people affected by cold waves and tornadoes during the reporting period in Bangladesh. Needs' assessments were conducted for tornadoes and cold wave. To fight the initial affects of cold wave 65,000 families received blankets in 64 districts. Rapid response was carried out by BDRCS after a fire incident in Narayongonj district. Food and non-food items were distributed among 300 badly affected families at Narayongonj immediately. A total of 15,000 targeted beneficiaries affected by Cyclone Sidr were assisted with 75,000 coconut saplings under European Commission Humanitarian Aid Directorate General (ECHO) contribution in Sidr response operation. The 11,200 families, who were assisted with seeds and saplings under ECHO flood response project, have been able to restore their traditional agriculture productivity. Such responses make it evident that there have been improvements in the link between better preparedness and better disaster response.

In April 2008, following a request from a UN agency, the International Federation participated in a joint-assessment on Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) food crisis with other international and government agencies to identify the needs and to assist the most vulnerable ethnic people who were affected by food scarcity. Following the assessment, the UN and the government carried out the necessary intervention. [Click here to go directly to the Information Bulletin for more information.](#)

A team comprising of BDRCS, the Federation and an external evaluator conducted an evaluation on the effectiveness of the ECHO funded 2007 flood relief operation. The evaluation report was submitted on 26 April 2008 based on participatory meetings with the beneficiaries, government authorities and concerned delegation officials in two districts (Manikgonj and Shariatpur). ECHO has identified the areas for improvement for future interventions. The main findings were to improve the time gap between assessment and response and to include the affected communities during the assessments. ECHO has shared knowledge and lessons learnt in the disaster relief operation.

⁴ IEC: Information, Education and Communications material.

Disaster management working group (DMWG) meeting organized by SARD in Delhi in May finalized the plan of action for the rest of 2008. The meeting emphasised on achieving the objectives of a well prepared National Society.

Two representatives of the DM team of the Federation country delegation participated in the Global Relief training held in Geneva in April, which helped build better response capacity.

Expected Outcome 6: A one-day orientation, on climate change, adaptation and linkage between DRR and development; was organized during the reporting period. The aim of organizing this orientation workshop was to introduce climate change as an independent topic in the DRR framework. A group of 50 people including department programme heads and officials of BDRCS as well as delegates and officials from Federation country delegation attended the orientation.

Constraints or Challenges

Large scale operations like Sidr diverted the attention of a group of skilled program personnel which, resulted in delays in program implementation. Additionally, lack of skilled human resource also hampered the smooth continuation of the activities. The appointment of the CPP director is still a pending issue. BDRCS has appointed a director on an adhoc basis, which has given some pace to the program implementation.

Working in partnership

Implementation of DRR programmes and response activities were done by building partnership and collaborating with the concerned government, UN agencies, donors and other organizations. In addition, BDRCS is working closely with the government to assist the most vulnerable in the most appropriate manner.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Community-level volunteers and response groups formed under CBDM programme reacted on time with their available resources to respond to Cyclone Sidr which promoted volunteerism in dealing with disaster emergencies.

The 56,000 people, who were provided with seeds and saplings under ECHO flood response project, have been able to restore their livelihoods with rice, wheat and onion. The marginal and small farmers have planned to pre-position the parent seeds which will help to give them longer term agricultural productivity. This is a traditional livelihood option.

The 15,000 targeted beneficiaries affected by Cyclone Sidr were assisted with equal quantity of coconut saplings under ECHO contribution in Sidr response operation. This will lead to longer-term recovery and livelihoods re-generation process.

A DRR lessons learnt workshop conducted in April is influencing the DRR strategies. The participation of BDRCS volunteers, management and programme staff brought up certain issues related to programme/project design, community participation, scaling-up and replicating good practices, promoting community practices, knowledge, tradition, etc.

Looking ahead

Successful implementation of disaster response during natural calamities and emergencies shows strengths of BDRCS and trained volunteers who will continue to respond in future unforeseen calamities and emergencies.

Health and Care:

Programme component	Component outcome
1. HIV and AIDS	Vulnerability to HIV infection and its impact are reduced
2. Public health	Improved health status of the vulnerable population, especially that of children and adolescent girls among the targeted.
3. Public health in emergencies	Effective response to public health issues in emergencies

Achievements

Expected Outcome 1: The HIV and AIDS programme was revised in the form of a new three-year plan. The new plan is in the form of a concept paper under Global Alliance on HIV; it also gives a view of scaling-up the programme in the country. The existing components of the HIV prevention programme are all in line with the four outputs of the Global Alliance on HIV.

Preventing further HIV infection: A total of 59 volunteers were trained under youth peer education on HIV and life skills approach in Jessore and Sylhet districts. Among them, five were from tea gardens. They in turn started a youth peer educator training in 20 schools, 20 colleges, five tea gardens and five communities. This covers 20 percent of the planned activities. HIV prevention flip-charts, approved and field tested by government of Bangladesh are being printed. It is planned to print 1,000 flip-charts which will be used by the volunteers in training the Youth Peer Educators and youth in schools, colleges and communities. 100 sets of adolescent reproductive kit containing four books on puberty and adolescent reproductive health in Bangla language were procured and given to the BDRCS units (branches) involved in the HIV prevention programme. The volunteers in the units are encouraged to collect educational material on HIV and AIDS, reproductive health etc., to create an HIV and AIDS resource corner in their respective units and use them regularly. More resource material will be identified and given to these centres.

Expanding HIV care treatment and support: In view of providing livelihoods and food support for the most vulnerable along with 'Ashar Alo' (a PLHIV network), an income generation project is being developed. The project intends to support 10 PLHIV and their families with a sustainable income generation option for one year. One PLHIV from the network will be identified to monitor and provide regular reports. Thus, the project will be supporting 11 PLHIVs for one year. This will increase their accessibility to food and treatment through a sustainable income to the family.

Reducing stigma and discrimination: Through the 'Induction' training organised by the organizational development (OD) department, two sessions on HIV related stigma and discrimination were conducted to clarify common myths and misconceptions about spread of HIV. More than 50 BDRCS officers, unit executives and volunteers from nine Cyclone Sidr affected districts participated in the training.

Strengthening the national society's capacities: A mid-term evaluation of the regional HIV programme was carried out by SARD in February 2008. The report points out that the programme is not progressing as planned due to various reasons such as:

- Lack of commitment especially at the mid-tier management of the National Society
- Effective financial management remains a formidable challenge, seriously affecting the progress in implementing the programme.

The evaluation report also suggests that BDRCS should be closely monitored providing clear milestones and targets to be achieved in the next 12 months and continuity of support should be based on the achievement of agreed outcomes,

The National Society has convened a Steering Committee for HIV programme which met twice during the first and second quarters of 2008. The Steering Committee went through the mid-term evaluation report and expressed its dissatisfaction over the report. The Steering Committee

wants to revise the HIV programme plan of BDRCS and expand it to at least 50 percent of the units (branches). Now BDRCS is concentrating more on planning for an expanded programme. The mid-term evaluation report has brought a set back to the HIV programme.

Three health personnel from National Society attended the regional training of master trainers on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support organised by SARD. The master trainers will be utilized to train more HIV programme personnel and develop PLHIV networks in future.

Expected Outcome 2: During this reporting period, two main public health issues were addressed:

- Chronic public health issue mainly targeting children and adolescent girls
- Newly emerging threat of Avian Influenza in the country

De-worming and Anaemia detection program:

Malnutrition especially anaemia among children and young girls is a serious public health problem in Bangladesh. They most often become malnourished mothers themselves giving birth to low birth weight children. The national anaemia prevalence for children aged 6-59 months is 49 percent and among adolescents the anaemia prevalence is 28 percent⁵. In Bangladesh, an important factor contributing to anaemia is iron



deficiency and worm infestation.

Volunteers through folk songs are disseminating information on the prevention of worm infestation to school children and mothers in Lalmonirhat districts. (Photo: International Federation)

Among the selected districts, de-worming and detection of anaemia programme was implemented in Lalmonirhat, Kurigram and Chittagong districts. 66 volunteers (of which 56 were women) from the community were trained in detecting anaemia, explaining the causes for anaemia and worm infestation and prevention of anaemia including nutrition education. The volunteers carried out door-to-door surveys and educated the households on nutrition especially targeting women. They also carried out school visits where children (6-10 years) and adolescent girls (11-19 years) were targeted. They used posters explaining worm infestation and causes and prevention of anaemia. Local folk art groups were involved in disseminating the information among the public and especially school children. The activities were planned for seven districts but due to lack of availability of funds, the activities took place only in three districts.

Number of volunteers and beneficiaries of de-worming and anaemia detection efforts				
Districts	Number of volunteers & communities	Number of households	Beneficiaries	Anaemic
Lalmonirhat	24	6,376	7,932	2,284 (29%)
Kurigram	24	6,053	5,627	1,584 (28%)
Chittagong	18	3,820	6,036	892 (14.8%)
Total	66	16,249	19,595	4,760 (24.6%)

⁵ Source: Fact sheets – United National Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Bangladesh website.

Avian Influenza: Avian influenza has spread through 47 of Bangladesh's 64 districts and forced the killing of more than 1.61 million birds (chicken, ducks, pigeons, etc). Since detection of the virus in poultry birds in March 2007, approximately 2.2 million eggs have also been destroyed. About 60 percent of the country's poultry farms (which are more than 150,000) have been closed, leaving more than 1.5 million people jobless. This has led to an increase in prices of eggs and chicken, which is the cheapest source of animal protein. Poverty, illiteracy and poor bio-security in the poultry farms increased the "risk of communication". Around 185 key BDRCS staff and volunteers from NHQ and 55 branches were trained in basic facts on Avian Influenza and its prevention. More volunteers will be trained and information on Avian Influenza (avian flu) and prevention methods will be included in their various community-based programmes. As the country is full of water bodies, backyard poultry, ducks and seasonal migratory birds, the participants actively participated in identifying the avian flu risk related to their daily life situations and came up with solutions to overcome the risks.

Expected Outcome 3: A total of 11 units were identified en route of two national highways leading to Chittagong and Sylhet from Dhaka. Planning was done for training teams of volunteers in First Aid from various communities living near to the accident prone zone on the national highways. Units have started the process of selection of accident prone zones on the national highways and volunteers who will be trained in First Aid.

Constraints or Challenges:

Due to religious and cultural sensitivities, issues related to reproductive health education and condom usage had some challenges. Fortunately, the youth participating in the HIV prevention programme are able to understand the importance of gaining knowledge on such issues. Recurrent massive scales of disasters lead to the diversion of trained human resource and time towards massive relief operations. Government of Bangladesh does not allow all organizations to print IEC material on Avian Influenza and yet they do not have adequate material to supply. Hence, government leaflets were photocopied and used during the Avian Influenza training sessions. Efforts are underway to reprint IEC material with the permission of the government.

Working in partnership

BDRCS and the Federation country delegation regularly attended the coordination meetings conducted by Department of Public Health Engineering and UNICEF for water and sanitation (WatSan) sector and Ministry Health and Family Welfare with World Health Organization (WHO). Plans are underway to observe World Blood Donor day together with government of Bangladesh, WHO and other NGOs involved in safe blood programme.

Health authorities who also participated in implementation of the anaemia detection and de-worming programme at community level were consulted in advance to avoid duplication. In some places community leaders helped the volunteers in mobilizing the communities that made the job of the volunteers much easier.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Discussions showed that youth participation in HIV prevention programme showed positive understanding on the importance of reproductive health education and the usage of condoms

Almost 85 percent of the volunteers involved in implementing detection of anaemia and de-worming programme were females from the communities. This enabled easy access to the children and adolescent girls in the communities. Due to certain cultural beliefs, worm infestation is not taken seriously. Involving the community volunteers will slowly change old beliefs and help in improving the nutritional status of the women and children.

Looking ahead

Coordination among the coordinators for HIV and Public Health programmes helped to pick up the momentum of the programme. This will ensure achieving most of the programme indicators in the second half of the year, as planned.

Organizational Development

Programme component	Component outcome
1. Planning and accountability development	BDRCS capacity in strategic planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) and managing effective programmes are strengthened.
2. Governance and management development	Members of the BDRCS governing board and branch executive committees are well informed of the role of governance and management, code of conduct, policies, systems and procedures.
3. Legal base	BDRCS legal base is strengthened.
4. Volunteer management and development	BDRCS volunteer base has increased and developed into a gender diverse, well trained, highly motivated network (including youth volunteers).
5. Financial resource development	BDRCS has enhanced capacity to manage its financial resources and fundraising effectively.
6. Human resource development and management	BDRCS human resource capacity enhanced to render improved service delivery.
7. Branch development	Systematic branch development is taking place

Achievements:

Expected Outcome 1: Through Zone and SARD assistance, the BDRCS strategic planning meeting was held in May at the national headquarters. The meeting has helped to kick-start work on first draft of SP. A committee at the national headquarters level has been formed comprising of all the BDRCS relevant programme personnel and International Federation reporting officer to complete the second draft by September 2008. This document will then go through review and revision with the branch level UEC members, staff and selected beneficiaries. In October, the committee will visit the four divisions out of six (Dhaka Division, Khulna, Barisal and Rangpur) to collect inputs, which will be incorporated in the document to produce the final strategic plan. This process of bottom-up approach is considered as a lesson learnt from the strategic planning process of 2005-2008

Expected Outcome 2: It is not easy to involve the governing board members in the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement activities. Branch Executive Committee members along with volunteers and unit staffs have participated in several trainings, workshops on Movement's Principles, Code of Conduct, Relief Management etc. The most current was a four-day long training in Sidr areas in March. This activity has been reflected in the Operations Updates of Cyclone Sidr.

Expected Outcome 3: No activities were planned in the PoA under this outcome between the periods January to June.

Expected Outcome 4: Workshop on Red Crescent Youth (RCY) activities took place in March. Youth Chiefs from all 68 units of BDRCS participated. Presentation was made by each Youth Chief on activities undertaken and recommended as future ventures through participation of youth volunteers. The workshop helped in providing a platform to get feedback through exchange of views and ideas on how to further systematize, develop and motivate the volunteer base, and also come up with activities that enhanced on aspects of a more participatory approach towards achieving the project's objective. The event ended with a blood donation campaign.

Expected Outcome 5: In this reporting period, BDRCS achieved much in terms of efforts to develop the system of managing financial procedures and resources. The activities undertaken were NAVISION (accounting software) training of the finance staff of Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital and Medical College, establishing contact with software implementing partner (Southtech Ltd.) for maintaining the accounting software, and facilitate on a regular basis a smooth running of the software and undertaking field visits to assess the financial capacity of units in order to develop a training module for concerned field staff.

Expected Outcome 6: Induction training on the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and the Sphere project was conducted in April. Staff of BDRCS and the Federation delegation attended the training. Within the Sphere project, topics covered were Humanitarian Charter, Code of Conduct and Sphere minimum standards. With two major relief, recovery and rehabilitation operations taking place (floods and Cyclone Sidr), it was necessary to enlighten staff on Fundamental Principles, Code of Conduct and Sphere minimum standards among other things.

Expected Outcome 7: As there are two operations on going in the country, almost all of the activities under this component were concentrated in the branches of the flood and cyclone operations areas. These activities have been reflected in the Cyclone Sidr Operation Updates.

Constraints or Challenges:

As few of the NHQ staff were deployed to the Barisal based BDRCS Sidr operation office, the timely implementation of planned activities were hampered. Some of the activities such as the implementation of the revised BDRCS Constitution are awaiting approval by the government through proclamation of ordinance by the President. Some other activities, for example, creating new posts for recruitment or revising job descriptions of BDRCS personnel will only be initiated once the new organogram is approved by the governing board. Discussions with relevant personnel are taking place regularly to come up with ways to address the current and pending issues.

Working in partnership

The consistent collaboration and partnerships that BDRCS has built with the British Red Cross, German Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and the Hong Kong branch of China Red Cross continue to provide support to the process of strengthening the capacity of National Society. In the critical areas of OD, these partnerships have enabled BDRCS to further improve service delivery to the vulnerable communities and helped to escalate skills and knowledge of staff as well as volunteers.

Contributing to longer-term impact

With the expected establishment of the BDRCS PMER department by second half of 2008, BDRCS's approach to PMER activities will be further systematized. BDRCS's Youth & Volunteers and Unit Affairs departments have always maintained a gender sensitive approach to implement activities. For example, under the branch development aspect BDRCS launched gender diverse membership drive in all 68 district units. Steps toward an integrated approach to programming and development, restructuring and revision of various policies, rules, systems and procedures will also contribute to efficiency and sustainability of the organization in near future, since these aspects of the organization provide the backbone for effective implementation of activities undertaken. The continuity maintained in dissemination of the Fundamental Principles, Code of Conduct and other such ingredients to being a better Movement member will also add value to the process.

Looking ahead

The plan of action for 2008 has been recently revised during the process of preparing the plans for 2009-2010. Many of the activities crucial to development of the organization, such as the establishment of the PMER department, or the development of a volunteer policy and

management system, or revising the existing Standing Order or human resource (HR) and other policies are moving at a slow pace. Although these activities are prioritized by BDRCS, in order to have fast implementation, a more organized approach to taking the necessary steps is required and discussions are underway. Some of the activities with regard to governance management and development, legal base development and branch development are being postponed to next year as BDRCS elections will be taking place in the second half of 2008.

Humanitarian Values:

Programme component	Component outcome
1. Understanding of Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values	Raised awareness among BDRCS governing board, branch executive committee and key staff on Red Cross/Red Crescent Fundamental Principles, history and humanitarian values
2. Integration of humanitarian values into DM, health and OD programmes	BDRCS DM, health and OD programmes are designed to include Red Cross/Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and HV to promote non-discrimination and social harmony.
3. Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values advocacy	Targeted sectors of civil society have a positive change in attitude in areas of tolerance and non-discrimination.

Achievements:

Expected Outcome 1: Induction training on the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement took place in April, with participants from BDRCS and the Federation delegation. With two major humanitarian operations taking place (floods and Cyclone Sidr), it was necessary to educate staff on Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values (HV) among other things.

Expected Outcome 2: HV has also been integrated into training courses of all core programme areas as well as Cyclone Sidr operation. Four workshops were conducted in March with 111 participants. Volunteers, members of Branch Executive Committee, several members of Board of Governance, and Federation staff took part. Training was provided on recovery activities service betterment. Also dissemination of HV messages to humanitarian partners and communities/beneficiaries.

Expected Outcome 3: The World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day was celebrated on 8 May 2008. All Movement partners spontaneously participated. The day was commemorated with much grandeur through events organized to observe the occasion as rallies, discussion sessions, cultural and art competitions and a television feature. Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values were widely disseminated through the print and electronic media.

Constraints or Challenges:

As with most cross-cutting issues, the main challenge has been to make HV programme a priority with the National Society. The insufficiency in funding has also been an obstacle in undertaking planned activities.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The activities undertaken and those which will be taking place for the Humanitarian Values component are meant to be embedded as a permanent seed in the minds about respecting an individual's dignity, especially the people affected during a disaster or the community people in general and maintain non-discrimination as an important ingredient to be a part of any humanitarian venture or efforts in providing services to the people in need.

Looking ahead

The plan of action for 2008 has been recently revised and in the process of preparing the plans for 2009-2010. During first half of 2008, many of the activities could not take place because of the funding constraint and the pre-conceived attitude towards prioritizing HV programme. However, it is hoped that activities planned for the second half of 2008 would be undertaken

with a smooth flow of funds as there is a need to make staff and volunteers aware and remind them again and again about the basics of being part of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

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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