

# Plan 2009-2010



## Latin Caribbean

### Executive summary

The 2009–2010 plans for the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation reflect the strategy outlined in the Federation of the Future and supports the three National Societies in the sub-region to work towards the goals of the Federation's Global Agenda through scaling-up programmes, increasing Red Cross capacity and strengthening its role in civil society. At the same time, the plans for the region put into practice the Inter-American Plan approved by the XVIII Inter-American Conference in Guayaquil held in June 2007. The Conference motto was "safer and healthier communities," focused on further Red Cross involvement at community level, ensuring that more vulnerable beneficiaries are assisted through relevant Red Cross programming carried out by stronger Red Cross National Societies with reinforced national networks. The XVIII Inter-American Plan 2007–2011 reflects this commitment to enhance Red Cross work at community level.

The main goal of the Federation Secretariat is to better provide Core Membership Services to the three National Societies covered by the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation by maintaining a presence in this strategically important sub-region, and to support the important work of the three National Societies to assist people in their countries made vulnerable by a variety of social, economic and environmental challenges. In order to work towards achievement of the objectives outlined and to contribute to the Global Agenda Goals and in accordance with the Inter-American Plan 2007–2011, emphasis will be placed on supporting National Societies to work at the community level through programme and capacity building support. Efforts will be increased to measure the impact of Red Cross interventions through the compilation of baseline data and subsequent monitoring and evaluation. The Secretariat's structure to support the three National Societies in the sub-region consists of the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation which ensures political representation, the Caribbean Regional Representation based in Port of Spain which provides programmatic and service support and the Americas Zone Office, which provides coherence and overall coordination to the entire Secretariat's presence in the Americas. The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) ensures technical support and coordination of disaster management in the continent.

The main focus of the Federation's 2009–2010 plans will be to continue the prominence of the Red Cross as a leader in disaster management in the region at national and regional levels, paying particular attention to the preparedness of communities; the continued work to address the impact of HIV and AIDS pandemic in the region, particularly through the intensified scale up of the Haitian Red Cross's participation in the Global Alliance on HIV and the flagship programme of "Together We Can", as well as continuing to support National Societies with anti-stigma campaigns.

However, in order to enable the Red Cross Societies to achieve what is required to meet the numerous and varied challenges they face within their societies, a greater focus has to be on providing a high level of organisational development support that will enable them to provide tailored development strategies. While this is a key goal of these plans, there will be a challenge in strategically addressing the wide variety of needs, balanced with the difficulty to attract non-earmarked funding.

In the case of Haiti, the Secretariat will make an effort to conclude the Cooperation Assistance Strategy (CAS) process by re-taking the discussion where it was left by HRCS (Haitian Red Cross Society) and its Movement partners in early 2007. It is felt that conditions are now more favourable to reach an

agreement on setting the relationship with HRCS into a multilateral framework that coordinates the investments of all Movement partners around the National Society strategic plan. The support to the HRCS by the Federation to re-write its strategic plan is essential so that the National Society defines its priorities for the next years in a legitimate, participatory process that reflects the different interests within the National Society, including those of the regional committees and local branches.

To the extent that the CAS process is successful and there is an agreement by all Movement partners in Haiti, discussion of the Operational Alliance of the HRCS on community-based health care will be included in the cooperation agenda. The Federation in Haiti will continue to work towards creating the necessary conditions for this discussion to take place among HRCS Movement partners.

These plans are based on the individual and collective priorities of the three National Societies in the sub-region, taking into account their feedback to a consultation on their priorities towards the Guayaquil plan and in coordination with regional NS technical networks.

*The total 2009/ 2010 budget is CHF 4,093,782 (EUR 2,607,504 or USD 3,742,031) [Click here to go directly to the attached summary budget of the plan.](#)*

## Regional context

Covering the island countries of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the newly-established Latin Caribbean Regional Representation is one of the two Federation offices which provide Core Membership Services and programmatic support to National Societies of the Caribbean region, the other being the Caribbean Regional Representation based in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, which covers the English speaking National Societies, overseas branches and the mainland countries of Belize, Guyana and Suriname.

The Caribbean reflects great diversity in terms of area, population, wealth, culture, language and economic models. Overall the Caribbean region faces unique social, economic and environmental challenges. Statistics from UNDP<sup>1</sup> indicate the region has an average 32-40 per cent of the population living below the poverty line. The limited resources of most of the countries, the seasonal character of employment opportunities (predominantly tourism services and agriculture) and the 'brain drain' with the migration of educated people means fragile economies throughout the region. There are high levels of entrenched poverty, inequity and inequality in income and resources distribution is rampant, and extreme high levels of violence and crime means the Caribbean is suffering from one of the highest murder rates in the world<sup>2</sup>. Exacerbating this reality are other social problems, like the proliferation of illegal activities, including drug trafficking and money laundering.

UNDP 2007 stats<sup>3</sup>

Human development index		Life expectancy at birth, annual estimates (years)	Human poverty index (HPI-1) rank	Population not using an improved water source (%)	Population living below the national poverty line (%)
		2005a	rank	2004	1990-2004b
HDI Rank					
High Human Development					
51	Cuba	77.7	6	9	..

<sup>1</sup> UNDP, Human Development Report 2006, <http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/>

<sup>2</sup> From the March 2007 Report from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the Latin America and the Caribbean Region of the World Bank

<sup>3</sup> <http://hdrstats.undp.org>

Medium Human Development					
79	Dominican Republic	71.5	26	5	42.2
146	Haiti	59.5	74	46	65

The figures above show that within the Caribbean region the three countries covered by the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation are very different among themselves, not only in socio-economic indicators, but also in language and culture. This adds to the challenges that the Federation faces by aggregating them into a “region”. The Latin Caribbean is where the majority of the population of the Caribbean lives (31 million people approximately in the three countries), people living with HIV and AIDS live and victims occur when a disaster strikes the region.

Combined with these social challenges, the Caribbean is a region highly vulnerable to and severely affected by the global phenomenon of climate change, it is a fact that the frequency and power of the impact of natural events has increased in recent times. The region is highly vulnerable to the extremes of weather and is commonly hard-hit by hurricanes, having experienced exceptional destruction from these in the past few years. The Caribbean region also lies in an active seismic zone and suffers from volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. This reality requires a drastic and real need for a strong Red Cross disaster preparedness and mitigation at the community level.

The table below shows the number and type of disaster per county between 2000 and 2008<sup>4</sup>

	Cuba	Dominican Republic	Haiti	Total
Drought	2	0	1	3
Earthquake	0	1	0	1
Epidemic	0	0	1	1
Flood	5	7	18	30
Slides	0	0	0	0
Wild Fires	0	1	0	1
Wind Storm	10	9	14	33
Total	17	18	34	69

The total number of disasters in the entire Caribbean region between 2000 and 2008 is 113, and the chart above clearly shows that the three countries covered by the Latin Caribbean Representation experience the majority of the hazardous events as well as victims derived from these disasters.

Undoubtedly from a humanitarian point of view Haiti presents the biggest challenge in the sub-region, as it is extremely disaster-prone, lying in the Caribbean hurricane zone and on an active seismic fault line. Massive deforestation and a burgeoning population increasingly settling in hazardous areas contribute to a high annual death-toll from landslides and flooding. In 2004 for instance, over 3,500 people died from natural disasters, and every year numerous communities are affected by localized flooding during the rains; hurricanes Dean, Noel and Olga during 2007 and Gustav in 2008.

In the health sector the Caribbean regional health profile is characterized by the high prevalence of HIV and AIDS and STIs, alongside chronic-degenerative illnesses, violence and road accidents. The Caribbean region is subject to an acute epidemic of HIV infection, making it the second most affected in the world - preceded only by sub-Saharan Africa - with 230,000 people living with HIV in the Caribbean. However HIV surveillance systems remain inadequate in several countries, making it difficult to gauge recent trends in their epidemics. AIDS remains one of the leading causes of death among people aged

---

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.emdat.be/Database/>

25 to 44 years - causing 14 000 deaths last year<sup>5</sup>. The main mode of HIV transmission in this region is unprotected heterosexual sexual intercourse. National Societies in the region have enhanced their work in the area of reducing discrimination, mainly focusing on fighting specific stigma and discrimination of persons living with HIV and AIDS (PLWH). While important progress has been made in this area, the Red Cross National Societies in the sub-region must continue to scale up and take more committed action in this field, strengthening the collaboration with PLWH, which has been a key area of focus in the region during the first half of 2008 in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The health sector is emblematic of the contrasts that exist between the countries of the sub-region: whereas Cuba has one of the lowest morbidity rates in the world, in the last decade Haiti has consistently presented the lowest human development indicators in the Western Hemisphere and continues to do so today. A mother in Haiti stands the highest chance in the region of dying during childbirth (with a maternal mortality ratio of 680/100,000 live births<sup>6</sup>) and her child is most at risk of dying in infancy and childhood (Haiti's under-five mortality ratio is 118/1,000 live births<sup>7</sup>). According to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the top three causes of under-five mortality are intestinal infections, infections of the perinatal period and malnutrition<sup>8</sup>. Causes for these high rates are various, similar to causes in other developing countries, and are complicated by increasing poverty, crime, poor infrastructure, inequality and gender violence. Half of the population has no access to safe drinking water or existing medical facilities, and more than three quarters of the approximately 230,000 people living with HIV in the Caribbean live in Hispaniola (Haiti and Dominican Republic)<sup>9</sup>.

## National Society priorities and current work with partners

The Guayaquil Inter-American Plan 2007–2011 sets out the main priorities for the region. In planning for 2009–2010 National Societies were consulted on their priorities related to the Guayaquil Plan. The graph below shows the indication of their priorities mapped against the Framework for Action and the Global Agenda Goals.

As part of the 2009–2010 planning process, and within the context of the Inter-American Plan for 2007–2011, the Americas Zone carried out a consultation process with the Central American, South American and Caribbean National Societies in order to determine their priorities for Secretariat support. The outcomes of the consultation will serve as baseline information to continue the dialogue with National Societies, opening the opportunity to further discuss topics around three categories: 1. Validation of National Societies priority needs; 2. Reflection around priority issues National Societies are facing; 3. Analysis around country priorities. As a result of this continuing dialogue, country plans are expected to be developed.

A wide variety of priorities and needs from the three National Societies in the sub-region were expressed in the consultation. The challenge is to position the Federation to be able to address these in the best way as well as identify key areas that the National Societies collectively want to address as the Red Cross in the Latin Caribbean. Also these plans must be coherent with the larger regional programmes for the entire Caribbean region. It is clear from the consultation that in Haiti and Cuba the National Societies prioritise the enhanced cooperation with the Movement partners at all levels, as well as support for increased participation in public initiatives, including global alliances. All three National Societies place a high priority in introducing result-based planning and performance management systems, and the Haitian Red Cross gives high marks to strengthening its communication and advocacy capabilities.

Under **Global Agenda Goal 1**, the three National Societies of the sub-region place great importance in increasing or improving disaster risk reduction activities at the community level, and promoting strategic

---

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.unaids.org/en/CountryResponses/Regions/Caribbean.asp>

<sup>6</sup> From the latest Human Development fact sheet <http://hdr.undp.org/statistics/data/countries.cfm?c=HTI>

<sup>7</sup> Human Development fact sheet <http://hdr.undp.org/statistics/data/countries.cfm?c=HTI>

<sup>8</sup> PAHO 1999 ([http://www.paho.org/English/DD/AIS/cp\\_332.htm](http://www.paho.org/English/DD/AIS/cp_332.htm))

<sup>9</sup> UNAIDS/WHO AIDS Epidemic Update: December 2006 [http://www.unaids.org/en/HIV\\_data/epi2006/default.asp](http://www.unaids.org/en/HIV_data/epi2006/default.asp) states that Haiti's HIV prevalence rate is 2.2 but with signs that the epidemic is taking a turn for the worse.

and operative alliances to reduce risk and vulnerability. Branch development is seen as a key component of this strategy.

Under **Global Agenda Goal 2**, the Haitian Red Cross highlights its priority to promote and integrate operational alliances in the area of health and to strengthen the National Societies management capacities in risk reduction, response and rehabilitation in public health in emergencies. All three National Societies place a high priority in the mobilization and awareness in critical health areas through voluntary health networks, and the Cuban and Haitian Red Cross see empowerment of communities in the resolution of health problems as a high priority.

Under **Global Agenda Goal 3**, all three National Societies place a high priority in the promotion of leaders with clear strategic vision to encourage changes and innovation inside their National Societies. The Dominican and Haitian Red Cross see the promotion of participation of Red Cross Youth in the institutional life of their National Societies as a priority, while the Cuban Red Cross sees that strengthening its capacities to assist and work with vulnerable migrant and internally displaced communities is important.

Under **Global Agenda Goal 4**, the Cuban and Haitian Red Cross give a high priority to the promotion of diversity and eradication of all forms of discrimination within the National Societies of the region, as well as the strengthening of the Red Cross capacities to assist and work with vulnerable migrant and internally displaced communities in their respective countries.

This consultation with the National Societies of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic will continue as an on-going process and the Federation will engage all Movement partners to meet the priorities identified by the National Societies.

All three National Societies of the sub-region benefit from a number of Federation regional training programmes, especially in regard to disaster management where the importance of standardised high quality disaster management programmes is a key. This includes VCA (Vulnerability and Assessment Training) training, NITs and RITs training and meetings such as the Pre-Hurricane meeting in Panama. This approach of regional training and developing standard approaches will continue in the plans of the coming years. This regional approach is complemented by Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti receiving direct support for risk reduction programmes through Federation multilateral support and PNS (Partner National Society) partners.

Multi-country disasters often affect the three countries of the sub-region. While Cuba shows clearly the dividends in disaster response when government incorporates risk management into development planning, the response capacities of the Dominican Red Cross and the Haitian Red Cross have been seriously tested during recent emergencies. While the level of disaster response is improving, and there are concrete gains through investment in risk reduction and the investment PADRU has made in training for response, a focus of these coming years will be to improve the coordination of the response mechanisms in the sub-region. In Haiti this involves better articulation with PIRAC (Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean), while in the Dominican Republic and Haiti a special focus will be placed on better internal coordination with the concerned National Societies and externally with the UN system, the complementary roles and functions in the eventual activation of the Shelter Cluster during emergencies. Also a Caribbean-wide priority that will include the three National Societies of the sub-region is aimed at creating better links between these programmes and the transition to recovery.

In the Dominican Republic the Federation will continue to provide technical assistance by request to the successful community disaster risk reduction work done by the National Society which is supported by the Spanish Red Cross and UNDP/ECHO funding. This country will coordinate work between the Dominican Red Cross and the government's CNE and COE (the National Emergency Committee and the Emergency Operation's Centre respectively).

In the particular context of Cuba the Federation will continue to provide support as requested by the National Society and maintain the links it has established with the Norwegian Red Cross, the only PNS in the country.

In Haiti, community-based disaster risk reduction work will continue with DFID (UK Department for International Development) funds, targeting the most vulnerable provinces in the country. Expanding the coverage from last year and using adapted versions of the materials produced by the Community Education Centre of Reference located in Costa Rica. These funds have allowed the hiring of a national coordinator to oversee and bring coherence to the interventions of the six PNS who are currently working in disaster preparedness or have an interest in doing so in the future. A key element of this national coordination has been the harmonization of risk reduction tools, aiming to standardise service provision regardless of geographical area where it is offered or PNS support. The Disaster Management Working Group established in 2008 and grouping all Movement actors in Haiti (Haiti Red Cross, American, Canadian, Dutch, French, Norwegian and Spanish Red Cross, the Federation and the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross)) will continue to be the main mechanism for coordinating disaster management activities in Haiti and for determining sector priorities.

The Well Prepared National Society analysis done in late 2007 will serve as the baseline for developing the National Society Disaster Management plan and regularly updating the National Society contingency plan. In this regard the Haitian Red Cross will continue coordinating its work during emergencies with the Ministry of Social Affairs, and continue to be a key partner of the Directorate of Civil Protection in the implementation of the government's National Risk Management Strategy. An important component of this strategy is the coordination work done with the UN agencies, particularly IOM, in the provision of temporary shelters during emergencies. Under the aegis of the newly-formed National Shelter Management Committee the National Society is defining the role it will play to assist the government in the provision of temporary shelter during emergencies. The Federation will continue to assist the Haitian Red Cross to fulfil its mandate in this area.

The Federation will also continue to support participation in regional trainings (NITs, RITs, etc) of the Dominican Red Cross and the Cuban Red Cross staff and volunteers, aimed at better integration of these National Societies into the Regional Disaster Response System. Both the Dominican Red Cross and the Cuban Red Cross have a growing cadre of trained personnel that should be used as assets in the region and deployed during emergencies throughout the continent.

In health the region benefits from key regional programmes, such as Together We Can and outreach campaigns such as "The Faces Campaign". The challenge now is to tailor the National Societies' efforts to their countries realities and where they can best position themselves with external partners. In 2008 the start of the Americas Red Cross Global Alliance on HIV in Haiti (as well as in Belize, Guyana and Jamaica in the Caribbean) was initiated in order to scale-up the impact of National Societies work on HIV and AIDS. This will be a key focus of the 2009-2010 plans. Key partners of this initiative in Haiti are the American and the Netherlands Red Cross, who are currently investing in HIV and AIDS prevention in education programmes, using the Together We Can methodology and care for PLWH and PLWA groups. The Norwegian Red Cross has expressed an interest in joining this effort. An important component of the Global Alliance work in Haiti will be to harness resources and contributions of country agencies involved in HIV and AIDS work, such as UNAIDS and UNICEF.

The anti-stigma work being done by the three National Societies in Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti will continue to receive technical and financial support from the Secretariat. Also noteworthy is the success of the Club 25 initiative of the Haiti Red Cross, which can serve as example to the other National Societies of the region, including the Dominican Red Cross who has not accessed Federation resources available in this initiative. The success of the Road Safety programme of the Cuban Red Cross will be capitalised on how to explore the other two National Societies in the sub-region so that they can learn from this experience and emulate some of the steps it has taken to become the Ministry of Interior's main ally and technical reference in this area. Finally, the Psychological Support Programme (PSP) using the "Helping to Heal" module, translated into Spanish and French, will be offered to the three National Societies in an effort to harmonize this PSP intervention within the rest of the region.

While it remains to be seen if the Operational Alliance on Community-Based First Aid in Haiti will become a reality, community work in the health area will continue to be one of the pillars of the Haitian Red Cross. In this regard, the National Society will continue its work with the American, Canadian and

Norwegian Red Cross Societies and to collaborate with the Ministry of Health in malaria reduction and vaccination campaigns as well as other public health initiatives. This is area the Haitian Red Cross also collaborates with UN agencies including UNDP and UNFPA.

In the area of Organizational Development, a key component of the regional strategy will be to offer a standardised volunteer management training tool that could serve National Societies as a mechanism for retrieving baseline information on their volunteers which assist in building a volunteer management system that includes recruitment, retention, evaluation and recognition. This is needed in the Dominican Republic and in Haitian National Societies. The Latin Caribbean Regional Representation will work with the Caribbean Regional Representation to adapt it into Spanish and French for use and application in these two National Societies. The participation of the National Societies of Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti with the 2008 Youth Forum held in Guyana to roll out the Caribbean-wide youth strategy which will address the particular concerns and aspirations of this growing segment of the region. The Secretariat will support the implementation at the country level with decisions taken at the Youth Forum aimed to make the youth in the Red Cross a more visible and integral element in the governance of National Societies and more involved in programmatic decision-making.

Cuba	Norwegian Red Cross
Dominican Republic	Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross
Haiti	American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, French Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, ICRC.

## Secretariat supported programmes in 2009-2010

*In 2008, Secretariat support to the membership in the Caribbean is being provided from two regional offices, one for the Caribbean Region, where capacities for programme support will continue, and one for the Latin Caribbean Region. The programme support on the key areas of Disaster Management, Health and Care, Principles and Values will continue to be provided from Port of Spain for both offices. The new structure in place aims to be closer to the needs of National Societies and to provide more effective support.*

*Secretariat supported programmes show the continuity of work under way, previous plans and the alignment with priorities as identified by National Societies.*

### Disaster Management

#### a) The purpose and components of the programme

<b>Programme purpose</b>
<b>Global Agenda Goal 1: To reduce the number of death, injuries and impact from disasters.</b>

The Disaster Management programme for 2009 and 2010 is CHF 1,007,112 (EUR 641,473 or USD 920,578), **reaching some 15,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries.**

<b>Programme component 1: Disaster Management Planning</b>
<b>Outcome 1 National Societies disaster preparedness and response plans are established or updated in line with the National Societies strategic plan and national disaster plans.</b>

The expected result will promote the integration of tools, adjust and test current plans in disaster preparedness and response.

- Dominican Republic and Cuba National Societies are using the WPNS (Well Prepared National Society) as a baseline and information management tool for monitoring disaster preparedness capacity development.
- Contingency Plans for the three National Societies are tested through simulation exercises and shared with the National Disaster Office.
- Six of the most disaster prone branches in Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti are fully involved in the adaptation of the national plans into local plans with the active participation of local institutions.

**Outcome 2 National Societies form partnerships with key Movement and non-Movement actors and participate in strategic alliances for disaster risk reduction and response.**

This expected result will encourage partnerships through national platforms and response systems, partnership opportunities, key network meetings and increase the understanding of Red Cross activities. The following outcomes are expected:

- Signed MoU (Memorandums of Understanding) with the National Disaster Office (Dominican Republic and Haiti)
- Dominican Republic National Society proactively participates at the national platform for disaster risk reduction and national response systems, and favours the implementation of at least three partnership opportunities with the government and / or civil society institutions.
- The Disaster Management Network meets twice a year to map regional progress of the Guayaquil Plan of Action based on National Society reports, suggested recommendations for improvement and promotes the use and / or adaptation of global / continental standards, tools and guidelines.
- Increased understanding of Red Cross activities in the community disaster preparedness and the impact on risk reduction is achieved through the promotion and dissemination of information to national and regional stakeholders.

### **Programme component 2: Organisational Preparedness**

**Outcome 1 Red Cross capacity in risk reduction, preparedness and response is strengthened.**

Support will be provided to integrate disaster response tools and polices, coordination with non-Movement partners, trainings and capacity building in facilitation, shelter management and knowledge-sharing between National Societies and the Regional Reference Centres. The expected outcomes are the following:

- Active participation in the national for a for disaster risk reduction with governmental and non-governmental agencies and / or external institutions and partners.(Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti)
- Disaster response polices and tools have been harmonized, validated and disseminated.(Dominican Republic, Haiti)
- The three National Societies have an adequate level of coordination, information sharing and participation with the existing Regional Centres of Reference.
- Personnel from the three National Societies have the capacity to facilitate trainings at the regional, national and community level.
- The operational capacity of the three National Societies in shelter management and / or sheltering is well reflected in the National Society disaster plan and presents the coordination with national authorities.
- The Haitian Red Cross has a cadre of 30 trained NITs (National Intervention Team) actively working in disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness and response activities.

### **Programme component 3: Community Preparedness**

**Outcome 1: Communities are better prepared, more organized to respond to/recover from the effects of natural hazards and recognize potential risk reduction measures and actions to be**

taken

The expected result will focus on community-based disaster preparation with volunteers and disaster response teams through capacity trainings, targeting vulnerable populations.

- Development of community-based disaster preparedness programs aimed at high-risk populations covering a least half of each country. (Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti)
- Volunteers in half of the branches have the skills to carry on a VCA (Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment), action plans and standard reporting systems. (Dominican Republic and Haiti)
- 20 new Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRT) have been formed, trained and equipped to prepare and respond.
- At least one third of the branches in the Dominican Republic and Haiti have volunteers with the skills to develop a simulation exercises to put into the CDRT training.
- All of the boarder branches in the Dominican Republic and Haitian National Societies have disaster risk reduction programmes targeting vulnerable communities on both sides of the boarder with community-based disaster preparedness initiatives.

**Outcome 2 Communities lead and implement mitigation, early warning actions in coordination with the Red Cross and other local actors.**

Promote a stronger culture of prevention amongst the public throughout the three National Societies is created through internships and regional mass media.

- Local schools in the most vulnerable province of Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti are working with the National societies providing education in disaster risk reduction to students with support of the teachers.
- A stronger culture of prevention is created in the most vulnerable province of Haiti and the Dominican Republic through the development and implementation of a regional mass media campaign on disaster risk reduction.

**Programme component 4: Recovery**

**Outcome 1 Communities and individuals are better able to recover and reduce further risks following disasters.**

The results of the outcome aim to improve disaster preparedness capacities through trainings and a study to incorporate performance systems for early recovery.

- Incorporation of preparedness systems for early recovery in the Dominican Republic and Haitian National Societies

**Programme component 5: Disaster Response**

**Outcome 1 Ensure strong coordination with PADRU for efficient and effective Disaster Response in the region**

The Latin Caribbean Regional Representation will work in close coordination with the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) to enhance Red Cross ability to respond to disasters through a range of mechanisms including Field Assessment and Coordination Teams (FACT), Emergency Response Units (ERU), Regional Intervention Teams (RIT). The aim is to enhance National Societies' capacity to carry out tasks such as needs assessments, relief, rescue, shelter management, humanitarian aid distribution and water and sanitation interventions. This programme component will link with the support provided by the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation to ensure that National Societies disaster response teams (NIT) have in place the knowledge, skills, information management systems, trained personnel, equipment, material, and procedures to act swiftly and effectively in disaster response.

**b) Profile of target beneficiaries**

During 2009-2010, the programme will reach at least 5,000 direct beneficiaries and approximately 10,000 indirect beneficiaries, as follows:

Community level: school teachers and students, leaders and members of community centres and organisations, indigenous populations, staff of local entities such as civil protection bodies, health centres and municipalities.

The focus of the programme is on the most vulnerable rural and urban communities and groups exposed to and affected by natural disasters including those particularly vulnerable for hurricane and floods and related to gender, age or social status. The participation and involvement of women in the implementation of our activities will be highly promoted. Institutions benefiting from risk reduction programming are members of civil society (Red Cross Movement and non Movement partners) working at community level in the humanitarian field and promoting the harmonisation of methodologies and techniques to reach a better level of achievement within the communities.

### **c) Potential risks and challenges**

The Latin Caribbean region is prone to risks and threats from natural disasters and hazards due to unsafe overpopulated urban areas with unplanned housing where highly and chronically vulnerable populations live. In this area, the minimal foreseen or unforeseen alteration of the chronic vulnerability can have disastrous consequences on the livelihoods of populations and change the priorities of needs and actions under progress. This situation challenges the implementation of activities during the first six months of the year; the following six months present a higher risk of hurricanes and storms and obliges a constant availability and flexibility of human resources (from National Societies, Secretariat, PADRU, volunteers) and finances (short, medium and long-term financing) addressing multi-hazard conditions and multi country- hazards.

The Disaster Risk Reduction programme is struggling to keep a globally integrated, complementary and consistent approach within the sister National Societies with multi-funded programmes and a cross-cutting programming in order to reach one global objective: *safer and healthier communities* through an integral approach.

In order to sustain the National Societies activities, the programme is promoting and supporting the National Societies to develop national, regional, international, private and public alliances with the Secretariat playing an important role and responsibility in coordination. This last point has been highlighted by the National Societies during the consultation process.

## Health and Care

### **a) The purpose and components of the programme**

<b>Programme purpose</b>
<b>Global Agenda Goal 2: Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies</b>

The Health and Care programme budget for 2009 and 2010 is CHF 1,762,520 (EUR 1,122,624 or USD 1,611,079), **reaching at least 3,186,356 direct and indirect beneficiaries.**

The main purpose of the Health and Care programme will be to support the Haitian National Society to fulfil its commitments within the Global Alliance on HIV (the Haiti Red Cross, is one of the four National Societies in the Caribbean which are part of the Global Alliance, along with the National Societies of Jamaica, Belize and Guyana, the support to which is explained in the Caribbean Regional Representation Office plans), as well as to support the scale up programming in HIV and AIDS in the other two National Societies. A cross-cutting emphasis of HIV related interventions will be promoted through Principles and Values, Disaster Risk Reduction, Road Safety and other programmes.

Another key support to the three National Societies will be building capacities in health in emergencies, non-remunerated blood donation, psychological support, community first aid and emergent and recurrent diseases.

**Programme component: HIV and AIDS**

**Outcome 1** Vulnerability to HIV and its impact reduced through preventing further infection, expanding care, treatment, and support and reducing stigma and discrimination – Global Alliance National Society of Haiti.

Through the Global Alliance on HIV the Haiti Red Cross will scale up its actions in prevention, treatment, care and support, reduction of HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination and strengthening its capacities to respond to the impact of HIV and AIDS.

Through this enabling framework, capacities and resources will be mobilised to provide harmonised support to the National Society for the achievement of their HIV programmes within the framework of the Federation's Global Agenda. The Federation will provide technical support as well as support to fundraising, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

The Federation support will focus on the Haitian Red Cross in its effort to reach the most vulnerable groups and marginalised populations through the Global Alliance on HIV by:

- Develop working methodologies and experience exchange meetings
- Support to the National Society to expand its prevention work, as well as treatment, care and support for PHIV, increasing the number of volunteers working at community level.
- In conjunction with the Principles and Values programme, the National Society will scale up efforts to reduce HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination
- Policies will be put in place within the National Society to support staff and volunteers affected by HIV and AIDS by fulfilling the Global Alliance indicators. [Please click here for further information on the Global Alliance on HIV in the Americas.](#)

**Outcome 2:** National Societies expand programmes to promote behaviour change to prevent further HIV infection.

**Outcome 3:** Red Cross capacities in HIV and AIDS are strengthened to provide treatment, care and support.

**Outcome 4:** Programmes established and strengthened in their focus on stigma and discrimination reduction.

**Outcome 5:** Strengthening National Society, community, national and regional capacities to deliver and sustain scaled up programmes.

The National Societies of Cuba and the Dominican Republic which are not part of the Global Alliance will receive Federation support to maintain and scale-up the implementation of the Together We Can methodology, with key support in monitoring and evaluation. Through this continued programme management assistance along with support for capacity building and organisational development it is planned to bring them on board with the Global Alliance approach by the end of 2010.

The integration of HIV and AIDS programme into other programme areas will be a priority with anti-stigma remaining a key focus. Deriving from their reputation for neutrality and impartiality, along with their track record for service delivery, the National Societies are well poised to improve the institutional response to HIV and AIDS. Taking in to account the epidemiological trends of the disease and the commitment to reduce vulnerability to HIV and AIDS, it is envisioned that additional resources will be sought to expand the work for National Societies in providing Voluntary Counselling and Testing, along with care and support to PLWH.

**Programme component: Community Health and First Aid**

**Outcome 1:** National Societies with capacity to develop voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation using Club 25 as a strategy, and engage in a strategic alliance with private sector.

Blood transfusions save lives and improve health, but millions of patients requiring transfusion do not have timely access to safe blood. The overall availability of blood for transfusion in the Americas is low, as a study conducted by the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) in 2006 showed that there was a total of just 21 million units of blood collected annually for a population of little over 815 million, for a

donation rate of 24.5 units per 1,000 inhabitants. To increase the amount of blood collected, this programme will expand *Club 25*, an initiative in the National Societies of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic aimed at young people to promote lifelong blood donation and healthy lifestyles.

- The three National Societies will have a well developed Club 25 by the end of 2009, aiming to reach ten per cent of their youth populations
- The National Societies of Haiti and the Dominican Republic will have a signed MOU with private sector for Club 25 to address long-term sustainability.

**Outcome 2: National Societies with capacity to give psychosocial support to reduce mental health morbidity, disability and social problems.**

In 2009 and 2010, the Federation seeks to enhance Psychosocial Support Programme (PSP) in the National Societies of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic through the “Helping to Heal” methodology. By the end of 2010, the Federation seeks to ensure that the region’s National Societies are focused on having a long term psychosocial support programmes offering assistance and counselling support to communities, volunteers and staff affected by disasters and other crises.

- The methodology “Helping to Heal”, translated and adapted into Spanish and French for the region’s needs, will be disseminated and the National Societies have well trained trainers and volunteers able to use the tools in the three National Societies
- Promotion of MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) signed between the National Societies and national psychologist associations or universities to support PSP activities.
- The National Societies of Haiti and the Dominican Republic have carried out community-based PSP training in at least one community affected by disaster.

**Outcome 3: National Societies with capacity to disseminate good practices in first aid through the promotion of the community-based first aid.**

Community-based first aid is a proven cost-effective, safe and simple way to save lives in an emergency. Millions of people are hurt, and killed from injuries or illnesses in health every year. Whether it is managing outbreaks of major diseases such as HIV and AIDS, providing treatment to tuberculosis or malaria patients, assisting a heart attack or an accident victim, first aid provides the initial rapid response to protect people and minimize the impact of a health emergency.

- The National Societies expand the implementation of Community Based First Aid (CBFA).
- The Haitian Red Cross develops a commercial first aid package

**Outcome 4: National Societies have developed public health in emergency activities to control emerging diseases and epidemics (avian flu, dengue etc) and have shared experiences and support process for harmonized tools and methodologies for epidemic control**

Although there have been no reported cases of the avian influenza virus (H5N1) in birds, animals or humans in the Caribbean, there is a possibility that it may spread to the region as a result of the constant poultry and animal migration and trade along with the constant migration of people. The Federation will work to develop a continental contingency plan that builds capacity in all the National Societies to tackle potential outbreaks.

A continental approach towards an increase in the use of **Community Based First Aid (CBFA) approaches, at rural, peri-urban and urban levels** to broaden the base of traditional first aid training by including aspects of community health (such as prevention, **health promotion and control of common emerging and re-emerging diseases, as in the specific case of Haiti**) and with strong action links to disaster management (preparedness and response), and volunteers and their branches.

The programme component focusing on epidemic control will facilitate the development of a response strategy at the national level in the event of the outbreak of avian or pandemic influenza or other vector borne diseases. At the same time the strategy will identify mechanisms to strengthen community-based surveillance.

An efficient improvement of health response in emergencies and provision of access to safe water and sanitation in communities requires a Federation-wide effort towards increasing knowledge, expertise, tools and best practices from National Societies and other actors. The mechanism to increase this will be through **supporting National Intervention Teams (NITs) training opportunities and providing technical expertise** in the areas of water and sanitation and health in emergencies. Special support is needed to develop a comprehensive approach for water, sanitation and hygiene promotion in the Americas, based on the Inter-American Plan 2007 – 2011. The secretariat in the Americas Zone will closely work together with the Spanish Red Cross and the French Red Cross in the coordination, follow up and support of the global water and sanitation facility in Dominican Republic, Haiti and Guyana.

The Federation aims by the end of 2010 to facilitate the sharing of experiences between National Societies of the region, beginning concrete and coherent work to harmonize tools and methodologies, to ensure a more effective response to vector borne diseases.

- The creation of a regional methodology for epidemic control, involving other National Societies of the region through regular meetings.
- By 2010, the National Societies of Haiti and the Dominican Republic have implemented a national vector borne diseases campaign.

**Outcome 5: National Societies have developed a strategy on road safety, promoted road safety campaigns and promoted adherence to road risk reducing guides in coordination with other actors.**

Continuing with the successful Road Safety programme of the Cuban Red Cross, the Federation will provide support to the National Societies of Haiti and the Dominican Republic to develop road safety initiatives in collaboration with transit authorities in their respective countries, and to become actively engaged in the promotion of good practices (including increased adherence to road risk reducing guides) recommended in the World Report on road traffic injury prevention.

- The National Societies of Haiti and the Dominican Red Cross will establish working groups responsible for the development of road safety policies.
- The Federation will encourage and support collaboration between the three National Societies by enabling the transfer of knowledge and experience in the development of road safety initiatives of the Cuban Red Cross.
- By the end of 2009 volunteers of the National Societies of Haiti and the Dominican Republic will promote of road safety practices, and by the end of 2010 both National Societies will have developed Road Safety programmes.

## **b) Profile of intended beneficiaries**

All three National Societies in the sub-region will be able to access the regional learning and initiatives from the programmes under Global Agenda Goal 2. However, the Haitian Red Cross Global Alliance on HIV programming targets specific beneficiary groups.

The Global Alliance on HIV will scale up the impact of the response to the epidemic in Haiti, reaching 3,186,356 people as direct and indirect beneficiaries. The Together We Can programme will maintain its aim to reach ten per cent of the target population (youth between the ages of 10 and 19) or double numbers reached in the National Societies in 2009 and 2010 with consistent prevention messages through youth peer education activities and social mobilization events. The focus is on vulnerable (at risk) youth, persons living with HIV and poor communities.

In regard to voluntary non-remunerated blood donation, the aim is to reach at least ten per cent of the target population (youth between the ages of 16 and 25) in all National Societies in 2009 and 2010 through the *Club 25* programme and through social mobilization events and mass media campaigns. The aim of Psychological Support Programme will be to increase the support to all survivors of emergencies and disasters (natural and human-made), so that they will have access to timely and professional PSP services and that severe cases are referred to the appropriate state services in a timely manner. In emergent and re-occurring diseases such as dengue and avian influenza/pandemic

influenza the Federation Secretariat will work in close collaboration with state and UN agencies /NGO especially in regards to social mobilization and prevention campaigns.

### **c) Potential risks and challenges**

In the particular case of Haiti the risk exists that the security situation will worsen, creating a serious limitation to the implementation of proposed activities. In this scenario, it would be unlikely that the current six Partner National Societies would remain in the country, further hindering the execution of the activities.

Another challenge is that in order to be successful, it is imperative that the National Societies have the capacity to provide high quality programmes to undertake the health issues in the sub-region. There is a need for strong connection to the other programmes, particularly the organisational development programme. The impact of disasters in the sub-region region will also have an effect on the continued functioning of these plans. Attracting sustainable funding for these programmes, especially those outside of the scope of HIV and AIDS initiatives remains a key challenge.

## Organisational Development/Capacity Building

### **a) The purpose and components of the programme**

#### **Programme purpose**

**Global Agenda Goal 3: To increase local community, civil society and Red Cross / Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.**

The Organisational Development/Capacity Building programme budget for 2009 and 2010 is CHF 409,626 (EUR 260,908 or USD 374,430), **working with at least 600 local offices and 50,000 volunteers in the three National Societies.**

#### **Programme component 1: NS Leadership Capacities Improvement**

##### **Outcome 1 National Societies have improved their system of governance and management**

The expected result will sustain and provide guidance in human resource development and management strategies, which will integrate transparent procedures for hiring personnel and the recruitment of volunteers; governance, and financial support. The expected outcomes are the following:

- Provide support and guidance to the Haitian National Society for the revision and updating of their human resource policies and procedures.
- Technical guidance to the Haitian Red Cross to update and revise its statutes
- Financial support will be increased by Movement partners based on improvements made by the Haitian Red Cross

##### **Outcome 2 National Societies are promoting effective and empowered leaders**

Guidance will be provided to the Cuban, Dominican Republican and Haitian National Societies in diversity and leadership training, youth leadership and governance and management development. The expected outcomes are the following:

- Promote diversity in leadership in the three National Societies and the establishment of new National Society leaders in governance from the public sector, civil society, communities and youth in the Cuban and Haitian Red Cross.
- Leadership training in the three National Societies to build a mutual understanding of the Fundamental Principles and the Federation's vision, mission and values amongst all of the Red Cross staff, volunteers and with external actors.
- Support the clear understanding of governance and management roles in the Haitian Red Cross.

- Youth will actively participate in governance bodies in the Haitian Red Cross.

### **Programme component 2: National Society systems, procedures and staff sustainability**

**Outcome 1 The National Societies of Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti are using results-based planning and performance management systems with clear quality standards.**

The results will emphasize timely information sharing, support and integration of PMER (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Unit) tools developed by the Federation and improved accountability within communities, donors and the general public. The expected outcomes are the following:

- The dissemination of information sharing and access to reports are used by National Societies to keep partners, donors and the general public informed and regularly updated in a transparent and timely manner.
- In 2009 at least one National Society is regularly using the PMER tools developed by the Federation to sustain the development and revision of National Society planning process.
- Improved accountability within communities, indirect beneficiaries and donors with the improvement and availability of their reporting systems. (Dominican Republic and Haitian Red Cross)

### **Programme component 3: National Society financial sustainability**

**Outcome 1 The National Societies have developed a more effective financial management**

The expected result will focus on effective, transparent and sustainable financial management aligned with the Federal financial guidelines and production of annual audit reports that are published and shared with the country and accessible to donors. The expected outcomes are the following:

- Federation financial guidelines have been incorporated for effective financial management in Haitian and Dominican National Societies.
- The Haitian Red Cross has developed transparent and sustainable financial procedures and guidelines.
- Annual audit reports are being produced that are published, shared in country and available to donors in the Haitian Red Cross.

### **Programme component 4: National Society grassroots and service development**

**Outcome 1 Red Cross youth initiatives are promoted and supported by National Societies of Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti ensuring effective participation of young people in the institutional life of the National Society**

The result intends to motivate and integrate youth involvement within the National Societies in the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation through forums, networking systems, leadership trainings and internships. The expected outcomes are the following:

- An improved understanding of the youth in the Cuban, Dominican and Haitian National Societies has been acquired and integrated in the development of the Caribbean Youth Policy.
- Youth from all three National Societies participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Caribbean Youth Forum.
- Youth from the three National Societies participate in the Regional Youth Networking Mechanism.
- An active and well managed volunteer youth programme is engaged in the core areas of the Dominican Republic and Haiti National Societies.
- Leadership training is developing youth in the Caribbean and ensuring their positioning in all levels of Red Cross work.
- Youth are actively advocating the inclusion of young people in all of the levels of National Society work from the areas of governance, management, and community work with staff and volunteers.

**Outcome 2: Communities have increased their capacity to organize themselves and create change through the promotion of volunteers.**

The expected result will enhance community volunteering, use of volunteer management tools, cross-regional knowledge-sharing, training and awareness campaigns and the improvement of services provided to the most vulnerable communities. The expected outcomes are the following:

- Community volunteering is actively being promoted by the Cuban, Dominican and Haitian National Society through the use of the standard volunteer management tools developed in the Caribbean.
- Cross-regional knowledge-sharing and volunteer expertise in the Caribbean has increase the capacity of communities and their ability to work together.
- The three National Societies are supporting the implementation of training and awareness campaigns to build a mutual understanding of the Fundamental Principles and the Federation's vision, mission, and values amongst all Red Cross staff, volunteers and with external actors that specifically engage in education at the community level.
- Dominican Republic and Haitian National Society are improving their ability to provide services to the most vulnerable communities in the country.

**Programme component 5: National Society programme development and management**

**Outcome 1 Caribbean technical networks are supporting the development of the Caribbean National Societies**

The expected result will support participation in regional networks and promote and monitor the development of a network system. The expected outcomes are the following:

- The National Societies' staff participates in Caribbean regional programmatic networks.
- A central coordinating body has been established to promote and monitor the development of the network system in the Caribbean and links the region to the Central and South American networks and decision making bodies.

**Outcome 2: National Societies have increased significantly the participation in public initiatives with the authorities, the private sector and civil society**

The National Societies will be apart of the national technical forum and platforms. Pre-agreements will have been established with other partners through country agreements that include joint planning and programming where applicable.

- All National Societies are members of the National Technical forums/platforms, including disaster management, HIV and AIDS and poverty reduction where applicable.
- All three National Societies have established pre-agreements and strengthened relationships with other partners through country agreements that include joint planning and programming where applicable.

**b) Profile of target beneficiaries**

The International Federation's Latin Caribbean Regional Representation through the Organisational Development/Capacity Building programme expects to reach the three National Societies of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic during 2009-2010 through its programmes and initiatives with Movement and non-Movement partners. Direct beneficiaries to be reached include the more than 600 local offices, branches and regional committees of these National Societies, as well as the more than 50,000 volunteers of the Red Cross in these three countries. Community targets are also to be reached indirectly by the National Societies through their work in television programmes, radio stations, advocacy campaigns, volunteers, local committees, community centres, governing boards and other institutions at the community level.

**c) Potential risks and challenges**

The consultation held in 2008 with National Societies reveals that their interest in Global Agenda Goal 4 is of particular importance and it is acknowledged that poverty, inequality and exclusion conditions in Dominican Republic and Haiti are significant.

The Latin Caribbean has focused its efforts on awareness-raising in the area of HIV and AIDS related to stigma and a regional anti-violence strategy and migration issues.

Even though there is a clear and common recommendation from the Study of the Americas and the consultation of the National Societies priorities to scale up in dissemination of Principles and Values, promotion of tolerance, non violence, rights of migrants, displaced people and minorities and non-discrimination, the sustainability of the programming is seriously at risk in terms of funding.

There is a need to promote and ensure strategic alliances with organizations that develop activities to reduce discrimination and stigma. In particular there is a need for increased willingness to include marginalized people not only as beneficiaries but as actors with strengthened voices to be members of their communities.

The lack of open, participative analysis facilitating institutional consensus with regards to concepts such as “discrimination”, diversity”, “violence” and “respect for diversity”. Moreover, the generation (and thus cultural) gap in National Societies (notably between governance and volunteers) complicates the development of this conceptual consensus.

## Humanitarian Principles and Values

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

<b>Programme purpose</b>
--------------------------

<b>Global Agenda Goal 4: Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.</b>
--

The Principles and Values programme budget for 2009 and 2010 is CHF 257,754 (EUR 164,174 or USD 235,607), **reaching around 1.5 million people directly and indirectly.**

The Inter-American Plan 2007 – 2011 places emphasis on promoting individual and community values which foster respect for others as well as the willingness to work together to seek solutions to community issues. The National Societies covered by the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation will increase their work to promote respect for diversity, human dignity and to reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

<b>Programme components: Promote fundamental principles and humanitarian values</b>
---

The National Societies of Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti intend to increase their work in promoting respect for diversity, human dignity and to reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion. The aim is ensure that Red Cross personnel, volunteers, public and private authorities and the community at large, know and understand the Humanitarian Principles and Values (HPV) given that enhanced awareness should influence attitudes at the community level and lead to behaviour change to reduce discrimination and promote respect for diversity.

In order to promote the dissemination of humanitarian principles and values in each of the Red Cross activities, a constant cross-cutting approach will be pursued in developing Humanitarian Principles and Values interventions in Disaster Risk Reduction and Health programming.

<b>Outcome 1 National Societies are carrying out a systematic effort in the promotion of HPV.</b>
---

This component concentrates on the effective dissemination of the Humanitarian Principles and Values and the training more facilitators in these areas, particularly at the branch level.

- Dissemination of Humanitarian Principles and Values to National Societies, employees and volunteers of the three National Societies.
- Integrate the HPV component with the other programmatic areas.
- One case study in 2009 will be carried out in each of the three National Societies to obtain and assess the dissemination of Humanitarian Principles and Values within the National Societies and at the community level.

**Outcome 2 The National Societies have developed processes of internal change to face the conducts and discrimination practices.**

In the area of non-discrimination and respect for diversity, National Societies will work to develop internal processes to deal with discriminatory behaviour and to formulate procedures to address discrimination issues and non-respect for diversity in a transparent and effective manner.

- By the end of 2009 the National Societies of the Dominican Republic and Haiti will have updated their human resources policies to reflect their commitment to eradicate discrimination.
- In the Health programme, the three National Societies will scale up efforts to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination
- In each of the three National Societies a programme will be established to develop Red Cross Youth as the champions of Humanitarian Principles and Values.
- A case study in the National Society of the Dominican Republic and will be carried out in 2009 to assess the impact of integrating Humanitarian Principles and Values into other programmes, both within the National Society and at the community level.

**Outcome 3: The National Societies develop community activities on reduction and prevention of the discrimination.**

National Societies will work to put strategies in place at the national and branch level to confront discrimination and respect for diversity.

- Integrate HPV elements in community-based programming in the National Societies of the Dominican Republic and Haiti
- Promote a strategic alliance with mass media in Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti as an innovative way to promote humanitarian values
- A campaign on road security, addressing respect and solidarity values that will be established in the National Societies of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, in coordination with other regional programmes.

**Outcome 4: The National Societies develop community actions for the reduction and prevention of the violence.**

Violence is a major cause of death, particularly in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The two National Societies will develop programmes in the followings areas:

- Alliances with youth organizations, church groups, sports and music celebrities for the dissemination of key messages on the prevention of violence.
- Mass media campaigns (radio spots, road signs, etc) in association with other organizations aimed at the prevention of violence among youth.
- In Haiti, the National Society will target Cité Soleil, Martissant and other violence-prone areas of Port-au-Prince to develop a strategy to reduce violence.
- A campaign targeting taxi and taxi-moped users will be developed to pass key messages on the prevention of violence.

**Outcome 5: National Societies of the region fortify their humanitarian actions in favour of**

All three countries of the sub-region are both exporters and recipients of migrants; hence this issue is of particular concern to the National Societies, as their numbers continue to grow given the socio-economic context. As a result, the National Societies of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, as a first step, will analyze the current initiatives and will take steps to strengthen activities to assist migrants in situations of vulnerability in their respective countries.

- The three National Societies will develop of common approach for interventions with migrant populations, coordinating with other National Societies of the region, the International Federation and the ICRC.
- Wider dissemination of the IFRC policy on migration among the National Societies, both at the national and branch levels.
- Further coordination by the National Societies of the Dominican Republic and Haiti to have a common and complementary programming approach in the border areas of the two countries to address the vulnerability of communities on both sides of the border in a holistic way, in coordination with local authorities and other parties concerned (IOM, ICRC, etc).

## **b) Profile of intended beneficiaries**

The aim is ensure that Red Cross personnel, volunteers, public and private authorities and the community at large, know and understand the Humanitarian Principles and Values. The enhanced awareness should influence attitudes and behaviour within the National Societies and at the community level and lead to behaviour change to reduce discrimination and promote respect for diversity. It is expected that this effort will reach over 1.5 million people.

## **c) Potential risks and challenges**

The promotion of Humanitarian Principles and Values is seen by the National Societies as a cross-cutting area which needs to be integrated into all of the programming areas. The Secretariat programme is emphasizing this aspect in its plan in order to promote an integrated approach within National Societies programmes.

The National Societies of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti have focused their efforts on awareness-raising in the area of HIV and AIDS related to stigma and some participate in a regional anti-violence strategy developed with the support of the Spanish Red Cross.

Even though there is a clear and common recommendation from the Study of the Americas and the consultation of the National Societies priorities to scale up the dissemination of Humanitarian Principles and Values, promotion of tolerance, non-violence, rights of migrants, displaced people and minorities and non-discrimination, the sustainability of the programming is seriously at risk due to insecure funding.

## **Role of the secretariat**

The secretariat's budget for its support role is CHF 656,770 (EUR 418,325 or USD 600,338) for 2009 and 2010.

It is clear that the Secretariat has an important role to play in ensuring the provision of core membership services to the three National Societies of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Beyond that, it should also be obvious that under the New Operating Model the Federation has to play a coordinating role as it changes its functions from implementing programmes to facilitating others. In the sub-region nowhere is this more evident than in Haiti, where a large number of PNS with large cooperation portfolios require the Federation to be active in facilitating dialogue, coordinate strategies, and create an environment where knowledge-sharing can take place. The focus of the Federation's effort in Haiti will be to work towards finalizing a Cooperation Assistance Strategy in the country. A critical component in this effort will be the continued coordination with the ICRC - it is important to

mention that since the opening of the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation the Federation has had a solid and collaborative relationship with the ICRC delegation in Haiti, which has contributed to both PNS and Haiti Red Cross, supported by the union between the two Geneva-based institutions as it relates to the role of the Movement in Haiti.

The management of DFID funds in Haiti present the only exception to this “facilitation” role, as commitments and responsibilities towards the donor require the Federation to take an active role in ensuring that the funds are well spent and that the programme goals and objectives are met and accomplished. However, the strategy will be to work towards building that capacity at the Haiti Red Cross to help them become more self-sufficient and self-accountable over time.

### **a) Technical programme support**

Key to supporting the three National Societies of the sub-region will be the provision of technical program support. This is particularly true in the areas of Disaster Management, Health and Care (especially HIV and AIDS) and Organizational Development/Capacity Building. The initiative behind establishing a Regional Representation in Santo Domingo was to be closer to the three National Societies for the Secretariat to provide core membership services. This implies that the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation is not meant to be a “full-service” regional representation - the financial reality of the Federation in the Americas is a further constraint to having a “full-service” cadre of technical staff. Hence the provision of technical program support will be provided by the Caribbean Regional Representation office based in Port of Spain, while the Regional Representative in Santo Domingo will oversee and coordinate the provision of this support. Additionally, other services (financial, information, human resources, etc.) to this Regional Representation and the three National Societies it covers will be assured by the Americas Zone Office.

The challenge for the Federation remains to increase the capacity of the Caribbean Regional Representation in program support to make it possible to adequately provide technical assistance to the National Societies of Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti in culturally- and language-specific ways so as to be tailored to the particular needs of the country.

In the area of Organizational Development/Capacity Building a locally hired OD/CB Officer will assist the Regional Representative in providing tailored services to the three National Societies.

### **b) Partnership development and coordination**

While the role of the Federation in Cuba and the Dominican Republic involves facilitation and coordination among different Movement actors, undoubtedly it is in Haiti where the Federation is needed the most to provide this enabling role. While there are two PNS present in the Dominican Republic and one in Cuba, there are six in Haiti, plus a large country delegation of the ICRC. All Movement actors have had a long and eventful history in Haiti, and the Federation is no exception. It is clear that a central priority of the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation’s work in Haiti is to continue to gain the confidence of the National Society, the PNS and the ICRC (lost in 2007 and reflected in the lack of funding for the Haitian Federation delegation) continue to work towards the establishment of a CAS document in Haiti that demonstrates all Movement partners’ assistance to the Haiti Red Cross

### **c) Representation and Advocacy**

A key element behind the decision to initiate the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation was to ensure adequate connections and coordination between the Federation and a number of state and non-state actors in the sub-region. The special characteristics of the three countries, and the three National Societies, have already been mentioned and described above. It is strategically important to the Federation to maintain a political presence in this sub-region to represent the Federation and support the National Societies in their work with government and other actors (especially the UN and EU specialized agencies) to advocate for the humanitarian issues derived from local, regional and global Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement meetings. In this case, advocacy work on behalf of people living with HIV and AIDS and disaster victims will continue, in the region perhaps there is no other humanitarian issue as pressing as the plight of migrants. While Cuba and the Dominican Republic both

receive and export migrants, Haiti is a net exporter of migrants, within as well as outside the region, and the deplorable conditions in which Haitian migrants leave their country and live on the margins of society in the Dominican Republic and elsewhere in the region is a matter of concern for the Federation and hence it will continue to be a special focus of its advocacy work in the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation.

In Cuba and the Dominican Republic the Federation will maintain its representation and advocacy work in comparison with government entities in the areas where their work overlaps Red Cross programmes, as well as with UN agencies, donor country embassies, and regional intergovernmental organizations. In the case of Haiti the Federation will continue its representation and advocacy activities with different actors, internal and external to the RC/RC Movement. The particular circumstance of Haiti is that there is a large international community present in the country which ranges from multilateral lending institutions to embassies and international NGOs. The UN has its largest UN peace enforcing mission in the world in Haiti, MINUSTAH, with a military, political and humanitarian mandate, which during disasters and other emergencies focuses its vast resources and logistical capabilities on response. It is then evident that the Federation has an important representation role to play in Haiti, as many of these state and non-state actors often work in areas of concern to the Red Cross, such as disaster preparedness or response, or HIV/AIDS prevention work.

## Promoting gender equity and diversity

The Federation's Gender Policy recognizes that the integration of a gender perspective into Red Cross and Red Crescent action is an important strategy towards the fulfilment of the Federation's humanitarian mandate to improve the lives of the most vulnerable. The policy also requires that each National Society puts in place institutional procedures which ensure that the needs of boys, girls, men and women are all met equitably in disaster response, vulnerability reduction and the provision of health and other services.

Problems related to poverty and inequality in the Caribbean have a direct consequence on issues of discrimination and exclusion related to gender. More women than men live in poverty and discrimination against women is manifested in different forms. The regional programs have taken this into consideration and will work to promote greater awareness of gender issues as well as promotion of non-violence. The Disaster Management Programme introduces gender through the VCA methodology and in the NIT training package. It is especially important to put more emphasis on trying to attract men into volunteering with the Red Cross.

The Health and Care programme strives to involve equal numbers of males and females in all its programme areas including HIV and AIDS; volunteer non-remunerated blood donation; psychosocial support (PSP); and first aid. National Societies are encouraged to employ people living with HIV and AIDS within their health programmes and especially to employ people of different sexual orientation to better reflect the community they serve.

Important to the development of capacity is ensuring that Red Cross staff and volunteers are truly reflective of the highly diverse make up of the region, from National Society governance to community volunteering. The Red Cross in the Caribbean will make serious efforts to have a membership that is representational of all ages, social and cultural contexts and will, through the development of community Red Cross groups and branches, have a wide cross section of leaders from the communities, supporting volunteers in the communities they work.

The promotion of non-discrimination is the root of all the work in the Humanitarian Principles and Values programme. The regional programmes, alongside a focus on the programmatic areas described will also work to support this non-discrimination and promotion of gender, equity and diversity is promoted through all the other programme areas.

Rights protection of women and girls will be promoted at every opportunity and the ideas and concerns of women and girls will be sought throughout the development of every project and activity. The criteria

set for beneficiary identification build upon the Federation’s Fundamental Principles and the vision and values of respect for dignity and equity.

## Quality, accountability and learning

The Federation strives to include monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in each intervention, with nearly all programme component parts having an aspect of monitoring and evaluation built in. National Societies will be expected to monitor their own progress against the Guayaquil Inter-American Plan 2007-2011, which will capture progress of the National Societies against the Global Agenda Goals. In addition increasing attention will be given to the Federation Secretariat staff to do field visits to support the National Societies to monitor the execution of the programmes.

For the Humanitarian Principles and Values programme, National Societies will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the programme and the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation will provide technical support for the application of tools that have been developed under this programme. It is the National Society’s responsibility to monitor the advances and challenges of the programme and feed that information to the Federation for action.

The different components of the Global Alliance on HIV in Haiti have monitoring and evaluations mechanisms built into them, and most of the other Health and Care programme components also have their own monitoring and evaluation tools to measure the impacts of the interventions. The *Together We Can* Monitoring and Evaluation toolkit has been introduced throughout the region as the standard for measuring qualitative and quantitative aspects of the methodology. *Club 25* is designing a monitoring and evaluation tool to measure increase in numbers of donors and donations.

As for the Organisational Development / Capacity Building programme, monitoring and evaluation will be carried out through the meetings of the Regional Representation. Further development will be given to mid and annual reports that will focus on monitoring the strategic and operational plans of the National Societies.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on operational plans of National Societies and Secretariat structure in the region will be strengthened with the support of the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting unit in the Americas Zone Office, through the rolling out of a monitoring and reporting package that aims to serve as a management and decision making tool for project and programme managers at all levels by prompting the follow up of progress towards achievement of indicators periodically.

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><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <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 plan, please contact:

- **In the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation: Alexandre Claudon, Regional Representative; email: [alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org](mailto:alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org); phone +1 809 334 4555.**
- **In the Americas Zone Office: José Garcia-Lozano, Head of Zone; email [jose.garcialozano@ifrc.org](mailto:jose.garcialozano@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 380-0250; fax (507) 317-1304.**
- **In the Americas Zone Office in Panama: María Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator; email: [maria.alcazar@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.alcazar@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 380-0250; fax (507) 317-1304.**