

Programme Update

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Asia Pacific

Appeal No. MAA50001

30/06/2009

This report covers the period
01/01/2009 to 30/06/2009.



In Ulaanbaatar, Mongolian Red Cross youths and volunteers make clothes and jewellery to raise funds for Red Cross operations, serving among the most vulnerable people in society. **International Federation**

In brief

Programme summary:

This programme update focuses on the work of the team in the Asia Pacific zone office to provide leadership and guidance to the International Federation efforts to increase the impact of Asia Pacific National Societies' humanitarian activities. National Societies throughout the region, with the support of partner national societies and other organizations, have continued to respond to multiple disasters, as well as to scale up their efforts to carry out programmes in line with the commitments in the International Federation's Global Agenda.

Notable achievements in this reporting period have included:

- The process of integration of the Asia Pacific disaster management unit into the zone office has started.
- There has been a strengthening of engagement with partner national societies in the zone, with the holding of an Asia Pacific partner national society meeting in Kuala Lumpur 14-16 June.
- The transfer of the tsunami unit from Geneva to the zone office has taken place, and now the zone office has responsibility for the tsunami operations.
- Two emergency appeals were launched during this period; Pakistan humanitarian assistance for internally displaced people and Bangladesh for Cyclone Aila. Meanwhile, major recovery operations are underway in China for Sichuan earthquake, in Myanmar for Cyclone Nargis, and Bangladesh for Cyclone Sidr.
- Through a large effort at all levels, there are now no overdue reports in Asia Pacific.
- There has been significant progress in disaster management and organisational development in knowledge sharing, for example membership-led fact sheets and the production of DVDs etc.
- There has been an initiative led by Australian Red Cross and supported by the zone office for a

new approach to national society development.

- There has been a smooth response to H1N1 so far in Asia Pacific, linking up with national societies as needed.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget has been revised from CHF 1,605,117 to CHF 998,889 (USD 920,321 or EUR 655,129), of which 87 per cent is covered. Expenditure during the period January to May 2009 was 35% of the total 2009 budget. It should be noted that much of the staffing and running costs of the zone office are covered by core secretariat funding.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report¹.](#)

No. of people we help: The Asia Pacific zone office provides support to the 37 National Societies, four International Federation secretariat regional offices and 15 country offices in the Asia Pacific region, to help strengthen their capacity to deliver more extensive and effective humanitarian services to vulnerable groups.

Our partners: Within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, there is close cooperation with many partner national societies and with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supporting National Societies throughout the Asia Pacific region. In addition, there are partnerships with many external organizations at all levels (community, national and regional levels), community-based, national and international organizations, UN, and other developmental agencies.

The zone office would like to especially thank the following partner national societies which have contributed this year in cash or kind to the Asia Pacific zone appeal: Australian Red Cross/Australian government, British government (DFID), Finnish Red Cross/Finnish government, Japanese Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross/Norwegian government, and Swedish Red Cross/Swedish government.

Context

The first half of 2009 witnessed a number of major socio-political events occurring in the Asia Pacific region. The most serious have been in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The challenge to the Pakistan authorities by the Taliban movement resulted in a large-scale military offensive in the North West Frontier province and the neighbouring tribal areas. As a result of this up to 3 million civilians were displaced, the vast majority of whom sought refuge with host families in safer parts of the province and country.

In Sri Lanka, the authorities were finally able to complete a military victory over the Tamil Tiger rebels who had been waging an offensive since the early 1980s. This victory was, however, won at a cost of widespread civilian casualties and suffering. How far the government will be able to use this victory as an opportunity to build a climate of peace and reconciliation in the country remains to be seen. Meanwhile, tensions between DPRK, South Korea and the international community at large continued to escalate as the DPRK continued to pursue its nuclear policy in defiance of resolutions from the UN Security Council.

On a more positive note, this period also saw the holding of successful democratic elections in Bangladesh, India and Indonesia. In Bangladesh this brought the return of the centre-left Awami League and the end of two years of military-backed rule. The parliamentary elections held in May in India led to the return of a strengthened Congress-led government which bodes well for the country as it faces up to the challenges posed by the global financial crisis. Indonesia's successful return to democratic norms was reconfirmed by its parliamentary elections, although the presidential elections due to be held towards the end of 2009 are likely to be more decisive in charting the country's political future in the years ahead.

In terms of natural disasters, this period has been unusually calm across the entire region. At the very end of June however an emergency appeal for CHF 2.3 million was launched in view of the escalating damage caused by cyclone Aila on communities still struggling to overcome the effects of cyclone Sidr. An appeal for CHF 23.9 million was launched in early June to support the work of Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to assist the internally displaced persons (IDPs) who had fled from the fighting into non-conflict

¹ Please note that the interim financial report attached reflects income and expenditure up to 31 May 2009 only. An updated interim financial report covering up to 30 June 2009 will be attached to this narrative by 31 July 2009.

areas. The PRCS is also working actively alongside ICRC bringing support and assistance to those suffering in the conflict areas.

All countries throughout the region, wealthy and poor alike, suffered from the effects of the global economic crisis throughout the first half of the year. The economies of those countries that rely heavily on exports to North America and Western Europe were particularly affected. Finally, the other major crisis that built up over this reporting period was the influenza A (H1N1) epidemic. At first, most of the Asia Pacific countries were spared its consequences. However by the end of June, 21 countries in Asia Pacific have officially reported confirmed cases of the new influenza A (H1N1); some 109 countries have reported cases globally. Asia Pacific cases account for 14 per cent of global cases, and three per cent of deaths. The zone office responded to this epidemic by circulating to all National Societies in the region the latest available information on the outbreak including the approved advice on the action to be taken. All National Societies have designated focal persons and/or task forces who coordinate preparedness, mitigation and response efforts of the organisation. Almost all National Societies work closely with national authorities in ensuring their actions contribute to the national response, while 20/37 (per updates received from countries) are either members of national coordination bodies or participating in their meetings. This is particularly true in Southeast Asia where National Societies have been engaged in the avian influenza preparedness and response.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose

Asia Pacific National Societies will provide timely assistance, and build resilience among communities to prepare for and recover from disasters.

The disaster management programme across the Asia Pacific zone has worked actively over the reporting period in addressing the advancement of institutional disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction, and promoting the auxiliary role and capacities of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies in the area of disaster management and risk reduction. At the zone office, the zone disaster management coordinator (DMC) and the Asia Pacific disaster management unit (APDMU) have worked collaboratively in support of the disaster management capacities across the zone and National Society programming. In particular, this has involved the identification of common challenges and key priorities to guide the wider zone disaster management team throughout 2009 and beyond.

While the focus of the zone programme is centred on Asia Pacific, an opportunity to support the wider International Federation disaster management objectives was taken up during the reporting period, where the DMC was deployed to the Southern Africa zone to assist in their flood response operations in Namibia, Angola, Zambia and Botswana. This proved an opportunity to reinforce the value of the zone structures through the effective utilization of available resources in a cost-effective manner as well as enhanced exchange of knowledge, experience and innovation between the zones. It is hoped that such opportunities of exchange and learning from other zones will be available for the Asia Pacific zone in the future.

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component 1 : Disaster preparedness
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Outcome: National Society mechanisms for the efficient delivery of disaster management assistance are strengthened.
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Achievements

Support to the National Society disaster preparedness activities across the zone has been achieved through the provision of technical and advisory services in conjunction with the regional and country level disaster management representatives. Specific support has been provided to a number of organizational and response preparedness activities that have included the review of the Myanmar Red Cross disaster management programme, support to the Bangladesh Red Crescent and Federation country office in reviewing their disaster management programming, and the development of qualified emergency

assessment skills for staff and volunteers in China (including the Hong Kong branch), Mongolia and DPRK National Societies.

A review of the national and regional level annual plans identified an opportunity to consolidate various objectives for disaster response preparedness that promoted consistency and enhanced the quality in disaster preparedness actions. An Asia Pacific proposal has been prepared and submitted to ECHO, a key regional partner, for consideration and implementation in the second half of 2009. If funded, the proposal will actively support the propagation of preparedness for response activities based on the experiences and best practices from within the Asia Pacific zone and International Federation global guidelines.

Programme component 2 : Disaster risk reduction (DRR)
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Outcome: National Societies capacity to support community preparedness and mitigation is strengthened and harmonized across Asia Pacific.
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Achievements

The zone disaster management programme has intensively worked towards supporting national level DRR actions being undertaken by National Societies. Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Nepal and Tonga National Societies attended the Global Alliance (GA) on DRR Conference where some 100 Red Cross Red Crescent participants together with representatives from UNISDR, ECHO, World Bank, Zurich Financial Services, the Norwegian and British governments and academic institutions were in attendance. The five National Societies drew on their collective experience during the conference to share their experiences and challenges as well as lead in the establishment of action plans and next steps for driving forward the GA on DRR.

Building off the work of the GA on DRR, the National Societies of Pakistan, Philippines and Solomon Islands have been supported in the development of projects under the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. The Solomon Islands Red Cross has set the benchmark with regard to this important partnership. In support to ongoing programming in DRR across the zone, assistance was provided for the finalization of an advocacy manual for DRR initiated from the South Asia region, as well as the establishment of a regional DRR Framework that is being developed by Southeast Asia National Societies to guide the scaling up their DRR actions.

An in-depth study has been commissioned together with the Philippines National Red Cross and supported by the German Red Cross and DiPECHO, to document the evolution of the National Society's community-based risk reduction approach in an effort to understand the key factors for the success it has achieved in enabling sustainable preparedness outputs.

Programme component 3: Information sharing, knowledge management, coordination and cooperation

Outcome: Sharing of best practices through peer National Society support and engagement with all Movement components and relevant external humanitarian organizations in Asia Pacific.

Achievements

Regional networks convened in both East and Southeast Asia, allowing National Societies to engage in dialogue and regional exchange on their disaster management strategies, longer-term plans and key priorities for 2009. There was a clear emphasis from all National Societies on the prioritization of their disaster management actions in line with the Red Cross Red Crescent strategy. Further knowledge sharing and exchange has been supported through reporting on the risk reduction actions of Asia Pacific National Societies experiences in early warning in the 2009 World Disasters Report, and the compilation of visual based materials and studies for the Federation's engagement in the Global Platform on DRR taken from China, Mongolia, Philippines and Viet Nam National Societies.

The ongoing collaboration between the International Federation and UNOCHA recently involved the Southeast Asia RDMU engagement in an UNDAC disaster preparedness mission to Cambodia and the Asia Pacific International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) programme joining a similar mission to Papua New Guinea (PNG). During the two missions the Cambodian and PNG National Societies role and capacities in disaster management were highlighted and aspects of IDRL were integrated into the missions' findings that set out disaster response preparedness activities for the governments of both countries.

The International Federation participated in a two-day visioning workshop for the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), as well as the preceding three-day joint forum on DRR which discussed topics for consideration by the ACDM and ASEAN member states in pursuing a disaster-resilient and safer community by the year 2015, and discussed a partnership strategy. This reinforced the position of National Societies as key organizations and contributors to the reduction of risk within their national contexts.

The partnerships between the International Federation and the UN system were expanded at the first session of the ESCAP Committee on DRR, to define a strategy that integrates DRR with development and reconstruction efforts across the Asia Pacific. The zone DMC was also engaged in a combined UN ISDR, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, GF for DRR, UN country team and civil society organizations mission to support the government of Nepal develop a joint DRR action plan based on the national strategy for reducing disaster risk. This was the first time for such a multi-stakeholder participatory process with the government of Nepal to develop a mid- to long-term 'Disaster Risk reduction Roadmap' for the country and provided a valuable opportunity to reinforce the profile and valuable work of the Nepalese Red Cross.

Constraints or Challenges

A key focus during the reporting period from the zone disaster management programme has been to raise the profile of Red Cross Red Crescent capacity and expertise in DRR. Through support to National Societies at the national and regional levels, the zone DMC engaged in a series of external events that provided an opportunity to counter the conventional opinion that the auxiliary role of the Red Cross Red Crescent is limited to disaster response. Through such advocacy opportunities it is hoped that in the near future, National Society actions in DRR and climate change adaptation will be a standard component in the dialogue with their governments.

Asia Pacific Disaster Management Unit (Refer to global DM plan for details)

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose

Asia Pacific national societies and the International Federation secretariat are well prepared to respond to disasters collectively, and capable of strategically mobilizing regional resources and requesting global resources when required.

In this period, the APDMU provided direct support for relief and recovery operations, coordination in response, conducted monitoring and evaluation missions on active operations in relief and technical sectors, provided human resources for gaps in response and delegate vacancies on operations as well as direct support to National Societies through training, contingency planning and implementation of programmes in water and sanitation, recovery and shelter. At a joint meeting with regional disaster management coordinators several significant working modalities were agreed upon in response, monitoring and evaluating operations, funding approach and priorities for the zone. In the working modality for response, the unit will liaise directly with the country team on all operational issues keeping the regional disaster management coordinator (DMC) informed. All activities were conducted in close coordination with the Asia Pacific zone office service units, the four regional offices and operations coordination team in Geneva.

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component 1: Disaster response

Outcome: The capacity and coordination of zone response to disasters and health emergencies are strengthened to effectively mitigate the impact of disasters through rapid provision of assistance or intervention during and/or immediately after a disaster or health emergency.

Programme component 2: Disaster response preparedness and early recovery

Outcome: The capacity and coordination of zone response preparedness resources are strengthened to effectively reduce the impact of disasters and health emergencies. Assistance to restore or improve pre-disaster living conditions is strengthened and the risk of future disasters is reduced.

Programme component 3: Information sharing, knowledge management, coordination and cooperation

Outcome: There is active engagement with all Movement and external partners within Asia Pacific and globally which is effectively utilized to benefit from shared experiences, capacities, learning, and agreed on

Achievements

The capacity envisioned for response and technical sector expertise was completed in March with the addition of a recovery delegate to a unit now comprised of disaster response (two), health in emergencies, shelter, and water and sanitation, needed to provide cross divisional support for response, response preparedness and early recovery activities for National Societies in Asia Pacific. The unit provided surge capacity support for assessment coordination, and relief and recovery support, aiding operations in Pakistan, and shelter programmes in Myanmar and China. It also provides ongoing technical guidance to operations in relief and recovery programmes inclusive of shelter, water and sanitation, health in emergencies and livelihoods, as well as community participation strategies and the integration of programmes in longer-term recovery processes.

The unit undertakes and supports zone-level technical reviews of various reports associated with International Federation operations, and in close collaboration with the zone's resource mobilization (RM), and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) unit and regional DMCs, monitors and evaluates ongoing operations in Asia Pacific, for the eventual distribution of results and tracking of lessons learned.

The unit implemented many other activities aimed at building capacity in disaster response, preparedness and early recovery, including:

- strengthening the regional disaster response team (RDRT) task force composed of members from the four regions. RDRT kits are being pre-positioned and a database is being tested in the South Asia regional office. Selection criteria, performance appraisals, standard operation procedures and other issues are being standardised.
- developing an emergency assessment workshop based on new guidelines and conducting two such workshops, plus one regional training in China.
- RDRT IT/telecommunications training in Singapore, health Emergency Response Unit (ERU) training, national disaster response team (NDRT) training, Federation Early Recovery Surge Team (FERST) training, shelter and lessons learned workshop, RDRT shelter training, health in emergencies course, two RDRT induction trainings and the first all-women RDRT training in Nepal.
- Developing a workshop model for assisting National Society contingency planning processes, plan for future facilitation of contingency planning workshops, and strategy for cross regional coordination of National Society and regional contingency planning.
- Mapping a draft outline for disaster management resource mapping.
- Including IDRL in National Society contingency plans. A legal preparedness check-list was presented in Afghanistan and this framework has been shared with South East Asia National Societies during the DMC meeting.
- Raising advocacy issues with different governments to develop IDRL pilot projects. An IDRL presentation was conducted during the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) workshop in Malaysia, with participation of many governments from Asia Pacific nations.

Constraints or Challenges

Inconsistency in management systems of National Societies and International Federation operations and recognized monitoring and evaluation practices continue to present obstacles to improving effectiveness. Response operation organization models are needed to ensure key positions are filled on all operations. Pre-disaster response agreements with National Societies and standard operating procedures that clearly mandate responsibilities and authority for operations are needed to hasten decision making in coordination of global resources.

The process for selection of operations delegates and reducing gaps between incoming and outgoing delegates continues to challenge continuity and transitions in operational staff. Additionally, a better system is needed to ensure key stakeholders from disaster management are included in the decision making process for all operations delegates. There is a critical need to develop an expedient and cost effective logistics process for National Societies to support medium-scale response with local procurement and replacement of preparedness stock for smaller response operations. There is much uncertainty on the undertaking of cash programming. Issues and concerns have led to long delays and the development of very complex processes to distribute money.

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose

The International Federation's International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) Programme seeks to reduce human vulnerability by promoting legal preparedness for disasters.

The IDRL programme aims to improve legal preparedness for disasters and the effective application of existing international legal tools in disaster management. Through a field-focused structure, it acts in three main areas:

- cooperating with National Societies to provide technical assistance to governments on implementing the guidelines, through country-level technical assistance projects and the development of a detailed handbook and model legislation;
- building the capacity of National Societies, International Federation staff and humanitarian partners to promote and use the guidelines and related international instruments through the finalization of an advocacy manual, training workshops and other materials; and
- disseminating and promoting the IDRL guidelines and related instruments with governments, humanitarian partners, and inter-governmental organizations as well as fostering new collaborative research on domestic legislative issues in disaster management designed to strengthen the Movement's approach to DRR in applicable law.

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component 1: Technical assistance to governments

Outcome: Policy-makers understand and make use of the IDRL Guidelines to strengthen legal and policy frameworks for disaster response.

Achievements

Since 2008, the IDRL Programme has been collaborating with the governments and National Societies of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, with technical support from the World Health Organisation and funding from the pooled funds of the Asian Development Bank Greater Mekong Subregional Communicable Disease Control Project, on Legal Preparedness for Disaster Response and Communicable Disease Emergencies.

On 21 January, the Cambodia project took an important step forward, when the Cambodian National Committee for Disaster Management convened a high-level consultative workshop in Phnom Penh to learn about existing international standards, to review initial findings and recommendations of the legal preparedness project, and to discuss the ways forward, which will make a key contribution to the final project report currently being finalized. The technical assistance project in Viet Nam is well underway with the appointment of a project coordinator and legal research team. The IDRL programme was requested to conduct a training session for government officials and other organisations by the Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership of Viet Nam in April. In Laos, the technical assistance project is on track with the support of the French Red Cross in appointing a project coordinator and the recruitment of a Lao law firm to conduct the legal research. The IASC country team has established a legal preparedness working group to assist with facilitation and follow up from the project and discussions will be held with high level officials of the national disaster management committee in the coming month.

The findings, lessons learnt and recommendations compiled from these three technical assistance projects will be later presented and discussed during a Mekong Regional Forum planned in October. Initial research and discussion has begun substantively in the Pacific, South Asia and East Asia to initiate technical assistance projects by the second quarter of this year.

Programme component 2: Training and capacity building

Outcome: Interested national societies and humanitarian partners are empowered to advocate for strengthened legal frameworks for disaster response

Achievements

A number of National Societies have begun to organize their own IDRL national workshops with support from the IDRL programme following the Asia training and consultation workshop held in November last year. The programme is also supporting the Indonesian Red Cross, which is planning a training and consultation workshop jointly with the government and the UN, to continue discussions on Indonesia's new disaster management laws and guidelines. The Red Cross Society of China has sought International Federation support for similar events in the second quarter of the year and Nepal Red Cross has indicated interest in following up on the IDRL Nepal case study which was conducted in 2005.

This year, the IDRL Programme has increased its cooperation with OCHA in providing support on IDRL to UNDAC preparedness missions, which are undertaken at the request of governments to evaluate and recommend ways to strengthen their disaster management systems. The team has provided substantive assistance and input to UNDAC missions in Cambodia in March (based on the prior research from its ongoing project there as described above) and also in Papua New Guinea in May. Additional training has also been conducted for a MERCY Malaysia and Malaysian government disaster management training course in May.

Programme component 3: Dissemination, advocacy and research
Outcome: The IDRL Guidelines are well known, partnerships are developed and the knowledge base of the Movement on legal issues in disaster response is deepened.

Achievements

The IDRL unit has also been involved in conferences, workshops and seminars around the Asia and the Pacific, including the Coordination Forum for Aceh and Nias in Indonesia, Asian Development Bank Regional Health Forum in China, the ASEAN Consultative Meeting on Regional Cooperation in Pandemic Preparedness and Response in Cambodia, the Visioning Workshop on the Implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, regional events of SOPAC and also the OCHA led Pacific Humanitarian Team, including a contingency planning workshop for Samoa. The IDRL guidelines have been used and referred to during other initiatives such as the MPAT Tempest Express 16, a multinational exercise on military engagement in disaster relief in the Philippines. In February, the IDRL guidelines were also highlighted in a news article on the Commonwealth Secretariat web site and in an article on "Limiting the impact of pandemic influenza through community-level actions".

Constraints or Challenges

The unit endeavours to encourage greater activity beyond Southeast Asia, which continues to be a major hub for IDRL. The commencement of the Pacific IDRL delegate in January this year has made a significant difference in raising the profile of the IDRL guidelines and legal preparedness issues across the Pacific, but more is needed in the South and East Asia regions. This will be a priority in the coming months of the programme.

Health and Care

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose
National Societies in Asia Pacific have strengthened capacity to deliver effective and sustainable health and care programmes that respond to national public health priorities.

The Asia Pacific health programme is managed through the network of four regional health coordinators based in the four regional offices and the zone technical health delegates/coordinators. A planning meeting was held in February 2009 to review the implementation of the health and care network agreed on in 2008, as an approach to lead, manage and coordinate the International Federation's health and care agenda and priorities in Asia Pacific. In 2009, the health and care sector will continue to be managed through the network though there were strong recommendations to recruit a full-time health and care coordinator to fulfill the coordination, representation, partnership and resource mobilisation priorities of the sector.

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component 1 : Public health in emergencies
Outcome 1: Effective support to National Societies public health activities in Asia Pacific.
Outcome 2: Increased capacity of National Societies in responding to public health emergencies.

Achievements

For achievements on the public health in emergencies and water and sanitation components of this programme, please refer to the APDMU update.

Programme component 2 : HIV/AIDS

Outcome 1: Asia Pacific national societies have scaled up the quality and reach of their HIV/AIDS programming in line with the Federation's HIV and related policies.

Outcome 2: Strong and active alliances are functioning in all four Asia Pacific regions as part of the Federation's global alliance on HIV.

Achievements

Please refer to the East Asia, Pacific, South Asia and Southeast Asia regional programme updates for details on the HIV/AIDS components.

Programme component 3 : Community-based first aid/community health

Outcome 1: Sharing of best practices through peer national society support and engagement with all Movement components and relevant external humanitarian organizations in Asia Pacific.

Outcome 2: Health activities of national societies are valued and recognized by the health authorities as contributing to national health strategy.

Achievements

Please refer to the East Asia, Pacific, South Asia and Southeast Asia regional programme updates for details on the community based first aid / community health components.

Programme component 4 : Avian and human influenza (AHI) preparedness

Outcome 1: National societies implement health activities that enable vulnerable communities to prepare for and respond to the impact of avian and human influenza.

Achievements

National societies involved in the humanitarian pandemic preparedness (H2P) programme have now fully appreciated the concept, project deliverables (expected outputs) and conditions, and have continued to be committed to take on the challenge of implementing the ambitious project deliverables within one year – specifically, each project is expected to develop 'off-the-shelf' tools and guidelines for community volunteers and prepare trainers tasked to undertake 'just-in-time' trainings in as much coverage of provinces and districts as possible. Projects will also develop inter-agency country-wide plans for rolling-out these capacity/resources when pandemic risk increases, and continuity plans to ensure delivery of national society roles and responsibilities. These components are to be carried out through partnerships not only with national authorities, but also NGOs and civil society organizations.

The Indonesian Red Cross and Philippine Red Cross will formally start project implementation in June 2009, while it is anticipated that the Indian Red Cross and Viet Nam Red Cross will commence in July 2009. In the preparation of the detailed proposals, National Societies received guidance and support through a regional planning meeting in January; technical assistance visits in February and March by teams consisting of International Federation AHI officers from Geneva and the zone and H2P partner representatives. It is worth mentioning that while projects have not started, these National Societies have been coordinating and engaging with national authorities leading pandemic influenza preparedness as well as key NGOs and civil society organizations, have started collecting and compiling relevant tools and guidelines, and have commenced recruitment of project staff. Hence, they will be able to begin implementation immediately after signing cooperation agreements.

The Nepal Red Cross project, which started in October 2008, has also progressed well. It continues to lead the working group of H2P partners in Nepal (including CARE, Save the Children and the Academy for Educational Development) which is now finalising the adaptation of messages, training materials and a preparedness/response planning template. District branches involved in the Nepal Red Cross project are in place and ready to implement activities, while the headquarters has already identified focal points for the preparation of continuity plans, the formation of national/district responders for pandemic influenza, as well as for ensuring integration and sustainability of practices and products developed through the project.

In an effort to sustain H2P efforts, the zone has also been working closely with internal and external partners. Interaction and discussion with health and disaster management counterparts at zone and

regional levels have been made to explore synergies and areas for the integration and mainstreaming of H2P tools, guidelines and practices in Red Cross Red Crescent programmes. The zone actively linked up with the regional offices of WHO, OCHA, UNSIC; and through working with relevant zone units and regional offices, participated or were represented in regional mechanisms/initiatives led by USAID and ASEAN to facilitate the integration and mainstreaming of community-based initiatives and efforts of non-governmental humanitarian actors in pandemic influenza preparedness and response.

Zonal response to Influenza A/H1N1 outbreak

Since the start of outbreaks resulting from the novel influenza A/H1N1 virus, it has been a priority of National Societies and International Federation field offices to mitigate and respond to its threats. Working closely with the influenza pandemic technical committee of the secretariat in Geneva, the Asia Pacific zone influenza task force, and focal points of field offices, the coordinators for humanitarian pandemic preparedness (H2P) and public health in emergencies (PHIE) played key roles in advising and guiding national societies on a range of preparedness and response activities. These included:

- the development and adaptation of communication tools and materials focusing on prevention, infection control and impact mitigation at community level, using tools and guidelines developed through the H2P programme, and a volunteers manual for epidemic control.
- the augmentation of human resources for the delivery of health services;
- the updating of preparedness and response status through continuity plans, protective equipment for staff and volunteers, protection measures, and regular advisories to branches; and
- coordination with national authorities and relevant partners.

Guidance to International Federation regional and country offices in updating their state of readiness and continuity plans was also supported and coordinated. The coordinators also led in compiling weekly updates from different countries highlighting the work of national societies in response to Influenza A/H1N1 outbreaks. These formed part of the global situation reports and operations updates prepared by the secretariat. These were also shared to counterparts at continental/regional offices of WHO, OCHA and UNSIC and the secretariat of the ASEAN working group on pandemic preparedness and response.

Constraints or Challenges

With the rapid evolution of Influenza A/H1N1 which has now spread across the globe, there is now stronger pressure to accelerate the implementation of H2P projects, as well as to utilize H2P resources in responding to the current threats. More National Societies are also keen in engaging in longer-term influenza outbreak preparedness, mitigation and response efforts and would need resources to carry these out them. While the situation is a good opportunity in the application of H2P tools and guidelines, and to mainstream the initiative in current efforts, an ongoing analysis of needs and capacities will be undertaken to maintain the integrity of current projects as well as to ensure appropriate management and support structures are in place to support these efforts.

Organizational Development

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose
Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most pressing situations of vulnerability

Outcomes/Expected results

i) Organizational development (OD)

Programme component 1: Tailor-made organizational development and capacity building initiatives
Outcome: Organizational performance issues addressed in individual National Societies through tailor-made organizational development and capacity building initiatives.

Achievements

Achievements against the expected outcomes have included further work to improve the model of harmonised Movement support to Afghanistan Red Crescent’s operational plan; facilitation of a strategic

planning and organisational review discussion focussed on transition planning from recovery to development with governance leadership of Indonesian Red Cross and invited Federation, ICRC and PNS counterparts; facilitation of New Zealand Red Cross Constitutional Revision process with linkages to the society's new strategic plan; and country missions to Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, India and Nepal to support National Society strategic plan review discussions and options for strengthening harmonised Movement support to each humanitarian environment and to National Society OD and capacity building priorities.

Federation Integrity Policy implementation process discussions have opened up with Nepal Red Cross who have signalled an interest in exploring a new approach to accountability. A harmonised approach with ICRC is also in place to strengthen the Movement strategy to address the OD agenda in the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. Discussions have also begun with the Myanmar Red Cross and International Federation delegation on options for further support to the legal base development process in country. Country missions by both the Zone OD Coordinator and Volunteering Development Manager to the Maldives have made strategic inputs into the final phase of a National Society formation process leading up to the first planned General Assembly in August 2009. The initiative to develop a membership led strategy to strengthen resource mobilization and communications capacities through peer support, knowledge sharing, and technical mentoring and coaching modalities has received enthusiastic response from a wide range of Asia Pacific National Societies, and particularly from the New Zealand Red Cross.

The successful applications of the Philippine National Red Cross to the Intensified Capacity Building (ICB) Fund, and of the National Societies of Solomon Islands, Tonga and Samoa to the International Federation's global "Strategic OD Support" (SOS) fund has mobilized further quality resources to enable these four societies to strengthen their OD and capacity building work. The Spanish Red Cross contribution to strengthen OD work in the Pacific national societies also builds on the timely work of the Pacific National Society secretaries-general OD working group mapping of OD priorities of each society. This is a very strong example of a membership-led approach to prioritizing OD work and the practical results will create centres of learning for other societies across the Zone.

Programme component 2: Integration with health, disaster management, and principles and values
Outcome 1: Increased integration of organizational development and capacity building aspects within health, principles and values, and disaster management programmes.
Outcome 2: Increased integration with zone resource mobilization (RM) and PMER.
Outcome 3: Increased integration with zone human resources.
Outcome 4: Increased integration with global secretariat principles and values department.
Outcome 5: Increased integration with zone communications and knowledge sharing.
Outcome 6: Increased integration with zone security.

Achievements

Achievements against the expected outcomes areas have included the OD and Volunteering Development Unit discussions with Red Cross Society of China to undertake a joint review in the second half of 2009 to assess the OD and capacity building implications of the Sichuan Earthquake and ICB experiences to date; to plan for a coherent learning output in the second half of 2009 which could be used as a guideline on "OD in emergencies" with associated training modules for all Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT), ERU, RDRT and NDRT courses; and discussions have been held on completing the volunteering in emergencies guidelines to be jointly undertaken with the Bangkok regional disaster management team.

There have been many new improved pieces of collaborative work across core programmes both across the zone units, but also at country and regional levels as a result of advocating for strengthened integrated approaches between OD and core programmes. These include examples such as the work with the zone DMC on gender and disaster management; discussions to link IDRL with support for revision to the legal bases of selected National Societies; the plans for the Asia Pacific forum on resource mobilization and communications with colleagues from the zone's resource mobilization and communications units; and with planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) on joint support for project planning process (PPP) and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) training to follow up to strategic planning support by the OD teams.

Programme component 3: Information sharing and knowledge management
Outcome: Sharing of best practices through peer National Society support and engagement with all Movement components and relevant external humanitarian organizations in Asia Pacific.

Achievements

Achievements against the expected outcomes areas include the completion and initial distribution of the set of five DVDs on best practices in OD and capacity building work in the four multi-cultural environments. The DVDs are on the themes of “Branch and Community Development”; “Volunteers and Youth”; “Gender and Diversity”; “Participatory Planning”; and “Resource Mobilization and Sustainability”. The DVDs have already been used in the East Asia Partnership meeting, ICRC Cooperation meetings in South and South East Asia respectively, and in the Indonesian Red Cross planning meeting among many others. All audiences have welcomed these examples of best practice and will be using them to change practices in measurable ways. The DVDs are also being uploaded on Youtube where global audience hits will be tracked. Requests have already come in from African countries and also the Bolivian Red Cross requesting copies.

The second folder of 39 National Society generated capacity building fact sheets was also printed and distributed to all Asia Pacific National Societies and partners across the Movement in early 2009. Appreciative feedback has already been received, including from sources as varied as the Swedish Red Cross and other core programme counterparts in the Movement who are using them to show the impact of OD and capacity building work on vulnerable communities.

Consultation and finalization of a zone Youth Strategy has begun by requesting three active youth representatives from the Australian Red Cross, Philippine National Red Cross, and Japanese Red Cross to form a youth-led steering group to plan an Asia Pacific youth representative consultation day during the Solferino Global Youth gathering in June. With strategic support from both the Japanese Red Cross and German Red Cross, this consultation will lead to an expanded steering group with youth focal points from each of the four regions of the zone who will have the opportunity to meet again in late 2009 and plan a next meeting of the reconfigured Asia Pacific youth network in early 2010. This meeting will discuss how young people can play even more active roles in services across all National Societies, and be better organized and represented at governance levels. It is hoped that the empowered youth-led messages from this can then be fed directly into the next Asia Pacific Regional Conference to be held in late 2010.

ii) Volunteering Development

Volunteering development is a major component of this programme. In line with Global Agenda goal 3, the volunteering component will strive to achieve the following outcome:

“National societies demonstrate improvement in volunteering aspects in programmes and emergency operations that lead to better services provided to vulnerable people as well as higher rates of retention and satisfaction of volunteers.”

Programme component 1: Tailor-made initiatives
Outcome: National societies have access to consistent strategic and technical support (including peer-to-peer support) and resources on volunteering development work.
Programme component 2: Integration with health, disaster management and humanitarian values
Outcome: Integration of volunteering within health, principles and values and disaster management programmes.
Programme component 3: Information sharing and knowledge management
Outcome: Volunteering development knowledge management.
Programme component 4: Global volunteering
Outcome: Global volunteering development

Achievements

The volunteering development unit continued to provide specific country-based assistance to National Societies within the four work dimensions on volunteering development: legal base, systems and procedures, celebration of volunteerism and volunteering in emergencies. The unit also offers technical support to partner National Societies, and International Federation and ICRC delegations to further strengthen their work with volunteers and approaches in managing volunteers. Positive results were achieved from the ongoing support extended since 2008 to National Societies in Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste on the application for global volunteer insurance. Three have successfully applied for the insurance coverage and there are 11,720 volunteers protected under the Global Volunteer Insurance Scheme.

Work on mapping volunteer database development around the region continues into 2009. The purpose of this is to identify a suitable database software which could be proposed as a standard volunteer database.

The unit, through its mapping of volunteering needs, is aware of the many National Societies who are in search of a simple, user friendly, but locally adaptable software to register volunteers at branch and national levels and record their training and active hours of service. A possible software developer has been identified and negotiations are ongoing in the system development.

The volunteering development unit continued to provide specific country-based assistance in areas of volunteering policy and manual revision or development, volunteer database guidance, and capturing six best practices and examples for dissemination to other national societies. Specific National Societies who received direct support this year are Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives and India. The Solomon Island Red Cross, Tonga Red Cross and Samoa Red Cross have been successful in their regional application of the Federation's SOS Fund globally to strengthen volunteering development practices. Work on planning out a 'Plan of Action' and activities will be worked on from mid-June onwards.

Constraints or Challenges

The remaining operational objectives of the Asia Pacific OD and volunteering programme for 2009 will be a challenge to deliver with such a small team. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that the remainder of 2009 will result in the final launch of the National Society peer support network, the "communications development" tools and capacity building approach with the zone communications team, and the next steps in setting up the senior executive coaching support for selected secretary-generals from the zone. It is also hoped that the work to consolidate OD in emergencies work will result in mainstreaming OD and volunteering tools and perspectives into future FACT, ERU, RDRT and NDRT trainings through the zone DM team.

With the transition of the Federation regional OD delegate roles in the Pacific and South Asia parts of the zone into regional programme coordinators, there will be a challenge for the zone OD and volunteering unit to work in closer coordination with national societies and country Federation teams in particular to ensure technical support in these regions. This might also necessitate a new strategy to ensure maximal utilization of the newly established peer practitioner network, and also of existing Federation and partner National Society OD delegates and assets across the zone playing increasingly multi-country support roles in a measured set of timebound negotiated initiatives.

Principles and Values

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose
Global Agenda goal 4: Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component 1: Promotion of tolerance and respect for diversity
Outcome 1: Enhancing understanding and sharing of best practices.
Outcome 2: Capacity-building in principles and values/gender of National Society staff and volunteers.
Outcome 3: Raising public awareness with a view to changing behaviour in society.
Outcome 4: Advocacy and international representation.

Achievements

One of the specific achievements is the completion and distribution of a best practices DVD on "Gender and Diversity", which is part of a set of five thematic DVDs. It contains excellent examples of mainstreaming these perspectives in Red Cross Red Crescent work which is seldom recognized across the Movement. The DVDs are being widely used in planning and partnership meetings and will reinforce strongly the cross-cutting themes of gender, social inclusion and anti-discrimination, and branch and volunteer development as holistic concepts. This DVD is also being uploaded on Youtube where it can be easily reached by a global audience.

Programme component 2: Integration of humanitarian values and gender into operational disaster management and health programming
Outcome 1: Further development of gender into programming.

Achievements

A meeting on gender and disaster management was co-hosted between Nepal Red Cross, the zone disaster management and OD units, and the secretariat's principles and values department from Geneva from 2 - 5 June in Kathmandu. A total of 14 men and 23 women participants from nine Asia Pacific National Societies, four partner National Societies, respective regional and country offices, and ICRC, shared knowledge and best practices from across a full spectrum of disaster management preparedness, response and recovery operations. The practical outputs include tools, checklists, and guidelines to ensure improved approaches to gender equity in disaster management work in all components and at all levels of the Movement in future.

Programme component 3: Anti-discrimination and violence prevention/reduction programmes

Outcome 1: Mapping of National Society programmes which target discrimination, marginalization or exclusion of communities who fall outside the traditional health and disaster management programme areas.

Achievements

The zone OD unit is working with the global principles and values department on a quantitative baseline survey which will examine National Society standalone principles and values programming as well as its integration into operations. Ten National Societies from Asia Pacific will be selected to contribute to a global sample, from which it aims to highlight the strong societies, as well as those seeking to be stronger, and also highlight the varying sizes and scales among them. The baseline survey questionnaire is being managed by the zone OD unit, which expects to complete it between July and September, with a possible personnel contribution from the Australian Red Cross to assist with this. This initiative will serve as a baseline mechanism to identify National Societies with good practices of social inclusion and anti-discrimination in their programming, while also recognize National Societies that have identified communities not affected by health or disaster management programmes, yet are still vulnerable and marginalized. It is hoped that lessons can be learned from these good practices and applied into programming.

Communications, Advocacy and Knowledge Sharing

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose

To enhance Red Cross and Red Crescent programme impact and effectiveness through expanded national society domestic visibility and increased global International Federation brand identity.

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component 1 : Enhanced emergency communications capability

Outcome: National societies and the International Federation are the leaders in providing accurate, timely information to domestic and international press during major disasters.

Programme component 2: Integration of effective communications into programme and resource mobilization activity and planning

Outcome 1: Increasingly successful programme awareness at the donor and beneficiary/end user level.

Outcome 2: Increasingly successful resource mobilization through enhanced communications, planning and implementation.

Programme component 3: Communications capacity and team building at the zone, regional/country office and national society level

Outcome: Expanded knowledge and experience at the zone, regional/country office and national society level in successful communications and media programme planning and implementation in support of global and localized priorities.

Programme component 4: Increased knowledge sharing and capture of institutional successes from and between national societies and all other Movement components

Outcome: Increased input to knowledge sharing systems by Movement partners and increased usage of those systems by key customers/audiences.



Effective communications strategy and implementation will better tell the human story. This ability to put a human face on humanitarian service is what will differentiate us from other actors in this increasingly competitive field. **Rob Few/International Federation**

New communications tools for both external and internal audiences were developed and successfully distributed, including top quality photographs, DRR promotional materials, and marketing materials that improved the professional image of the zone and its programmes.

Achievements

The global commemorations for Cyclone Nargis and the Sichuan Earthquake were supported with comprehensive tool kits that were widely utilized by National Societies around the globe. The launch of the “Our world. Your move.” campaign garnered domestic, regional and global visibility, while simultaneously building teamwork and capacity at the National Society and International Federation communications level. Among many positive elements, the distribution of zone-based funding to support National Society-developed campaign plans was highly successful.

New emergencies were met with an aggressive “leaning forward” posture that, in turn, led to increased profile for National Societies and the International Federation and an increased focus on the human side of our important work. New

Constraints or Challenges

Balancing emergency response and the desire to invest time and resources in capacity building in National Societies and regional and country offices remains a challenge, but good progress has been made. The limited “line of sight” awareness of information and public relations budgets at the programme and operations level leads to significant unmet expectations for communications.

The pending redesign of FedNet has made it virtually impossible for the zone to design and implement end-user focused internet-based tools in the interim. The “wait and see” posture mandated by Geneva poses challenges to being responsive to key stakeholders’ needs in the short term.

Resource Mobilization and Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Unit

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Purpose
The performance and impact of Red Cross and Red Crescent programmes in Asia Pacific zone is enhanced through effective resource mobilization, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

The first six months of 2009 have seen a period of further development in capacity of the zone RM and PMER Unit. In RM, there are now three staff on loan from Asia Pacific national societies (two from Japanese Red Cross and one from New Zealand Red Cross), and the unit now has five planning and reporting officers, providing support to the four Asia Pacific regions and the tsunami. The unit can now provide greater support to country and regional offices, and has surge capacity in the case of disasters.

Outcomes/Expected results

Component 1: Resource Mobilization
Purpose: <i>Red Cross and Red Crescent programmes in Asia Pacific are well resourced.</i>
Outcome 1: All Asia Pacific annual plans/appeals and emergency appeals are at least 80 per cent covered (aiming for 100 per cent coverage) and all funding is well managed.

Achievements

The unit continued to provide coordination of RM in the zone, maintaining an overview of the funding situation of all annual plans/appeals and emergency appeals, working closely with regional and country offices. As of the end of June, the all the Asia Pacific annual plans/appeals (15 country plans, 4 regional

plans and the zone plan) had a total budget of CHF CHF 51,457,911, and a coverage of 71% had been achieved (target at least 80%). For all current and active emergency appeals in Asia Pacific (excluding the tsunami appeal), the total budget is CHF 519,263,449 and 88% coverage has been achieved (target at least 80%). From January-June a total of 185 pledges were received and processed. A system has been set in place for the monitoring of management of all pledges/grants, including those from partner national societies and from institutional donors, to ensure that funding is spent according to earmarking and timeframes, and that donor reporting requirements are met in a timely manner.

Outcome 2: Support Asia Pacific national societies to diversify their funding sources and secure long term funding.
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Achievements

Some limited support has been provided through regional and country offices to assist national societies in accessing new funding (for example the new Tesco's partnership, and support for a corporate fundraising workshop for Southeast Asia national societies). Planning is underway (together with the zone OD and communications units), to facilitate a membership-led fundraising forum, to be hosted by New Zealand Red Cross, and which may lead to further activities such as peer to peer support in fundraising and the possible formation of an Asia Pacific fundraising network.

Component 2: Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting
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Outcome 1: Asia Pacific Federation appeals, plans and reports meet required quality standards, and are 100 per cent compliant in meeting all deadlines.
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Achievements

From January to June, the unit finalised and validated a total of 248 reports/plans and appeals, including 110 appeal-based reports posted on the website and 120 pledge-based reports for partners (approximately one third of the global total of reports/plans/appeals). As of the end of June 2009, there were no outstanding reports (target of 100% compliance with deadlines met). The unit is leading the coordination of the 2010-11 planning process in the zone. Staff from the unit have visited Cambodia, Nepal, Philippines and Viet Nam country offices, and Delhi, Bangkok and Suva regional offices, to provide support in planning and reporting.

Outcome 2: Quality of Asia Pacific Red Cross and Red Crescent programmes is enhanced through robust planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems.
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Achievements

Some support has been provided to regional and country offices, ensuring a standardised approach in PMER, through dissemination of global tools and best practices. Visits were made to Pakistan and to the Pacific regional office to support PMER capacity building workshops, and to Hong Kong for a monitoring and evaluation workshop held by Hong Kong branch of Red Cross Society of China. A system is being set in place for the collection and storing of all Asia Pacific evaluations / reviews which have been carried out in the past 3 years, the establishment of a calendar for evaluations/reviews taking place this year, and a database for collation of lessons learnt. The aim is to have a more strategic and systematic approach to evaluations / reviews in Asia Pacific, and to ensure improved dissemination and institutionalisation of lessons learnt (this will include working with the tsunami unit on tsunami lessons learnt).

Regional Logistics Unit

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose

To increase Red Cross Red Crescent logistics capacity in terms of disaster preparedness, response and recovery through higher quality logistics services, including human resources, systems, tools and procedures, in order to be able to provide adequate response and support to all International Federation activities in the Asia Pacific zone.

The budget of the regional logistics unit (RLU) is mainly covered by the cost recovery mechanism, and a small part of the budget is covered by the core budget. For further information, please also see the Global Logistics Programme plan.

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component 1: Logistics network

Outcome: Development of sustainable logistics networks across the region.

Achievements

The early part of 2009 has been another challenging time for the Kuala Lumpur RLU. It has seen a number of staff departures and the recruitment and training of new people. This has been an opportunity to conduct further cross functional training within the unit and now, more than ever, the KL RLU has the capacity for response and is self supporting.

With no major operations in the first part of 2009 it has been an opportunity to continue support to those ongoing operations in the region and to work more closely on logistics capacity building. For the Thai Red Cross, a second warehouse and transport workshop was conducted and the completion and handover of a new warehouse in Chiang Mai was facilitated by the RLU. In addition, a number of initiatives have been started with other Asia Pacific National Societies in terms of longer-term logistics strategies and capacity building. These initiatives are expected to be further developed/agreed and started in the latter half of 2009 with two or three National Societies.

Programme component 2: Sub-regional warehouse network

Outcome: Development of an adequate and well-functioning sub-regional warehouse network.

Achievements

Work is still ongoing in terms of developing sub-regional warehouse capacity. The sub-regional study to be arranged by the logistics and resource mobilization department in Geneva is expected to begin in the second half of 2009 when work will start in earnest on further investigating and implementing this strategy. Some preliminary discussions have started already on this strategy with potential host national societies and donors. Likely locations for sub-regional stock have already been identified in Asia Pacific but these need further investigation. The first priority for focus will be the Pacific.

Programme component 3: Suppliers data base and regional framework agreements

Outcome: Development of a comprehensive suppliers data base and regional framework agreements.

Achievements

Work has started on developing regional framework agreements for hygiene parcels and international transport. Contents of the hygiene parcel have been agreed with stakeholders and suppliers are being identified for this tender. The latter half of 2009 will see the tender and finalization of the hygiene parcel framework agreement and further analysis on the needs and possible structure for a regional transport agreement.

Finance Unit

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose

Professional and technical support is given to the International Federation offices in improving the standard of financial management in the region.

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component 1: Monthly returns

Outcome: Technical support to field finance staff in ensuring timeliness and accuracy of monthly returns and are compliant with financial procedures.

Programme component 2 : Financial management information and support

Outcome: Provide financial management information and support to technical managers periodically and on ad-hoc basis when deemed necessary.

Programme component 3 : Awareness raising and direct support

Outcome: Continue to raise the level of financial awareness in the Asia Pacific region and support the financial management of Asia Pacific operations that have no International Federation presence.

Achievements

The following achievements and impact have proven that the support provided by ZFU has improved the overall financial management of the region.

The unit's main achievements are:

- Two programme manager training events for office and National Society staff were provided, improving overall financial accounting, management and reporting of International Federation and National Society funds.
- Finance training for the H2P project planning meeting in Bangkok on 16 January.
- Timely Monthly Financial Analysis reports to ensure managers are kept informed on financial issues and risk so that immediate action can be taken to improve the financial situation and eliminate risk or financial exposure.
- Maintenance and improvement of finance infrastructure by training, location of skillful human resources and filling gaps.
- Involvement in interviews, selection and training of finance staff, and support in year end closing of finances for the Cambodia office for three months.
- Providing support to the Southeast Asia National Society finance directors meeting in Bangkok on 30 June.
- The unit provided technical support to 82 finance staff in field offices, 9 delegates and 73 national staff.

The above is reflected through these measurable impacts:

- The overall understanding of financial management and progress monitoring of activities has proven that the International Federation has improved and developed the financial skills of all personnel.
- Expenditures have been in line with planned budgets and activities with approved expenditure ceilings. There are no exposures in the funding plans.
- Timely financial reporting to donors and continuous monitoring of pledge-based financial statements.
- Smooth monthly cash transfers of funds to delegations, enabling timely implementation of activities.

Constraints or Challenges

Three senior finance analysts left the unit early this year. Three new analysts were recruited and are still under training. It is a challenging period, with busy periods coming up while adequate support is still required in the field.

Security Unit

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose

To increase Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability by improving security management skills and thereby allowing for greater access into hazardous environments.

The International Federation supports 37 National Societies with their variety of cultures, religions and ethnicities, some with impoverished populations and others experiencing conflict. In addition to post conflict environments, in 2009 there is one international and seven internal armed conflicts active in the zone, with the International Federation maintaining a representational or operational presence in each affected country. Potential additional conflicts are always looming in other areas where the International Federation does or might operate and terrorism remains a key concern. Whereas the ICRC has the mandate for conflict, the International Federation is increasingly responding to natural disasters in high-risk conflict and post-conflict environments.

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme Component	Outcomes
Reactive abilities	Timely and effective response and support to critical situations, including disasters

International Federation's minimum security requirements	Regional and country offices in the zone achieve the International Federation's minimum security requirements (MSR)
Situation and trend analyses	Events and situations in the Asia Pacific zone are effectively monitored and analysed

Achievements

Some of the achievements of the programme include:

- assessment missions to Bangladesh, Nepal, Timor-Leste and Indonesia;
- training missions to Hong Kong (ERU and management sessions);
- networking trips to Bangkok and Hong Kong;
- provision of technical advice to heads of offices assisting with the management of issues as they arose and minimising any risks that they posed; and
- review and comment on delegation security plans.

Constraints or Challenges

The primary challenge remains one of limited manpower and resources. The unit is staffed by only one security professional, with support from the secretariat's Security Unit in Geneva. As such, it has a limited capacity as to the services it can offer, and the frequency with which it can offer those services. This is being addressed through prioritising the type of services that can be offered and the circumstances which will take precedence over completion of other tasks and roles. However, many tasks remain unaccomplished.

Informations Systems Unit

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose
Increase Red Cross Red Crescent information technology and telecommunications capacity to provide adequate support to all International Federation activities, including disaster situations.

This unit provides information technology (IT) and telecommunications services and support to the Asia-Pacific International Federation zone, regional and country offices as well as national societies in the zone. The zone information systems unit's budget is part of the core budget allocated to the zone.

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component 1: Customized IT and telecoms service support systems
Outcome: Increased productivity and efficiency of International Federation field secretariat offices and operations, and improved response time for solving all information systems problems.

Achievements

The zone-wide migration to new systems has almost been completed, with issues resolved in three China offices in Chengdu, Deyang and Beijing, while the new server and network installation in DPRK is in the pipeline. The new information systems security plan in the Cambodia office includes a plan for a customized firewall plan, which has now been identified, procured and pre-configured. Video conferencing capability has been installed at the zone office, with Beijing, Suva, Delhi and Bangkok offices identified as follow-ups. The servicedesk at <http://servicedesk.ifrc.org> is operational and almost 80 per cent rolled out to all country offices, vastly improving response time for troubleshooting.

Programme component 2: Information sharing and knowledge management
Outcome: Sharing of lessons learned and best practices in providing peer support across Asia Pacific and more efficient teamwork across the seven zones and Geneva to provide better services.

Knowledge is currently shared through email communications between IT telecommunications personnel in the zone. The contents are being compiled and the knowledge extracted is expected to be input into the service desk later in 2009, for effective sharing. The DMU led and organized an Asia Pacific RDRT IT telecommunications training together with help from the zone information systems unit, the information systems department in Geneva, the Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross and Singapore Red Cross.

Programme component 3: National society information systems capacity building
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Outcome: Standardized and increased information systems capacity in national societies.
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Several National Societies from the zone have approached the unit for advice on hardware and software upgrades for the future and their availability through the International Federation channel. Discussions are ongoing to take this forward. The Microsoft Charity Open Licensing is now available for Asia Pacific National Societies. To date, the Philippine National Red Cross, Thai Red Cross, Cooks Islands Red Cross and the Maldivian National Society in formation have requested assistance in Microsoft licensing for Windows and Office software.

Additional Units

In addition, the Asia Pacific zone office has units covering important work in human resources and administration. Information on the activities of these units during the reporting period can be provided on request.

Working in partnership

Promoting better and more effective cooperation within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and with external organizations remains a key objective of the International Federation within the Asia Pacific zone. There have been a number of initiatives to take this forward in the first half of the year, with the major one being an Asia Pacific strategy meeting attended by representatives of 16 partner national societies organized in Kuala Lumpur in June.

The main part of this event was a two-day meeting that focussed on the strategy and activities that had been taken by the zone office since the start of the International Federation's decentralization process. The overall direction was that the zone office was generally appreciated, and much of the discussion was centred on how the integration of the DMU into the zone management structure would be arranged. Here it was explained that henceforth the zone office would take over from Geneva full responsibility for the international coordination of emergency operations while at the country level, the host National Society together with the International Federation office would take the operational lead. The regional offices would play an important support role in times of disasters, not least by maintaining a significant "surge capacity" in terms of disaster management personnel. The meeting also provided the opportunity to present and discuss with partners the plans of the recently decentralized tsunami operations management unit and, on the final day provided a forum in which the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society could outline its new strategy and five-year development plan.

Another feature introduced during this period has been the strengthening of the role played by the regional offices in facilitating information exchange and coordination between partner national societies in longer-term development programming. Informal information updates on a variety of programmes and operations have been circulated to interested partner national societies from the regional offices, and the Southeast Asia office has organized well-received quarterly forums with the partner national societies active in its region.

When it comes to external partnerships, the main event has been the creation of a new post of an external relations coordinator within the zone office. This post was filled in May through the support of the Swedish Red Cross, and work is already underway to develop a more strategic approach to working with potential partners such as the Asian Development Bank and the ASEAN as well as a more comprehensive work plan that will prioritize building relations with other international and regional organizations for the benefit of Red Cross Red Crescent work in Asia Pacific.

Looking ahead

One of the key priorities for the second half of the year across the zone will be to carry through the implementation of the operations and programmes being implemented by host National Societies with International Federation support. At the same time, the opportunity will be taken to reflect on experience that has been gained in these activities to better formulate the plans and budgets for the coming 2010/11 planning period. One important factor will be to ensure that there will be good alignment with the new

Strategy 2020 that will be adopted by the International Federation's General Assembly to be held in Nairobi in November.

A second priority will be to organize meetings in the regions to help Asia Pacific National Societies prepare for the statutory meetings in Nairobi. As in previous years, this will include making sure that all National Societies are familiar with the main issues to be taken up in the agenda and have the background information to enable them to ensure a successful outcome to the various policy matters that will be up for debate and decision.

The zone office will hold its annual zone planning meeting 14-16 July. In September/October there will be follow up technical meetings of each of the programmatic zone/regional teams (in disaster management, health and organisational development), with the aim of ensuring joined up planning across the zone in all four regions. In addition, in October, the zone's annual extended management meeting will be held, bringing together all the heads of country and regional offices in Asia Pacific zone.

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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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA50001 - Asia Pacific Zone

Jan-May report 2009

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/5
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAA50001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	166,332	0	423,914	10,695	397,948	998,889
B. Opening Balance	15,162	0	272,059	2	97,518	384,741
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
Australian Red Cross					4,447	4,447
Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government)					9,029	9,029
DFID Partnership grant	14,255					14,255
Finnish Red Cross			0			0
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)			0			0
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)	36,000					36,000
C1. Cash contributions	50,255		0		13,476	63,731
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
Australian Red Cross			17,036			17,036
Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government)	55,798					55,798
DFID Partnership grant	14,701					14,701
Japanese Red Cross			61,407	11,204	56,020	128,631
Sweden Red Cross (from Swedish Government)			84,746			84,746
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	70,498		163,189	11,204	56,020	300,911
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
Australian Red Cross	42,500				31,000	73,500
New Zealand Red Cross					16,280	16,280
Norwegian Red Cross					8,500	8,500
Sweden Red Cross					6,200	6,200
C4. Inkind Personnel	42,500				61,980	104,480
<u>Other Income</u>						
Services					13,213	13,213
C5. Other Income					13,213	13,213
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	163,253	0	163,189	11,204	144,689	482,335
D. Total Funding = B + C	178,415	0	435,248	11,206	242,206	867,075
Appeal Coverage	107%	#DIV/0	103%	105%	61%	87%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	15,162	0	272,059	2	97,518	384,741
C. Income	163,253	0	163,189	11,204	144,689	482,335
E. Expenditure	-59,923		-176,298		-115,432	-351,653
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	118,491	0	258,950	11,206	126,775	515,422

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA50001 - Asia Pacific Zone

Jan-May report 2009

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/5
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAA50001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		166,332	0	423,914	10,695	397,948	998,889	
Transport & Storage								
Storage				316		72	388	-388
Transport & Vehicle Costs				301		1	301	-301
Total Transport & Storage				616		73	689	-689
Personnel								
International Staff	384,356	57,590		1,396		82,458	141,443	242,913
Regionally Deployed Staff				7,734		302	8,036	-8,036
National Staff	47,000			16,787			16,787	30,213
National Society Staff	27,000			389			389	26,611
Consultants	68,000							68,000
Total Personnel	526,356	57,590		26,305		82,760	166,655	359,701
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	222,631			6,466		11,409	17,875	204,756
Total Workshops & Training	222,631			6,466		11,409	17,875	204,756
General Expenditure								
Travel	140,000			14,403		7,944	22,347	117,653
Information & Public Relation	43,500			111,446		2,943	114,389	-70,889
Office Costs	62,400			319		1,140	1,459	60,941
Communications	3,040	811		595		663	2,069	971
Professional Fees		216					216	-216
Financial Charges	5,000			24		12	36	4,964
Other General Expenses	-72,380			16			16	-72,396
Total General Expenditure	181,560	1,027		126,802		12,702	140,531	41,029
Programme Support								
Program Support	62,525	1,307		11,542		3,754	16,603	45,922
Total Programme Support	62,525	1,307		11,542		3,754	16,603	45,922
Services								
Shared Services	5,816			3,660		3,660	7,320	-1,504
Total Services	5,816			3,660		3,660	7,320	-1,504
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions				905		1,074	1,979	-1,979
Total Operational Provisions				905		1,074	1,979	-1,979
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	998,889	59,923		176,298		115,432	351,653	647,236
VARIANCE (C - D)		106,408	0	247,616	10,695	282,516	647,236	