

Mid-Year report



Americas zone

Appeal No. MAA42003

22 November 2011

This report covers the period 01 January 2011 to 30 June 2011.

In brief

Programme outcome: the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' secretariat (IFRC) is committed to supporting the National Societies to *do more, do better and reach further* in order to address the humanitarian challenges faced by the Red Cross Societies in the Americas. The support provided by the IFRC's Americas zone office focuses on mainstreaming compliance with the Inter-American Plan and working towards full alignment with the IFRC's *Strategy 2020*.

Programmes summary: In 2011, the Americas zone places particular attention in four key strategic areas that are complemented by distinct functions to work more effectively to address the main humanitarian and developmental issues affecting the most vulnerable in rural and urban settings. These areas are: disaster risk management, health and care, organizational development and principles and values.

Disaster risk management:

During the first semester of the year, the disaster risk management (DRM) programme in the Americas has progressed through strong coordination with partners and the development and implementation of tools designed to reduce vulnerability, promote the development of response, contingency, livelihood, urban risk plans and mythologies using and promoting the DesAprender platform. Furthermore, the DRM programme and the National Red Cross Societies in the Americas continue to collaborate with regional and national disaster management systems. During the reporting period the DRM programme participated in the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Platform, the cash and voucher mechanism meeting and the Global Community Safety and Resilience Forum held in Syria with the participation of 7 National Societies of the Americas.

In addition, the programme organized DRR training activities. Simulation exercises continue to test the efficiency of resource allocation and deployment throughout the region, and tools are shared through the efforts of the Caribbean and Latin America Centres of References which are based in the National Societies of Barbados, Costa Rica and El Salvador. The interactive DesAprender platform has increased the number of visitors, forums and blog during this period. While the Disaster Preparedness Programme of the European Commission's department of Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DIPECHO) VII Action Plan funding ended in February 2011 in Central America and the Caribbean, other disaster management proposals are being given active consideration by the

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), DIPECHO VIII, and the Office of Foreign Assistance (OFDA) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Americas Disaster Management Network continues to serve as the coordinating body for related activities. Through the Centres of Reference, a review and standardization of educational materials is being conducted.

Moreover, the programme provided strong accompaniment to the DRM processes taking place in Haiti related to the operation in the field. These processes include: the development of the Federation-Wide Strategic Framework (FWSF), the restructuring of the DRM department of the Haitian Red Cross, and support to the implementation of activities financed through the ECHO project and the Disaster Preparedness/DRR Surge project.

Shelter:

- The Americas zone shelter programme is guided by the Global Shelter and Settlement Programme and the zone priorities which are being promoted and disseminated with National Societies and Partner National Societies working in the Americas. Although the shelter programme in the Americas has not raised funds to date specifically through the programme, technical assistance to either Global Shelter Programme, shelter-related activities within other zone programmes' initiatives and emergency operations are provided with the limited human resources in place.
- In coordination with other zone programmes, the shelter programme is actively participating in the conceptualization process of the addressing urban risk. In addition, operational support is provided and knowledge shared with new emergency operations. Additionally, ongoing activities in older emergency operations have continued increasing the zone experience in shelter. The programme is also providing contributions to some shelter-related advocacy issues to address and highlight regulatory barriers to short and medium-term shelter interventions as well as to the importance of access to land in disaster situations.

Health:

The Americas health programme in 2011 includes three programme components: HIV and AIDS, community health and emergency health. The HIV and AIDS component is implemented within the framework of the Global Alliance on HIV with a focus on continental Global Alliance coordination, tailored support to National Society Global Alliance members, small project funding for 4 National Societies in Latin America in preparation for joining the Global Alliance, and direct funding support to 11 of the 12 National Societies that are current members of the Global Alliance on HIV in the Americas¹. The community health component focuses on the roll-out of the new Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA *in Action*) methodology, supporting the formation of water, sanitation and hygiene technical units in 4 National Societies, and strengthening the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation among youth through the Club 25 strategy targeting 8 National Societies for targeted support in 2010. The emergency health component focuses on 3 areas: a) capacity building and awareness-raising in National Societies, b) method development and dissemination; and c) support to operations including disasters and disease outbreaks. The principal focus for 2011 is on epidemic control and psychosocial support.

Financial situation: The total revised 2011 budget is 5,516,894 Swiss francs, of which 3,664,914 Swiss francs (66 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was 1,714,012 Swiss francs of the budget. The budget has been revised from 7,301,834 Swiss francs to 5,516,894 Swiss francs.

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

See also [Haiti: Earthquake Emergency Operation](#), [Chile: Earthquake Emergency Operation](#), [Guatemala: Tropical Storm Agatha Emergency Operation](#), [Bolivia: Floods and Landslides](#), [Colombia: Floods Emergency Operation](#), [Caribbean: Hurricane Tomas Emergency Operation](#), [Haiti and the Dominican Republic: Cholera outbreak Emergency Operation](#), [Panama: Floods Emergency Operation](#), and [Venezuela: Floods Emergency Operation](#)

¹ Argentina, Belize, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, and Costa Rica as an incoming member in 2011.

No. of people we have reached:

DRM: During the first semester of the year, the direct support of the Disaster Risk Management programme reached 634 direct beneficiaries through projects implemented with support from different partners², in addition to continental resources. Furthermore, DesAprender reports a total of 43209 visits.

Emergency operations: Some 823,048 beneficiaries are being targeted through 6 emergency appeals and 10 DREF-supported operations.

Shelter: Through seven operations open, 2,150 households have received shelter assistance by either in the emergency or transitional phase. Additional 105 households will receive shelter support within the remaining activities through the appeals in Bolivia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Chile alone has provided the debit card to enable families to improve their living conditions to 6,140 households. The remaining 640 households will receive the assistance at the very stages of the second semester of the year.

In the Haiti operation alone a total figure of 3,000 households have been provided with a safe and improved shelter solution in a healthier environment³. It is planned that an additional 4,260 households will be reached by the end of the year.

Health: Eleven National Societies reported reaching 675,356 people with HIV prevention and anti-stigma messages, and care, treatment and support services in the reporting period. 5,615 people in Central America were reached with water, sanitation and hygiene promotion services in the reporting period.

Our partners: Within the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, close cooperation takes place with Partner National Societies (PNS) and with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supporting National Societies in the Americas. In addition, partnerships are ongoing with many external organizations at all levels (community, national and regional levels), community-based, national and international organizations, UN, and other developmental agencies. Furthermore, a number of Red Cross partners support programming bilaterally throughout the Americas.

The zone office thanks the following partners which have contributed this year to the Americas zone appeal (MAA42003): American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, CARE International, Centre for Cooperation in the Mediterranean, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (DG ECHO), Finnish Red Cross, Finnish government, Intermon Oxfam, Japanese Red Cross Society, Mexican government, Netherlands Red Cross, Netherlands government, Norwegian Red Cross, Norwegian government, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Save the Children, Slovenian government, Spanish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swedish government, UNDP, UNESCO, USAID and private donors.

Context

Despite the on-going global financial instability, through the first six months of 2011 the regional context of Latin America and the Caribbean **has kept some sense of economic growth** (CEPAL projects around 4 and 4.5 per cent), although lower than in 2010 (6.1 per cent). The civil and political environment, however has been quite active and with **slight trend for instability**. Chile, for example, had the biggest protest it has seen since the eighties' protest for a return to democracy, when 80,000 students, teachers and sympathisers demanded more money for state education.

² Partners include the American, Canadian Finnish and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, DG ECHO, DFID and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (Innovation Funds).

³ Mitigation and drainage works are also being carried out. Please refer to the Operations Updates to know further about the integrated approach the IFRC shelter programme provides to each household.

Drug-related violence keeps wrecking Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, El Salvador and several other countries in Central America, although in a more reduced level.

In June, seven Central American presidents, in addition to those from Mexico and Colombia, as well as the American secretary of state, and other foreign ministers gathered for a conference in Guatemala to agree on a blueprint to fight and prevent crime, improve prisons and strengthen institutions, partly through a wish-list of joint regional projects. The leaders also agreed a follow-up scheme to keep up pressure to integrate security policy.

The first half of 2011 has also brought many changes in the American continent's political arena. There has been continuity in the Brazilian government, after the 2010 elections, and elections in both Haiti and Peru have changed the ruling parties which may cause some change in governmental policies. Moreover, three more electoral processes will occur during the second half of 2011 that will decide governmental changes for 2012. In this regard experts forecast a high chance for government continuity in Argentina and a medium chance Nicaragua, depending on political alliances. Opinions about the panorama in Guatemala are divided and still uncertain.

Experts agree that some of the 2011 elections **will take place in a context of high political-electoral conflicts**, outstanding for their complexity Guatemala and Nicaragua; meanwhile the elections in Argentina are expected to go through in a more peaceful manner.

It is to be noted that experts keep pointing out that Latin America ranks first in the world in terms of inequality, and that it keeps increasing with persistence. As expected, widespread normative and practical reasons make high levels of inequality obstacles to social progress. Inequality and its visible manifestations are an undeniable reality affecting all citizens.⁴ And, in truth, inequality spawns further inequality. Economic reasons, together with causes associated with the political economy, explain the reproduction of inequality by generating **unequal access to institutional representation and unequal opportunities for citizens to have their voices heard.**⁵

It is well known that the American continent presents high levels of **vulnerability resulting from natural hazards**. Through the first half of 2011 continent has seen disasters ranging from severe floods consequence of constant rains and poor urban planning, hailstorms, cold waves and other climate-related events, and the first tropical storms and hurricanes from the 2011 Hurricane Season, which is starting to take an above-average outlook compared to forecasts and previous seasons and greatly affects those most vulnerable.

The recurring issue of inequality also greatly increases vulnerabilities in the Americas Zone, and fuels further humanitarian challenges, such as increasing violence, issues related to urban slums, irregular migration, food insecurity and climate change.

Violence takes more than 4.000 lives worldwide every day, reaching almost 1.6 million people per year). More than 90% of violence victims live in countries with low and medium income. As violence in the Americas escalates, following the trend, safety has become one of the biggest concerns in the continent. This includes a growing number of gangs and drug related organized violence with transborder networks. In Latin America the homicide rates are between 40–56 per cent higher than in the rest of the world⁶. As the population keeps increasing and migrating urban areas not prepared to receive them, the number of urban slums with limited or no access to basic public services and job opportunities also increases, transforming into vectors for violence.

It is to be noted that the current world population of close to 7 billion is projected to reach 9.3 billion by the middle of this century, according to the medium variant of the 2010 Revision of World Population Prospects.

⁴ Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean 2010, UNDP.

⁵ Sabates-Wheeler, 2008

⁶ World Development Report

By 2025, eight of the world's most populated cities will be located in the Americas, five of which will be specifically in Latin America. Sao Paulo will be the fourth most populated city in the world, reaching more than 21 million inhabitants, whilst Mexico City will be the sixth most populated city, with more than 20 million people living in it. Both cities are characterized by extremely high population density⁷ and a focus for migrants from rural areas.

The increase in the number and level of disasters product of Climate Change also remains a key factor over one of the raising humanitarian challenges in the American continent: migration. As people flee to survive natural disasters or, faced with harsh and deteriorating environmental conditions, move to seek opportunities elsewhere. Climate change is expected to exacerbate sudden- and slow-onset disasters and gradual environmental degradation. Through these impacts, climate change is already influencing migration around the world.⁸

The number of international migrants in the American continent over the last two decades has increased from almost 47 million in 2000 to over 57.5 million in 2010.⁹ It is to be noted that migration in the Americas is overwhelmingly between countries within the region and, even though migration outflows in the region have decreased, they are still positive and there is no evidence of a large-scale return to countries of origin.

The migrant populations at a higher risk and vulnerability are women, adolescents and children who face different types of violence, especially sexual violence, often resulting in unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted illnesses. Migrants are also in a more vulnerable position during times of disaster.

Progress towards outcomes

Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises

Programme purpose

Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impacts of disasters.
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Programme component 1: Disaster risk management planning and strategic framework.
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Component outcome 1: National Societies and the secretariat adhere to an agreed-upon Americas wide comprehensive DRM framework and guidelines that will guide programming in the zone
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During the first semester of the year the DRM programme focused its efforts on the institutional promotion of disaster risk management and improving the understanding and development of the Strategic Risk Management Framework for the Americas. The programme also worked on strengthening the existing alliances and increasing the number of DRR partners in the Americas.

The continental programme has held several coordination meetings with REDLAC, United Nations agencies and other partners for the launch of the new Sphere manual. The aim is to ensure that key decision-makers from National Societies have a good understanding of the up-to-date Disaster Management (DRM/DM) guidelines, such as the Sphere standards. The official launch will take place in the second semester of the year in Panama. The event is expected to be broadcasted live in the IFRC's DesAprender web site making the event available globally and giving the opportunity to interact with the spectators from the different agencies and National Societies during the different sessions.

⁷ UN DESA, World Urbanization Prospects, 2009.

⁸ IOM, Environment, climate change and migration, 2011.

⁹ UN DESA, World Urbanization Prospects, 2009.

In February 2011, the first coordination session was held in the Dominican Republic with the aim to define the work priorities as well as to improve planning and coordination mechanisms with the National Societies. The main topics covered during this meeting were to:

- Work jointly with PNS, ICRC and other partners to identify mechanisms that help improve work processes –such as planning and coordination– in the area of disaster risk management in the Americas.
- Improve the information and knowledge exchange mechanisms. There is a need to improve organization between institutions, ensure buy-in and commitment from the different actors in the coordinating system, and enable a space for dialog on the challenges and opportunities presented by disaster risk management in Haiti.
- Discuss how the disaster risk management work can contribute to the programmatic and technical planning process of the upcoming Inter-American Conference.

The DRM programme and 7 National Societies from the Americas participated in the third Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Platform meeting, conducted in Mexico from 14 to 17 March 2011. The meeting was attended by members from the different international agencies, governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, representatives from the sub-regional and national disaster systems, as well as members from the civil society and academic institutions. The meeting served to analyze the Americas' progress towards the implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action* and other topics on the agenda as follows:

- Systematization of community intervention tools for community-based disaster risk reduction
- Contingency planning
- Development of a training programme for the Haitian Red Cross (HRC), and how the Haitian Red Cross' Community Education and Awareness Training Centre can provide better support to the Haitian's Civil Protection Department (DPC).

With the aim of reviewing, updating and strengthening of the Disaster Risk Reduction framework "*Building safer, resilient communities*", a global forum titled Oslo 3 was held in Syria integrated with the global Disaster Management Coordination meeting. Both events took place between 26 and 31 March 2011. Five National Societies from the Americas, as well as the health, DRM and PADRU coordinators of the Americas zone office attended the meetings.

The global DRR platform is an event organized by UN-ISDR with the aim of following up the implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action* and its integration in the agendas of governments, multilateral organizations, sub regional systems and international actors such as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Four National Societies from the Americas and continental DRM programme were present in this session. The event enabled National Societies and the Red Cross in general to understand and identify the new challenges ahead in the adoption of the *Hyogo Framework for Action*, including strengthening local risk management and the DRR framework "*Building safer, resilient communities*".

The active participation of National Societies in the national risk reduction platforms meetings and in the thematic groups' conferences in preparation for the Inter-American Conference will continue to be promoted during the second semester of the year. The first conference will be held in August to initiate dialogue between the focal points appointed by the National Societies to exchange views and define steps for the preparation of the agenda that will guide the thematic session at the Inter-American Conference.

The Disaster Risk Reduction programme supported the activities related to addressing urban risk in the Americas. During the reporting period, the regional DRR programme in Central America through the DIPECHO VII project, conducted research to draft a conceptual framework on urban risk in the region. This entailed an extensive consultation process, with the participation of several humanitarian agencies, national civil protection systems, the Federation of Municipalities of the Central American Isthmus (Federación de Municipios del Istmo Centroamericano - FEMICA), the Coordination Centre for Natural Disasters Prevention in Central America (Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de los Desastres Naturales en América Central - CEPREDENAC), as well as National Societies from Mexico to Colombia and Haiti. Partner National Societies also involved in

this process include the Finnish, Italian, Netherlands, Norwegian and Spanish Red Cross Societies. In addition, three case studies and a conceptual document focused on the methodological strategic guidelines for addressing urban risk were developed.

Furthermore, in June a workshop on risk reduction in urban settings took place in Haiti to exchange experiences. The workshop contributed to develop practical guidelines for the implementation of the conceptual framework on urban risk.

The first search and rescue workshop will take place in July with the aim to assess National Societies' needs for improving their capacities in this subject focused on urban settings.

Programme component 2: Coordination and networking

Component outcome 1: DM/DRM work in the zone is coordinated through comprehensive and effective coordination mechanisms which are linked to external coordination forums in the zone and internationally.

The continental DRM programme participates in strategic coordination and planning meetings for DRM initiatives in the different sub regions to promote consistent and harmonized actions between all the actors of the Movement as well as others international networks. Several joint coordination activities have been identified such as the Sphere Manual launch and involving the disasters systems in the Movement's activities facilitating improved participation of key actors.

The continental programme participated in the Civil-Military Coordination workshop organized by the United Nations, in Washington, from 19 to 24 June. In this event, the tools used during the emergency response in addition to the coordination mechanism between the non-governmental organizations and governmental organizations during the emergencies were presented to all participants.

During the Disaster Risk Management Continental meeting hosted by the Americas zone office, in the Dominican Republic (in February 2011) a mapping of the strategic actions and projects implemented by PNS, invited agencies and regional risk reduction programmes in Central, South America and the Caribbean. The meeting helped to improve planning and coordination mechanisms with the National Societies involved in the processes developed in the Americas. Participants included different PNS, ICRC, development agencies and key partners that contribute to the risk management agenda in the Americas. These agencies include DG ECHO, OFDA, CIDA and AECID. Representatives of these partners and the external collaborating agencies were invited to participate in all the sessions of this continental meeting.

- **Strengthening mechanisms for linking Red Cross networks**

During the reporting period, the continental DRM programme participated in coordination meetings with sub regional systems and sent representatives of the Red Cross National Societies to these coordination meetings. Some of these meetings included the national, regional and global platforms meetings. The programme in the Caribbean continues to collaborate with the national and regional disaster management systems through the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) — the coordinating body for regional disaster management and a partner of the IFRC. Simulation exercises continue to test the efficiency of resource allocation and deployment throughout the region, and the tools are shared through the efforts of the Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Resource Centre based in Barbados. In addition, the Americas Disaster Management Network continues to serve as the coordinating body for related activities through the Centres of Reference.

- **Participation in national, regional and international platforms and technical meetings, trainings and forums.**

Six National Societies, the Centre of Reference in Community Education and representatives from the continental programmes of DRM and health participated in the Global Community Safety and Resilience Forum held in Syria from 20 to 31 March. In this forum, National Societies from different zones revised the implementation of the *Framework for Community Safety and Resilience*, endorsed at the February 2009 Forum. This framework will continue to guide

community resilience programming across the International Federation. The previously separate IFRC global forums for DRR and food security are being merged to support the strengthening and consolidation of safety and resilience interventions. The Global Forum provided a participatory platform to reflect on and learn from the implementation of DRR, climate change adaptation and food security experiences in the field. Other key sectors such as health and care; water, sanitation and hygiene promotion; and shelter will engage in the Forum, to identify and agree on the next steps to increase community safety and resilience as outlined in *Strategy 2020*.

In March as well, under the framework of the third Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Platform meeting in Mexico, a coordination meeting between the Haitian Red Cross, UNDP and the DPC also took place. The topics on the agenda were as follows:

- The systematization of the community intervention tools for community disaster risk reduction and contingency planning. Development of a HRC training programme and how the Haitian Red Cross Community Education and Awareness Training Centre can provide better support to the DPC.
- Exchange visits between representatives of the DPC and Red Cross partners
 - Participation of DPC representatives and other government authorities in the Global Disaster Risk Reduction forum in Damascus and in the Global DRR Platform meeting in Geneva.
- Visits of representatives of the Haitian Red Cross, DPC and UNDP to the Centre of Reference for Community-Based Education in Disaster Preparedness (CRREC) in Costa Rica.

A co-ordination meeting was held on 18 January 2011 between DG ECHO, the IFRC, the Haitian Red Cross and UNDP in the Dominican Republic. The meeting helped to establish agreement and working modalities on how to link projects implemented by the IFRC and UNDP to better support the DPC and the Haitian Red Cross.

- **Coordination with PNS and multilateral partners**

The Americas zone (DRM) team meets twice a year. The first meeting takes place in the beginning of the year and focuses on establishing the planning and coordination mechanisms for each year's activities. The second meeting takes place in the middle of the year to follow up and adjust the planning and coordination projected for the year.

The first DRM continental meeting of the year hosted by the Americas zone office took place in the Dominican Republic in early February. The priority was to improve planning and coordination mechanisms with the National Societies, PNS, ICRC, the development agencies and key partners that contribute and participate in the processes developed in the Americas. Key partners included DG ECHO, OFDA, CIDA and AECID. Representatives of these key partners and external collaborating agencies were invited to participate in all the sessions of this continental meeting.

The key objectives of the meeting were to:

- work jointly with PNS, ICRC and other partners to identify mechanisms that help to improve the work processes such as DRM planning and coordination in the Americas,
- enable a space for dialogue on the challenges and opportunities presented by disaster risk management in Haiti
- discuss how to contribute to the programmatic and technical planning process of the coming Inter-American Conference.

The DPC was present at this meeting. The Haitian Red Cross made a presentation of its history and its activities as well as the context, achievements and challenges of its operation, and those of the IFRC and the PNS regarding Disaster Risk Management in Haiti. Similarly, UNDP presented the initiatives taking place, the government objectives and its structure regarding DRM, and shared the main lessons learned, existing gaps, its challenges and plans in Haiti. A key agreement reached was the need to continue reinforcing the link between the DPC and the Haitian Red Cross.

Programme component 3: Knowledge-sharing, information management, public awareness and education on disaster risk reduction.

Component outcome 1: A zone-wide Red Cross system is created for knowledge and information management, communication and educational development.

During the reporting period, the continental DRM programme increased its efforts to strengthen the virtual DesAprender platform and to increase the participation of the Centres of Reference in the National Societies' activities.

DesAprender:

The continental DRM programme started a process to strengthen the efforts on knowledge and information management, and learning for disaster risk reduction in Latin America through DesAprender. With this aim, an agreement was signed with the Regional Disaster Information Centre (CRID) to further develop and improve the platform.

During the first six months of the year, the programme conducted a diagnostic and evaluation of the DesAprender platform to identify areas for improvement. Through an online poll and interviews, the opinions and utilization habits of users were collected. In addition, three DesAprender newsletters were disseminated highlighting the main news of the platform and activities relevant to users. The following table shows statistics of the DesAprender platform comparing the first six months of 2010 and 2011.

Period: January - June 2010	Period: January - June 2011
Number of visits: 39,971	Number of visits: 43,209
Page views: 99,843	Page views: 107,874
Traffic Sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Search engines: 85.48% - Direct traffic: 8.95% - Web site reference: 5.57% 	Traffic Sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Search engines: 75.57% - Direct Traffic: 13.34% - Web site reference: 11.09%
Visitors from 79 countries	Visitors from 87 countries
One discussion forum set up with 6 answers	Four discussion forums set up with 164 answers
11 blog posts	28 blog posts

During the second semester of the year, the programme will continue to develop the platform, promote the creation of new blogs, and encourage National Societies to participate and make full use of the platform.

Centres of Reference:

Centre of Reference in Disaster Preparedness (CREPD): the centre continues strengthening the regional facilitators' network in the Americas. During the period, 97 per cent (369 persons) of training participants (379 in total) have successfully passed the trainings. Seventy nine per cent of participants were male (262) and 31 per cent females (117). The main trainings conducted were: National Intervention Teams (NIT), organization and management of Emergency Operation Centres, and development of response and contingency plans. In addition, three simulation exercises were conducted in the National Societies of the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Nicaragua to establish the baseline for the First Response Initiative project sponsored by the Canadian Red Cross.

Two major achievements of the CREPD thus far include the development of two new NIT training modules: one specialized in psychosocial support conducted through the Chile Earthquake operation and validated with the support of the National Societies from the Americas, and another specialized in logistics during emergencies supported by the Finnish Red Cross and the Regional Logistic Unit.

For the second semester of the year, the CREPD aims to continue expanding the facilitator's networks and the number of users of its guidelines and methodologies.

Red Cross Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Resource Centre: This resource centre has been established since mid 2010, and it now has a coordinator assigned to further promote the various processes and establish spaces for cooperation with relevant stakeholders. In 2011, efforts continue and the centre is already serving as a platform and repository for the development, storage and sharing of disaster risk reduction related tools in the Caribbean.

Centre of Reference for Community-Based Education for Disaster Preparedness (CRREC): during the period, the centre focused on the adaptation and dissemination and of the existing guidelines as well as on capacity building through trainings targeting Red Cross partners and key partners outside the Movement. A total of 280 persons from the Red Cross and external partners have been reached through the centre's efforts. These activities take place under the framework of projects supported by DG ECHO in Central America and Haiti, as well as by the American and Canadian Red Cross Societies. These projects focus on:

- Development and review of the conceptual framework for urban risk.
- Development of the fifteenth module of the *Better Be Ready* series, titled "Earthquakes".
- Development of a systematization document focusing on social micro-projects.
- Development of a lessons learnt document on the application of the VCA in urban settings.
- Organizing an internship to review the Earthquake module jointly with the Costa Rican Red Cross, the Nicaraguan Red Cross, the CRREC, the University of Costa Rica, the Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies (Instituto Nicaragüense de Estudios Territoriales – INETER) and the Nicaragua's Ministry of Education.
- Pedagogic and participative techniques for community work.

Organizations that participated in the abovementioned processes include the National Societies of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama, GOAL, the Civil Protection Systems of the same countries¹⁰, Care International, Procomex – Oxfam, UNDP, CASM, the Honduran Association of Municipalities, the National Seismology Network and the University of Costa Rica, the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Haitian Red Cross and DPC.

Programme component 4: Community-based disaster risk reduction

Component outcome 1: Communities are better prepared, more organized to respond/recover from the effects of natural hazards, recognizing potential risk reduction measures and action to be taken.

The DRM programme supported the participation of seven National Societies from the Americas in the Global Community Safety and Resilience Forum 2011 aimed to increase the scale and quality of investment in community safety and resilience through effective disaster risk reduction. The specific objectives of this form were to:

- Assess and summarize Red Cross/Red Crescent progress in community safety and resilience programming at the national and community level.
- Discuss progress and agree specific on practical recommendations and measures to improve delivery, impact and accountability including broad action points for the coming two years.
- Share and investigate approaches to safety and resilience programming that integrate DRR (including climate change adaptation) into on-going and new sector and multi-sector programming at community levels.
- Discuss strategies for DRR and climate change adaptation advocacy activities at the national, regional and global levels.

This forum helps National Societies to increase their understanding of guidelines to improve the quality of the interventions at community level, as well as to further the discussion of the possible important topics that need to be included in community activities.

Training in risk reduction for Red Cross volunteers and personnel based in communities has been provided through the CRREC. Training topics included: VCA learning by doing, and the modules on

¹⁰ National Emergency Centre of Costa Rica, CONRED, COPECO, SE-SINAPRED and SINAPROC.

Protected School and Community Organization of the Better Be Ready series. The new trained in these topics are implementing community based projects where they can apply the knowledge gained and training new facilitators and practitioners in branches.

Furthermore, the continental programme through the CRREC and funding from the DIPECHO VII project have provided technical support on the implementation of DRR projects in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. The programme has also supported the development of the new guidelines to the work in urban cities of medium or small scale.

Technical support for DRR interventions in Haiti has also been provided. One of the main needs concerning the promotion of community resilience is a better understanding of risks, vulnerabilities and community capacities. Community education and public awareness have been a priority for many years in the country. For example, the Haitian Red Cross, with the support of several Red Cross and Red Crescent partners started the application of the VCA methodology more than five years ago, and several projects use the VCA as the base to define community interventions.

The Haitian Red Cross, with the support of other sister National Societies and the IFRC should play a significant role in training how the VCA tools should be used, providing resources and capacities for community education. Furthermore, they will have a key role in supporting the coordination efforts of the Thematic Committee through the ongoing ECHO-funded project developed together with the Disaster Risk management programme.

Also with the aim of supporting DRR project implementation focused on work with communities in climate change issues, since 2010, the continental DRM programme established a partnership with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre to implement the second round of the *Preparedness for Climate Change* project (PFCC2) which finalized in early 2011. This PFCC2 enabled three National Societies to continue working in the development of capacities to work on climate change adaptation initiatives and the incorporation of the climate change thematic as part of their working strategy. Furthermore, the approval of global funds to develop innovation projects helped to continue raising awareness of climate change through community interventions. Eight projects were presented by the National Societies of Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Mexico. Projects focused on public awareness, communications campaigns targeting children and youth, early warning systems and mitigation micro-projects. Red Cross volunteers increased their understanding of climate change adaptation and its integration with other areas of their normal work (VCA diagnoses, disaster preparedness and community education); this was achieved through trainings.

Programme component 5: Organizational preparedness

Component outcome 1: The secretariat and the National Societies in the Americas are better prepared for responding to emergencies.

Achievements

The human resources system has been further developed and active in disaster preparedness and response. One full *RIT course* was organized in Guadeloupe for participants from the Caribbean, including the French Red Cross territories. Nineteen National Intervention Team (NIT) members were trained on the new methodology of the RIT system through this training. Since the course, several members have participated in missions and simulations in the Caribbean. Finally, the harmonization of the RIT and NIT curricula progressed over the six months and the review will be completed by the end of the year. This review will enhance the link with the two systems and ensure any duplication in training modules is removed.

Furthermore, with the guidance and support of the Surge Team in Geneva, PADRU led and trained over 30 secretariat and National Society members in a FACT course that was held in Curicó, Chile.

Particular emphasis was dedicated to strengthening the Regional Intervention Team system in the first six months of 2011, focusing on improving the quality of the system by *standardizing procedures* and protocols and ensuring the system is well understood by all stakeholders (RIT

members, National Societies and the secretariat). As part of the overall improvement of the disaster management procedures and system in the Americas, RIT deployment mechanisms were updated to reflect the changing nature of the Americas environment. The updated procedures were well-received by the National Societies as they provided clarity in roles and responsibilities and the decision-making process.

In modernizing the management of the RIT system, a user driven *online database* was developed and rolled out in the first six months. This database allows RIT members to update their profile, submit end of mission reports and undertake the performance evaluation process with their line managers. In addition, it enables the secretariat and National Society leadership to search for RIT members by a wide array of customizable criteria. The database is currently being populated by RIT profiles and the complete transfer to the new system will be finalized by end of 2011.

The *internship programme* continued to provide opportunities for National Society members to be trained in various sectors with a focus on Haiti as the setting. A total of 21 persons from the Caribbean, Central and South American National Societies participated in 1 or 2 months internship missions in Haiti. This unique opportunity provided field experience to complement their theoretical understanding of the disaster management system. A shortened version of the regular RIT course was organized in Haiti for these individuals during their mission to provide theoretical context.

As part of its organizational preparedness approach, PADRU also concentrated on generating a four-year strategy and work plan to guide working priorities. This plan has four strategic cores: cooperation and coordination; innovation; human resources; and institutional strengthening. In addition, PADRU has also worked on a new set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and on a Regional Response System, which will be further explained in the Disaster Response component. Finally, during the reporting period, PADRU has been able to modernize the audio and video equipment of the Emergency Operation Centre, allowing for better monitoring and virtual meetings across the continent.

The DRM programme provided accompaniment, guidance and continued support to PADRU in particular for the development of the Regional Response Plan and SOPs, as well for the training processes of RITs and the linkages with NITs.

As part of increasing country specific programming, in 2011 the secretariat has tailored its support to National Societies to be better prepared for responding to emergencies as follows as follows:

- As mentioned under component 3, the Centres of References has supported the training of skilled human resources in the National Societies of the Americas, dissemination of guidelines and promotion of internships.
- The CREPD worked jointly with the National Societies of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama supporting the updating of national response plans in each country. This has facilitated the adaptation of the plans to the latest standard guidelines. Furthermore, the process helped to identify the priorities and challenges of each National Society with regard to the implementation of their response plan.
- National Societies' staff and volunteers have also been trained on management and administration of Emergency Operations Centres, which contribute to the strengthening of the organizational Development and risk management at the national level.

The Fist Response Initiative project financed by the Canadian Red Cross and CIDA is another example of tailored support for disaster preparedness. The project has a bilateral component in the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua and Haiti, and a multilateral component through the continental DRM programme implemented in coordination with the volunteering and shelter programmes, the regional logistics unit and the CREPD. Three simulation exercises (1 regional workshop and 3 national workshops) which helped to validate the information collected through the Well-Prepared National Society diagnostic. In addition, the simulations facilitated the identification of key elements to be considering in the development country support plans for each National Society.

Tailored support is also provided to the Haitian Red Cross through the DP/DRR Surge and the DG ECHO funded projects. The continental DRM programme continues to support technically this process, jointly with the IFRC DP/DRR tea, in Haiti. The main achievements during the reporting period include:

- Integration of a DRM component programme in the Federation-wide Strategic Framework, which incorporates PNS participation.
- Incorporation of three embedded staff in the National Society, financially supported by the IFRC, in the DRM department of the Haitian Red Cross; therefore strengthening the National Society's structure.
- Organization of the basic structure for the National Training Centre of the Haitian Red Cross.
- Development and standardization of a tool box for community-based education for the Red Cross, the DPC and other external partners under the cooperation framework of the Regional Disaster Information Centre (CRID).
- Strengthening of the relationship between the Haitian Red Cross and the National Risk Management System.
- Establishment of a coordination platform between Movement partners that implement DRM projects in support of the National Society. The aim is to ensure coordination with external partners present in Haiti such as DG ECHO, UNDP and the World Bank.

Programme component 6: Disaster response

Component outcome 1: The National Societies are more effectively supported during disaster response phases

Achievements

Some of the main results of the Pre-hurricane meeting held in Guatemala in May 2011 were the mapping of human and material capacities in the region, and the commitment to review the response system in the Americas. With the support of the National Societies of Central America, México, Colombia and Ecuador a first draft of a new Regional Response System was created, further developing the alert system and the role of members of the secretariat and of the National Societies. In addition, a comprehensive analysis of standard operating procedures was undertaken and an inclusive process of updating of protocols and procedures was begun. This involved an in-depth analysis of the Americas disaster management context and working with National Societies and with secretariat departments to reflect the context through standardized operating procedures for disaster response. The revision of some of these new procedures —such as changes in the Fir's alert levels, RIT mobilizations and emission of situation reports— have been tested in recent emergencies and further changes may occur on the following months. Similarly, the newly equipped Emergency Operation Centre was recently tested in its capacity to function “virtually”, as a hub of information that allows for coordination regardless of the location of the participants.

The response and coordination modalities update include ensuring stronger links with national and regional response systems. During the process, it was evident that the IFRC needed to continue the focus as the coordinator of the disaster management system and facilitate opportunities for the National Societies to continue leading the implementation of responses. The process will be completed at the end of 2011.

Throughout the first six months, PADRU provided support to five new emergency operations carried out by National Societies in the Caribbean and South America, as well as continuing to assist 11 operations that started on the last two months of 2010. Thus far, some 823,048 beneficiaries are being targeted through 6 emergency appeals and 10 DREF supported operations. Trends in the first six months saw a rise in health emergencies focused on dengue. As the hurricane season begins to become more active throughout the latter half of 2011, the focus on health impacts will be stronger.

Appeal name	Families	Persons	Type of Operation
Haiti & Dominican Rep.: Cholera	130,000	650,000	Emergency appeal

Caribbean: Hurricane Tomas	2,050	10,250	Emergency appeal
Costa Rica: Floods	--	--	DREF: assessments
Panama: Floods	1,545	7,725	Emergency appeal
Colombia Floods	14,300	71,500	Emergency appeal
Costa Rica: floods	1,000	5,000	DREF
Venezuela floods	2,500	12,500	Emergency appeal
Colombia: Floods	500	2,500	DREF
Belize: Hurricane Richard	500	2,500	DREF
Brazil Floods	--	--	DREF: assessments
Peru & Bolivia Dengue	3,000	15,000	DREF
Paraguay Dengue	6,000	30,000	DREF
St Vincent floods	200	1,000	DREF
Bolivia, Flood & Landslide	2,300	11,500	Emergency appeal

Programme component 7: Cross-cutting issues, monitoring and evaluation

Component outcome 1: Promote the mainstreaming of Red Cross Red Crescent and relevant external global DRM initiatives, systems and tools

The continental DRM programme has supported the systematization and analysis of the Well-Prepared National Society tool, focusing on the integration and use of the tool in the development of operational plans for the National Societies participating in the First Response Initiative.

The *2010 World Disaster Report*, which focused on urban risk, has been an important reference tool for the adoption and implementation of activities related to risk reduction projects in urban settings. Through the DRM programme extensive dissemination of the *2010 World Disaster Report* has been carried out within the Movement and with external partners. Before the publication of the *World Disaster Report*, the programme collaborated by sharing case studies completed in the Americas with regard to food security, nutrition and livelihoods.

Based on the new trends, the programme developed a concept note on “civil-military coordination and relations” under the framework of Resolution 7 of the Council of Delegates and the Oslo’s guidelines. The concept note aims to improve understanding of how to integrate the auxiliary role of National Societies with their governments in the frame of civil and military relations. In addition, the IFRC attended a course on civil military coordination organized by OCHA. As a result of the work conducted in the thematic, coordination is taking place between IFRC, ICRC, the Norwegian Red Cross and OCHA to carry out a regional training on the topic as part of the preparations for the XIX Inter-American Conference. This workshop is planned for October 2011.

Promotion of an integrated programming approach (IPA) within DRM initiatives is taking place in particular under the framework of the risk reduction project in urban settings. Urban risk is being addressed through an integrated approach involving different departments and programmes from the IFRC and National Societies. Two projects using this approach are being promoted at the country level: one project in Quito with the Ecuadorian Red Cross and another one in Buenos Aires with the Argentine Red Cross. Both projects are carried out in coordination with the respective municipalities. Furthermore, the DRM programme supported the IFRC programmatic teams of the Haiti operation in the development of the “integrated neighbourhood approach –INA”.

With the aim of *promoting the integration of climate change adaptation across Red Cross DRM initiatives and programmes*, a regional workshop is planned with the coordination of the German Red Cross. The workshop will focus on the linkages between DRR and climate change. The expected participants include National Societies of the region, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and UN-ISDR. The workshop will also place emphasis on mainstreaming the IFRC DRM/DR guidelines, the Climate Centre guidelines and the conclusions of the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC). The process will help for the preparations for the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17).

After the launch of the new Sphere manual in English in April 2011, the continental DRM programme has planned for July the launch of the Spanish version of the manual. This launch will be coordinated with the Sphere Project team based in Geneva, the City of Knowledge in Panama, and organization that make use of Sphere standards such as World Vision, Care, Oxfam, OCHA, Medecins sans Frontiers and Plan International.

Challenges specific of the DRM programme:

- The programme has experienced challenged due to the limited human resources to implement planned activities. Progress towards the planned outcomes has been limited in particular in South America due to the absence of a DRM focal point for this region since the beginning of 2011.
- There is a need to improve communication, coordination and planning with regard to the bilateral initiatives and projects implemented by the ICRC and PNS in the continent. For this, the programme will use mechanisms to implement the recommendations from the partners meeting in February.
- Understanding and integration of the new trends and challenges such as urban risk, climate change and civic military relations in the current programmes and planning processes remains a challenge.
- The absence of a communications and resource mobilization strategy hinders the dissemination of the work carried out by the programme and adequate fundraising.

Programme component 8: International Disaster Response Law Guidelines
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Component outcome 1: Reduce unnecessary restrictions, delays and expenses in international disaster relief operations and increase quality, efficiency and coordination with domestic efforts
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Achievements:

During the reporting period, the International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) programme worked in four main areas: 1) collaborating with National Societies and other partners to provide technical assistance to interested governments on the implementation of the IDRL Guidelines; 2) building the capacity of National Society and humanitarian partners to understand and make use of the IDRL Guidelines and other international norms; and 3) promoting, disseminating and researching effective disaster law; 4) fostering new collaborative research on domestic legislative issues in disaster management designed to strengthen the Movement's approach to disaster risk reduction in applicable law. These four working areas are aligned with the Global IDRL plan for 2010.

In the first programme component "Technical assistance to governments", the IDRL Coordinator supported three National Societies to provide technical support on IDRL to their governments:

Colombia: The IDRL project in Colombia has been finalized with the completion of all the activities programmed. The IDRL report on Colombia is expected to be published in the second semester of 2011. The recommendations of the report have been broadly discussed with governments' focal points and international actors present in the country in light of lessons learned from previous and on-going disaster operations in the region, and have assisted the development of a new draft bill to reform Colombia's national system for disaster response.

Peru: The IDRL project in Peru ended in February 2011. The outcome of this project was a report containing an analysis of the laws, policies and institutional frameworks in Peru relating to disaster response and preparedness, and identifies strengths and areas for improvement. On February 18 2011, the Peruvian government approved a new law creating the National System for Disaster Risk Management (SINAGERD). According to this new law, this new entity, along with INDEC1 and other specialized international organizations, shall develop norms that "facilitate humanitarian assistance operations in the country in accordance with international laws for disaster response".

Haiti: The technical assistance project to develop recommendations for the Haitian government on the ways to strengthen its legal framework for international disaster response was completed by the finalization of the report on the same. The launch of the report is expected for late August 2011. A second phase of the technical assistance project in Haiti is on the way to develop protocols and procedures to regulate and facilitate international disaster response.

New technical assistance projects are in development for Argentina, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica to be undertaken in the second half of 2011.

In the second component “training and capacity building”:

Support provided to the Colombian Red Cross Society for its participation in the Second Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas that took place in Mexico in March 2011.

In April 2011, The IFRC presented at a ministerial meetings in Brazil on “Access to Land in Situations of Disasters, Conflicts and Humanitarian Crisis” in the panel of legal aspects related to disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance.

In June 2011, the IFRC continued working with OCHA in the development UNDAC missions, this time by participating in an induction course that took place in Panama with the presence of National Society staff and governmental representatives as well as NGOs. The IDRL programme presented the IDRL Guidelines and developed an exercise where the participants were able to share the common problems for international assistance to disaster according to their own experiences.

Moreover, in June 2011, the IFRC provided a training session on the use of the IDRL Guidelines during the First Responders Initiative of the Canadian Red Cross.

Under the third component of the programme on promoting, disseminating and reaching effective disaster law:

The IFRC has supported the follow-up group for the annual “Regional Meeting on Enhancing International Humanitarian Partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean” - EIHP in the development of a questionnaire to states in order to produce a “Regional Legal Compendium of Regulatory Instruments for the Management of International Humanitarian Assistance in Emergencies” (“RLC”). The RLC questionnaire is based on the recommendations of the IDRL Guidelines. The IFRC participated in the IV EIHP meeting that took place in April in Ecuador, and presented the Model for the RLC. In this meeting, the model of the RLC was adopted by the participant countries through the Quito Declaration and a request was made to the IFRC to facilitate a training on the RLC for governments’ focal points.

At the last General Assembly of the OAS that took place in June 2011 in El Salvador, member states adopted Resolution 2647 (XLI-O/11) on ‘*Existing mechanisms for disaster prevention, and response and humanitarian assistance among member States*’, which urges member states to “consider promoting the International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) of the *Promoting the International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)*” and “instructs the General Secretariat to disseminate information IFRC’s work in this area. In this context, the IFRC together with the El Salvador Red Cross, launched, at a press conference in June, an advocacy report entitled *Disasters in the Americas: The case for legal preparedness*.

Under the fourth component “fostering new collaborative research on domestic legislative issues in disaster management designed to strengthen the Movement’s approach to disaster risk reduction in applicable law”:

In addition, two case studies have been completed in the Dominican Republic and Brazil which focus on existing strengths and gaps in current disaster risk reduction legislation and how it can lead to concrete results at the community level through, for example, fostering community participation, supporting education, ensuring the implementation of building codes and land management rules and facilitating the work of community-based institutions.

For more details please go to <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual11/MAA0000411myr.pdf>

Programme component 9: Shelter

Component outcome 1: Dignified shelter solutions for vulnerable populations are promoted and capacities in the area of shelter are reinforced in National Societies of the Americas.

The Americas zone shelter programme made limited progress towards its planned outcomes, clearly reflecting the lack of financial and human resources at the continental level. New initiatives in line with the future planning are being considered to better adapt the shelter programme to the reality in the National Societies in the Americas.

Achievements

- **Coordination, sector support and networking**

Looking for a more integrated way of working with the Americas zone programmes, the shelter coordinator contributes and participates in other programmes' initiatives such as the Response Plan development process, the urban risk trend or advocacy on how access to land has implications in the provision of shelter solutions during disasters or crises.

In Chile, close collaboration between the Chilean Red Cross and the Ministry of Housing is demonstrating different ways to perform the auxiliary role the Red Cross may have in terms of shelter.

- **Capacity Building and Best Practices**

The dissemination and promotion of the standard Shelter Global trainings and tools across the continent resulted in the increase of the global roster for future deployments with now new training Americas National Societies or secretariat staff. Shelter project managers working in the Haiti operation within the IFRC or PNS shelter teams have attended these trainings.

The PASSA tool is being piloted in Haiti by the British Red Cross and a training of trainers took place in Port-au-Prince with the support from the shelter department of the secretariat office in Geneva. Feedback and results are expected to be presented through the Shelter Technical Committee in Haiti.

The Shelter Technical Committee –formed by the secretariat team and interested National Societies working in shelter and the Haitian Red Cross– is contributing with interesting inputs and approaches to the zone and global level.

- **Operational Support**

No major emergency operations have been launched during the first half of the year. Although some new operations and others that started in late 2010 are still running shelter-related activities. Under the coordination of PADRU, operational support and knowledge sharing have been given to PNS and National Societies on new emergency operations such as Bolivia floods and landslides (MDRBO006). Additionally, support has been provided to older appeals such as Colombia floods, Caribbean Hurricane Tomas, Panama Floods and Guatemala Tropical Storm Agatha. The Haiti Earthquake and Chile Earthquake operations have significantly continued providing inputs on lessons learnt, best practices and new approaches to the zone shelter programme and thereby to the global system. It is interesting to mention the Integrated Neighbourhood Approach (INA) in place in the Haiti operation which is contributing to the Urban Risk development process. Moreover in Haiti, participation in the Federation-wide Shelter Strategy for the Haiti Earthquake operation in coordination with shelter and settlements department in Geneva and the shelter personnel in Haiti.¹¹

The total amount of funds assigned to shelter activities through 7 DREF or Appeals (excluding the operations in Haiti and Chile) is thus far 694,660 Swiss francs. During this reporting period, approximately 210,107 Swiss francs have been implemented.

¹¹ Operations which implemented a shelter component: MDRVC001 - Saint Vincent floods; MDRBO006 - Bolivian floods and landslides; MDRCO008 - Colombian floods; MDRPA007 - Panama floods; MDRGT002 - Guatemala Tropical Storm Agatha; MDRBZ002 - Belize Hurricane Richard; MDR49006 - The Caribbean Hurricane Tomas; MDRCL006 - Chile Earthquake; MDRHT008 - Haiti Earthquake.

The Chile Earthquake operation alone has executed a total amount of 2,326,440 Swiss francs during this first semester of 2011 through the ReD card project. On the other hand, the Haiti Earthquake operation (IFRC shelter programme) has executed an estimated 11,258,912 Swiss francs within the reporting period. A total of 13,795,459¹² Swiss francs have been spent shelter activities during the first six months across the Americas.

Challenges specific of the shelter programme:

- The Americas zone shelter programme is limited to provide adequate response to all the technical demand from National Societies and Operations due to the lack of financial and human resources at the country and continental level.
- The challenge above affects mostly the capacity building plan foreseen to be implemented along the year and thereby the National Societies in the Americas are not increasing their skills as planned. Only in case of emergency operations, the shelter coordinator is able to provide technical support and support the dissemination of IFRC policies and best practices at country level.
- The zone shelter programme structure must have enough resources to address the technical demand from National Societies in the Americas. This means fundraising for continental staff to start building the capacities at country level. New initiatives to achieve the shelter goals are being considered to better fit with the Americas' context aligned with the Long-term Planning framework.

Enable Healthy and Safe Living

Programme purpose
To reduce deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies
Programme Component 1: HIV and AIDS
Component outcome 1: National Societies in the Americas have scaled-up their HIV response through the harmonized framework of the IFRC's Global Alliance on HIV following a common platform for planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and resource mobilization.

During the reporting period, 11 national societies in the Americas, including 9 Global Alliance on HIV members, have reported using the Global Alliance on HIV reporting format against indicators and they report having collectively reached 675,356 people with prevention and anti-stigma messages, and care, treatment and support services mobilizing more than 1,018,979 Swiss francs to date for their HIV programmes in 2011.¹³

Activities under the HIV and AIDS component have principally focused on support for the current National Society members of the Global Alliance on HIV in the Americas. The secretariat has supported the National Societies within the Global Alliance to coordinate with partners, facilitated technical support and capacity building, as well as provided support to resource mobilization, planning and reporting. Costa Rica has recently joined the Global Alliance on HIV in 2011 and along with other National Societies is developing their new 4-year proposal, which will continue to support scale-up of the local response to HIV. Proposals will also place a key focus on Most at Risk Populations (MARPS) as this group accounts for the largest share of new infections in Latin America and the Caribbean. Support is being provided during 2011 to the National Societies of Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay in order to increase their capacities in HIV programming as a prelude to their future incorporation into the Global Alliance on HIV. The Bahamas Red Cross is another potential Global Alliance member currently supported by the American Red Cross through the regional bilateral Caribbean HIV AIDS Project (CHAP).

In March 2011, HIV staff from the Argentina, Bahamas, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Societies participated in a *Design for Behaviour Change* workshop organized by the American Red Cross with the Academy for Educational Development in the context of the CHAP project. The goal of this workshop was to further support the needs of HIV

¹² Within the Haiti Earthquake operation, any emergency shelter intervention expenditure is not included in this figure.

¹³ Consolidated data attached January to June 2011

programme staff for a practical behavioural change framework that assists them in planning their projects strategically for maximum effectiveness. The workshop provided participants with a set of tools to help foster internal changes in communities, based on an analysis of their goals and objectives. During the next reporting period, the workshop will be replicated in Ecuador by the facilitators trained in Jamaica.

During the reporting period, the Caribbean Global Alliance on HIV members met in Trinidad to discuss programme progress, to ensure that there is a common appreciation of what is required to move to the next 4-year phase of the programme and to discuss planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), particularly as it relates to monitoring and reporting, which has proven to be very challenging for the National Societies over the first 3-year phase of the programme. Similar meetings will be held in Central and South America during the next semester.

In attempting to develop the new 4-year Global Alliance on HIV proposals, National Societies have had the opportunity to clearly identify the challenges that exist within the Global Alliance on HIV Framework. These challenges have been communicated to the HIV secretariat team in Geneva. A series of virtual meetings with Global Alliance members have been conducted with support from the Americas zone PMER unit, in an effort to improve planning, monitoring and reporting processes and to establish a standard criterion for data collection in member countries.

From 8 to 10 June 2011, the Health/HIV sub-director from the Argentine Red Cross joined the Argentina Government delegation to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV held in New York to review progress and to renew commitments to halt and reverse the HIV epidemic.

An evaluation of the first three years of the Global Alliance on HIV in the Americas has been postponed to the second semester of 2011, as well as the evaluation of the *Together We Can* youth peer education methodology in Central America.

The first Caribbean HIV Conference will take place in the Bahamas in November of this year. Abstracts were submitted for consideration and a range of submissions were accepted for presentation at the conference including: 6 poster presentations, 2 oral presentations and one skills building workshop (Jamaica, Guyana, Bahamas and American Red Cross).

The Honduran Red Cross has received funding from the Ely Lily Foundation for a TB/HIV project targeting PLHIV and prisoners and addressing related stigma and discrimination. Likewise, the Argentine Red Cross has commenced a harm reduction project with support from the Italian Red Cross. Implementation of these projects commenced late in the current reporting period and progress will be reflected in the annual report. The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) formed an alliance with the Fundación de Ayuda contra la Drogadicción (*Foundation to Support Against Drug Addiction - FAD*). Through this alliance, the FAD held interactive workshops with ERC volunteers in order to build capacities and knowledge and volunteers have been trained to be *Mediators in Preventing the Improper Use of Drugs*.

In the context of the Global Alliance on HIV, the secretariat funded an innovative small project presented by the Argentine Red Cross on the theme of Security, Promotion and Recognition of Volunteers as part of the Volunteering Development and Youth Action initiative for the International Year of Volunteers.

Programme Component 2: Community-based Health

Component outcome 1: National Societies' capacity to deliver scaled-up and effective community-based health programmes is strengthened through knowledge-sharing, harmonized approaches, promotion of good practices and effective coordination.

During this reporting period, the secretariat in the Americas is putting a high emphasis on promotion and roll-out of the Federation's Community-based Health and First Aid methodology - CBHFA *in Action* - with National Societies and partners, as the harmonized model for Red Cross community health work in the Americas. During 2009 in the Caribbean and 2010 in Latin America, a pool of

more than 40 National Society master facilitators were trained in order to support the roll-out of the methodology in their countries and regions. A Health, Water and Sanitation planning and coordination meeting held in Panama in February 2011, as well as a CBHFA Monitoring and Evaluation workshop held in May, made important contributions to strengthening coordination in the region and the understanding of how CBHFA can be best integrated with water and sanitation and DRR for a cross-programmatic and more effective approach aligned with *Strategy 2020*. In June, the zone health unit presented a project proposal to the Finnish Red Cross Global Health Adviser to support continental roll out processes and this project was funded midyear. It is hoped that additional funds to support the roll out process will be received during the remainder of 2011.

The Haitian and Chilean Red Cross Societies have commenced the roll out of CBHFA during the reporting period in the context of the earthquake operations. In Latin America, 11 National Societies are conducting internal sensitization and planning roll out at the national or branch level. Several National Societies have harnessed bilateral partner support to enable the training of staff and volunteers and the integration of CBHFA into existing projects. The secretariat is facilitating peer-to-peer support processes in order to share expertise and provide needed facilitator support. A *CBHFA workshop for Delegates and Programme Managers* will be held in late August in Panama. This workshop entails a collaboration between the Geneva based senior officer for CBHFA, the Americas zone health unit in Panama and the Haiti health programme.

The secretariat has supported the implementation of a pilot water and sanitation sustainable follow up model in 7 communities in Central America (2 in Guatemala, 1 in El Salvador, 2 in Honduras and 2 in Nicaragua). The follow up model was developed in March 2009 following Hurricane Mitch, with participation of beneficiary communities, municipalities, ministries of health and National Societies of the 4 affected countries. The results of the pilot project will provide inputs and lessons learnt for future promotion at continental level. A total of 1,123 households and 5,615 people were reached with the follow up pilot project in the target communities. A lessons learnt meeting with National Societies and key Red Cross and external partners is scheduled for August

The secretariat supported a workshop in Chile during May to define a water, sanitation and hygiene promotion strategy. Through this process the National Society has identified their priorities in terms of fundraising and the implementation of scheduled activities as part of the earthquake response. An important outcome has been that the Chilean Red Cross has defined a process to establish a water and sanitation component within their health department in order to benefit unattended and most vulnerable populations. In total during the reporting period, 25 water & sanitation and health focal points from 6 National Societies participated in capacity building on Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting for water & sanitation projects; design of water & sanitation systems; and water & sanitation strategy development.

Thanks to support from the Swiss Humanitarian Foundation, the secretariat is currently supporting seven National Societies in the Americas (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Suriname) through a five-year programme to strengthen Red Cross Red Crescent Club 25 worldwide. The three main objectives include information, education and motivation, including community commitment, health promotion, donor retention and the development of local and international alliances. The learning through this project will help to strengthen National Society blood donor recruitment programming, enable the sharing of learning and skills with peers, and promote coordination with their respective ministries of health. Some key activities undertaken by National Societies in this reporting period include health promotion by Club 25 members and the annual celebration of World Blood Donor Day during which Club 25 members were awarded for the highest number of donations made over the past year. This year World Blood Donor Day was held in Argentina and both the Argentine Red Cross and the secretariat's Regional Representation for the Southern Cone were present at the commemoration and activities.

Road safety has become an increasing health and safety concern for many National Societies in the region. On 11 May 2011, the *Decade of Action for Road Safety* was launched worldwide, having been declared by the United Nations General Assembly in March 2010. For National Societies, such as the Argentinean, Bolivian, Mexican and Peruvian Red Cross Societies, this was an opportunity to raise institutional awareness and develop interventions on this issue. The Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) for example, is seeking to increase road safety interventions in the

community, such as information, education and communication (IEC) campaigns in coordination with the Peruvian National Police. As part of the road safety project supported by the German Red Cross, the PRC is implementing the Road Safety Educational Project in Lima and Arequipa and introducing the CBHFA methodology. In addition, the German Red Cross is also supporting a Road Safety in Bolivia, to be officially launched with national authorities in La Paz in October. This project has a planned implementation period of 2 and half years. The Argentine Red Cross (ARC) began joint action with the National Road Safety Agency and held a campaign on a public street during June. With the motto "Don't Kill Me" (*No Me Mates*) the campaign was held in the country's principal intersections. Printed material was distributed and talks were held on first aid. Through these activities, the ARC successfully added Road Safety to its national Strategic Plan as part of its line of work in health.

The secretariat also supported the visit of the Chief Executive of the Global Road Safety Initiative to Costa Rica and accompanied his visit to Mexico for the launch of the Decade of Action for Road Safety and to discuss partnership arrangements for a Mexico Road Safety Partnership with the Mexican Red Cross and the Mexican government. In the next semester, the secretariat (health, youth programmes and the regional representation) will support the further development of road safety action in the Central America region with a workshop led by the Mexican Red Cross engaging the regional youth and health networks hosted by the Red Cross Society of Panama.

Programme Component 3: Public Health in Emergencies

Component outcome 1: National Societies' capacity to deliver health response in emergencies is strengthened and scaled up through knowledge sharing, promotion of good practices, effective coordination and strong strategic alliances.

Through the Public Health in Emergencies component continuous support in outbreak surveillance through media monitoring has been provided to National Societies and regional offices in close coordination with the secretariat's PADRU.

Strong leadership was provided in the planning, implementation and review of the health response in the major Cholera outbreak operations in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, with a focus on better addressing a Hispaniola-wide emergency through the consolidation of a contingency plan for the island. The active engagement of the Haitian Red Cross and Dominican Red Cross volunteers continues to underpin the cholera response at the community level in both countries. Volunteers are responding to outbreaks and supporting cholera prevention awareness-raising activities in health care facilities, schools, communal areas and markets in Haiti and the Dominican Republic in coordination with their ministries of health. A Regional Intervention Team member in health from the Bolivian Red Cross was deployed to the Dominican Republic to support the cholera operational response.

In April 2011, the secretariat organized the *Emerging and re-emerging diseases in the Americas: Lessons learned and innovative approaches* workshop. The objective was to share the different experiences of emergencies caused by epidemic diseases in the Americas with regards to community-based approaches and integrating prevention and preparedness activities. Moreover, to review innovative approaches, with potential early warning systems for public health emergencies, incorporating the concept of climate change impacts on health and assessing the challenges of how to address health issues in urban and suburban areas. Twelve National Societies participated including: Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, St Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago, in addition to the chairs of the three Red Cross regional health networks. The Red Cross Reference Centre for Climate Change in the Netherlands, the secretariat's global hygiene promotion and emergency health focal points, and PAHO facilitated virtual sessions. The workshop was well received by participants.

During the first six months of 2011, the Americas zone launched 5 new DREF operations or emergency appeals including 3 operations to respond to and prepare for dengue outbreaks in Bolivia, Peru and Paraguay. All operations have interventions in health and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion in emergencies through Red Cross National Intervention Teams.

The secretariat has mobilized additional support to the Peruvian and Bolivian Red Cross Societies for their response to dengue fever outbreaks with a project, involving coordination with PAHO and funding from ECHO. The project will be implemented during the third quarter and as well as dengue preparedness the project will integrate the Federation's CBHFA approach. CBHFA tools were distributed to National Societies in the first quarter of 2011 with support from the zone emergency health programme.

The Venezuela Floods operation which includes an emergency health component has commenced with supporting the roll out of CBHFA. The secretariat is providing training and technical support for national training of Red Cross staff and volunteers.

A psychosocial support (PS) in emergencies module initiated in 2010, in collaboration with the Centre of Reference for Disaster Preparedness in El Salvador and key National Society focal points was finalized during the reporting period and will be piloted during the third quarter of 2011 in Chile and Colombia. A meeting of Red Cross PS focal points is also scheduled for the next quarter to share experience to date in PS programming, as well as to disseminate the Federation's Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support manual and tool kit, and the newly developed PS in emergencies module. The secretariat has also supported the technical review of the Spanish translation of the PS Centre's latest tools during 2011.

In this reporting period, all plans of action, DREF bulletins, emergency appeals, and updates have received technical input from the emergency health coordinator as well as the water and sanitation emergency delegate before publication. In addition they have contributed to the development of Standard Operational Procedures for disaster and crisis operations, as well as facilitated sessions on the PADRU refresher training. Furthermore, revision of the National Intervention Team standard training curricula for water & sanitation and emergency health is in process in coordination with the Centre of Reference for Disaster Prevention (CREPD), as well as an analysis of water and sanitation kit deployments in recent years.

The secretariat participated in a regional HIV in emergencies workshop in June with UN theme group agencies and civil society networks and the zone water and sanitation in emergencies delegate and shelter coordinator facilitated sessions on the respective clusters.

Achievements:

- Seven National Society HIV staff were trained in Behaviour Change design for HIV programming.
- 675,356 people were reached with HIV prevention and anti stigma messages and care, treatment and support services.
- Emergency health focal points from 12 National Societies participated in a lessons learnt and innovation workshop on epidemic control.
- 29 water & sanitation and health focal points from six National Societies participated in capacity building for water and sanitation technical projects.
- 5,615 people were reached with water and sanitation services in 4 countries.
- The PS in emergencies module has been completed and is ready for piloting during the second semester.
- A technical review of the PS global tools Spanish translation has been completed and will be printed during the second semester.
- CBHFA roll out commenced in Haiti and Chile in the context of the earthquake operations and internal sensitization processes commenced in 11 National Societies in Latin America with national or branch facilitators workshops planned for second semester with peer support.
- New sources of funding have been mobilized for National Societies in the areas of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation, dengue prevention, TB/HIV co-infection and harm reduction, and to support CBHFA roll out in the Americas.

Constraints

- Lack of dedicated funding and technical focal point in community health.

- Resource mobilization efforts by National Societies in Central America for the water and sanitation technical units have not produced the funding sustainability needed, and some trained staff have left the employ of the National Societies.
- Resource mobilization efforts generally for health programming have been limited due to lack of staff time.
- Lack of a complete health team at regional level has added to the workload of key zone health staff.

Build Strong National Red Cross Societies

Programme purpose

Increase the skills of local communities, civil society, and Red Cross to face the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme component 1: National Society Financial Sustainability

Component outcome 1: Support resource mobilization and donor engagement efforts for the National Societies

Achievements:

The corporate alliance guidelines have been developed and disseminated during the first semester of the year.

Fundraising support to programme areas and emergency operations have been active during the first semester of the year.

In July 2011 a Resource Mobilisation Workshop addressed to National Societies of the Americas will take place in Panama. This workshop focuses on:

- Highlighting good practices and lessons learnt of National Societies in the field of resource mobilization.
- Making plans of action to strengthen the resource mobilization capacities of National Societies.
- Promoting networking and improving communication between National Societies and the IFRC Americas Zone Office.
- Encouraging National Societies to emulate the successful initiatives and best practices of sister National Societies.
- Extending the scope of certain corporate partners to different countries.
- Setting in motion a knowledge sharing platform for successful fundraising experiences.
- Building up knowledge to build a resource mobilization strategy.

The Americas zone resource mobilization team has actively engaged the corporate sector, looking to build partnerships for the development of cooperation frameworks between the IFRC and the corporate actors that will benefit National Societies. At the moment there are on-going negotiations with partners such as Copa Airlines and Dell.

Programme component 2: National Society Organizational Development Process

Component outcome 1: Support National Societies to enhance their integrity and accountability

Achievements:

During the first semester of 2011 National Societies in the Americas Zone continue their efforts in tackling issues related to integrity, transparency and accountability through activities such as developing and refining tools for proper evaluation and accountability, improving their legal base instruments and revising their Statutes and guidelines in order to better develop into key humanitarian actors within their countries.

In South America, the Colombian Red Cross Society keeps working in this regard and, as a necessary condition to avoid problems related to integrity, unity and image, the Statutes of the

Colombian Red Cross Society are in their revision process in order to align them to the Movement guidelines. The estimated date is expected by the end of the year.

In the Caribbean, while some National Societies are making progress engaging integrity issues, regardless of independent external audits, four National Societies to date have produced such audits: Belize Red Cross Society, Guyana Red Cross Society, Jamaica Red Cross, and Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, aiding their progress towards this outcome.

Programme component 3: National Society Organizational Development Process

Component outcome 1: Facilitate the development of local integrated service delivery approach
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Achievements:

The first semester of 2011 has seen different levels of progress achieved in the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and in improving the accounting process of the National Societies in the Americas. Throughout the whole process the IFRC having a key role in providing resources and technical support of the PMER unit in the Americas zone office.

The IFRC has coordinated and supported workshops with National Societies from the Americas focused on rolling out *Strategy 2020* and integrating it to their strategic plans in all possible programmatic areas. Participants in these workshops range from planning focal points in National Societies to management and governance representatives.

One particularly successful initiative was the project/programme planning (PPP) workshop held in Panama during the first quarter of 2011, which trained National Society staff on the new PPP methodology of the IFRC in order for them to apply the basic principles within their National Society planning processes.

Additionally, National Societies in the Americas keep aligning their strategic plans with *Strategy 2020* with the support of the IFRC. In Central America, the Costa Rican Red Cross, has developed three regional workshops to roll-out *Strategy 2020* and will be conducting an evaluation to start aligning their Strategic Plan appropriately.

Meanwhile, in South America, the Bolivian Red Cross started plans to develop a mid-term evaluation of its Strategic Plan, to take place during the second semester of 2011. This process will be supported by the IFRC through technical assistance, and a workshop on *Strategy 2020* and will take the chance to initiate the steps to properly begin the midterm evaluation, and define how harmonized is with the actual Strategic Plan. At the same time, the Ecuadorian Red Cross has approved their Strategic plan and operational plan. The Strategic Plan is harmonized with the *Strategy 2020*, and a planning unit is focusing on developing a branch network that is more balanced in terms of the overall planning capacities of the National Society.

The Colombian Red Cross Society has also made considerable progress in the area of governance and management. Good governance and management practices are being spread within the National Society throughout the year. Even though there is still a need to promote the same type of progress at the branch level.

Programme component 4: National Society Leadership Development

Component outcome 1: Support the development of leadership and management capacities in National Society decision makers

Achievements:

The IFRC continues to maintain, as a priority, the increase of support in order to guide the Ecuadorian Red Cross in developing improved governance, management and youth leadership, and management strategies.

During the first semester of 2011, Red Cross National Societies in Central America have received support from the IFRC to better guide leadership renewal and aiding in the support in the development of leadership and management capacities. For example, the Guatemalan Red Cross

received support and in-situ guidance throughout its electoral process by the regional representation for Central America, incorporating six new members to its Governing Board. On the other hand, the Honduran Red Cross has started its induction process on the Statutes and guidelines of the institution to the two new members of its Executive Committee.

At the end of the reporting period all Caribbean National Societies have Governing Boards in place and the revision of Statutes and Strategic Plans, is underway in most of the National Societies. It is at varying stages of development due to differences in capacity. The alignment to *Strategy 2020* is well understood among the National Societies, and is an integral part of their strategic planning considerations.

In South America this effort has been complemented with specific capacity building activities targeting the leadership of several National Societies. In Ecuador, the implementation of a leadership training process for governing and management boards within the Movement framework is planned, through either workshops or online courses for next October with a joint leadership training initiative at continental level, organized between the IFRC, Henry Dunant Institute and FLACSO University in Quito. On the other hand, the Colombian Red Cross Society has implemented a leadership training process for governing and management boards within the Movement framework and, in September, there will be a meeting of the government bodies further complemented through the support of the Colombian Chamber of Commerce, which will aid in organizing a workshop on Corporate Governance.

Programme component 5: National Society Volunteering Development

Component outcome 1: Support the development of integrated, coherent and innovative volunteer development

Achievements:

The implementation of the programme is in general in accordance with the 2011 plan but with some delays due to very late arrival of funding from the main donor. The area affected of the delay was the implementation of the tailored support to National Societies.

Tailored Support

The key component of programme is to provide tailored support to some National Societies in each region. During the first half of 2011, the plan was finalized and started to be implemented. Tailored support entails both funding and additional secretariat staff time.

In the South Cone, the Argentine Red Cross and the Paraguayan Red Cross were targeted for volunteering development support. The support to ARC entails developing a national volunteering development policy and plan with branch participation and a national volunteer meeting. The Paraguayan National Society received support to conduct a volunteering development analysis and plan has been developed together with the branches and volunteer management database during 2010. During the first half 2011, the Paraguayan Red Cross is implemented the plan and finalizing the volunteer management database.

In the Andean region detailed support plans have started to be implemented in the Peruvian and Ecuadorian Red Cross. The Peruvian Red Cross has developed, in a branch participatory way, various components of the volunteer management cycle (recognition, volunteer database, basic training, security, etc.). Ecuador has received support to implement their new volunteering strategy.

In Central America the second phase of the support plan to the Honduran Red Cross has started being implemented. The support will enable the HRC's headquarters to provided close support to 9 branches in components of the volunteer management cycle (including database, volunteer satisfaction survey) and trainings of branch volunteer focal points.

In the Caribbean a part time human resource has provided support to the Barbados Red Cross Society in developing a strategic plan and support to the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society in developing a volunteer database. Work been initiated to establish a network of volunteering development focal point in each National Society.

In the Latin Caribbean the National Societies are receiving support with an additional human resource dedicated to the three National Societies in the region. Volunteering development plans have been developed together with all three of the National Societies. A peer-to-peer support has been initiated between Bolivia and Cuba in order to develop a volunteer management database.

As an innovative approach online trainings have been promoted during the period. As part of the global volunteering development team a series of online trainings have been discussed and will be developed during the second part of 2011. The Spanish version of the four month Volunteering Management training was launched for the third time in Latin America. The basic Red Cross training WORC has been finalized by the end of the reporting period and will be launched during second half of the year.

It has been decided that the new regional volunteering development coordinator will have a thematic responsibility for volunteering in emergencies. Four short best practices on the theme have been produced.

Promotion of peer-to-peer support activities has been initiated during the period between Cuba and Bolivia as well as between Honduras and Argentina. The theme of those peer support initiatives is volunteer management database.

Additionally, the insurance mapping of the volunteer coverage has been updated.

Celebrating the International year of volunteers (IYV)

An incentive programme for National Societies participation in the IYV was designed and launched during the first quarter of the year. This was a call for innovated projects on the theme of Security, Promotion and Recognition of volunteers and got a positive response from the National Societies. 11 proposals were received and finally 7 proposals were rewarded with 4,000 US dollars. Those were: Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross, Argentine Red Cross, Barbados Red Cross, Costa Rican Red Cross, Peruvian Red Cross, Honduran Red Cross and Chilean Red Cross.

Fundraising has been carried out during the period in order to get National Societies to the global volunteering development conference in Budapest in September. The work resulted in fact that nine National Societies from the Americas will be present. Each participating National Society has produced a best practice that will be presented at the conference.

Technical support has been provided to the First Responders Initiative programme funded by the Canadian Red Cross such as support to simulations and analysis of the current situation. Volunteering has also been involved in development of the volunteering component in the three participating National Societies in the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Programme component 5: Youth Action
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Component outcome 1: Promote active Red Cross youth initiatives, ensuring effective participation in the institutional life of National Societies
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A youth coordinator is in place at the Americas zone office since 7 January 2011. This has significantly increased the capacity of the zone office to provide support to National Societies on youth development. The programme is in general according to plan but with slight delays due to late arrival of funds for the continental youth programme.

Tailored support

A key component of programme is to provide tailored support to some National Societies in each region. Implementation of the tailored support started slowly due to personnel changes in National Societies and regional representations but by mid-year activities is being implemented in all National Societies in Central America, in Haiti, Bolivia, and Peru and in four National Societies in the Caribbean. Preparations for the next year of the programme have already been started.

The Haitian and Panamanian Red Cross Societies received tailored support on youth development. Support has been provided to the Haitian Red Cross on developing its youth department and the Haitian Red Cross youth coordinator has been supported with chances of capacity building and connecting with the Red Cross youth internationally through study visits to Panama and Finland. Access to global tools on youth development has been provided, as well as peer-support with the Red Cross Society of Panama (RCSP). The RCSP youth has been supported in project planning and fundraising for a new road safety project. Funds were mobilized for a training and workshop to develop a national strategy on road safety. Contact with the Mexican Red Cross has been established for them to provide peer-support to the RCSP on youth safety. A micro project with road safety activities is also planned.

Continental tools

Tools on the International Federation pledge 129, celebrating the International Year of Youth and on-line trainings have been disseminated and promoted to the five regions of the Americas. Advocacy work has been carried out to promote pledge 129 and the related secretariat survey to National Societies for them to commit to strengthening the young volunteer base and guide them to further involve youth in programmes and decision-making processes. The revision of the global IFRC Youth Policy has been promoted and National Societies have been encouraged to provide input and start planning or revising their national youth policies.

Supporting networks

The Caribbean and Central American Youth networks have been supported. Both have received funds for projects on the continental youth programme to support their work and project implementation has started. In both regions there are micro projects implemented in several National Societies and some regional knowledge and good practice sharing activities. In addition, Peru and Bolivia have received funds for projects on youth development. These projects concentrate on strengthening youth departments through school brigade programmes. Planning for the continental youth programme in 2012 has been started with intention to extend the programme next year to all the five regions of Latin America and the Caribbean. Furthermore, the Central American Youth Network leader has been supported to assume responsibility in communications with Espacio Iberoamericano de Juventud.

The Colombian Red Cross Society has been encouraged and supported to take continental responsibility on the preparation committee of the 2nd IAVE World Summit for Youth Volunteering, to be held in Colombia in November 2011.

Technical support to programmes and others

Input has been provided to the zone strategic plan on youth. A working group has been supported in preparing a strategic document on volunteering and youth as part of the next Inter-American plan. Several virtual meetings have been held, funds have been raised for a face-to-face meeting of the working group in August, and a concept note has been prepared to seek for funds for a youth meeting that will be held prior to the Inter-American Conference in March 2012.

Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace

Programme purpose:

Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.
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Programme component 1: Policies, strategies and standards
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Component outcome 1: IFRC policies, strategies and guidelines related to humanitarian principles and values, non-violence, non-discrimination and respect for diversity are well understood and implemented by National Societies in the Americas Zone and are disseminated to relevant regional stakeholders/partners.
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Through the first semester of 2011 the Americas zone continued its work, ensuring that National Societies in the Americas were familiar with the IFRC policies, strategies and guidelines related to

humanitarian Principles and Values, non-violence, non-discrimination and respect for diversity, in line with Strategic Aim 3 of *Strategy 2020*.

Efforts in this period focused on providing training to volunteers and staff from all levels in National Societies through different workshops that aimed to ensure that leaders and staff from National Societies in the Americas become familiar with Principles and Values policies, strategies and guidelines. In this regard, two members from the Guatemalan Red Cross governing board participated in a workshop about gender-focus in project and programme planning, along with technical experts from different National Societies, including the Belize Red Cross Society, the Jamaica Red Cross, the Nicaraguan Red Cross, the Salvadoran Red Cross Society and the Uruguayan Red Cross.

National Societies are also revising their Principles and Values materials and curriculum to better adapt it to Strategic Aim 3 of *Strategy 2020*, and improve capacities of the Principles and Values directorates to better integrate it into their planning process, using quality and impact indicators. National Societies that did not have a direct responsible for Principles and Values have now identified and acquired such staff, particularly in Central America.

National Societies in the Americas implement strategies related to non-discrimination and respect for diversity especially within their HIV programming. In the Global Alliance on HIV framework, 11 National Societies reached approximately 675,356 with prevention and anti-stigma messages, and care, treatment and support services during the first semester of 2011.

Programme component 2: Migration

Component outcome 1: National Societies have a better understanding of migration trends and the vulnerabilities of migrant populations and have analyzed the possibilities of Red Cross action in addressing such vulnerabilities.

The International Federation is committed to strengthening humanitarian activities of National Societies to assist migrant and internally displaced people in distress and promote integration of vulnerable migrants and internally displaced groups. However, limited progress was achieved against the planned indicators for this outcome.

Nevertheless, in 2011 a consultancy has been commissioned in order to gather general recommendations based on the experience of the Dominican Red Cross regarding migration in the country –as there is a large population of Haitian migrants in the Dominican Republic. An assessment mission was carried out in the Dominican Republic during the first half of 2011 and a draft report was presented in June. This study will feed into one of the working groups dealing with migration issues for the Inter American Conference to be held next year.

Programme component 3: Violence Prevention

Component outcome 1: National Societies have a better understanding of existing violence prevention programmes in the Americas and increased political decision making regarding institutionalizing programmes on violence prevention in the National Societies.

In relation also to violence prevention, several National Societies in Central America and the Caribbean have participated in workshops developed by the Canadian Red Cross focused on the 10 Steps to Creating Safe Environments for Children and Youth methodology.

Programme component 4: Principles and Values with advocacy and communication.

Component outcome 1: Key IFRC Principles and Values are promoted influencing internal/external practices through advocacy activities and means of communication.

A continental effort was carried out for the promotion of tolerance, non-violence and non-discrimination campaigns with particular emphasis in the fight against HIV and AIDS, channelled through the health and care programme under the Global Alliance on HIV framework.

The IFRC representatives from the Americas zone participated in significant events taking place in the Americas to convey key messages and influence national, regional and international agendas relating to humanitarian issues. To illustrate, the Americas zone office carried out a strong advocacy role in the first anniversary of the Chile Earthquake, through the presentation of a one-year memoir that not only highlighted achievements, but also raised awareness on the humanitarian challenges brought forth by the emergency, focused on the needs of those most vulnerable. The presentation was supported by a photographic exhibition entitled “Red Cross: unedited images on the earthquake”. The exhibition was open for the public and was presented in the consistorial patio of the Santiago municipality.

With support from the IFRC, National Societies in Central America have designed –and re-designed, when appropriate– their communication and diffusion strategies, and produced Principles and Values related material targeting youth. The Nicaraguan Red Cross, for example, built a partnership with the Universidad Centroamericana that supports them in developing a institutional image study that clarified the focus of their dissemination campaign and specific messages to be developed. Through this study, the Nicaraguan Red Cross developed not only print materials, but also radio spots (that were played in 20 radio stations), below-the-line products, and a documentary. Another example is the Honduran Red Cross, which now carries out Principles and Values diffusion activities in 16 branches.

In the Caribbean, although the advocacy of the National Societies’ auxiliary role is undertaken whenever an opportunity arises during programme visits, and the promotion of the Movement’s produced Principles and Values is integral in the delivery of programme activities, however due to the completion of the DIPECHO 7 programme that funded a communications officer at Caribbean regional representation office (CRRO), there was a decrease in dedicated communications and advocacy activities during the reporting period.

During the reporting period, the CRRO representatives participated in a disaster response systems coordination meeting facilitated by UNDP as well as several health coordination meetings conducted by PAHO, and in the ECDG-DM coordination session. In addition, the Regional Representative took an active role in setting the agenda for the CDEMA civil society committee’s deliberations. These meetings with Red Cross partners continue to provide an opportunity to promote the objectives of the Movement in general and the programmes of the respective National Societies in the Caribbean region.

Constraints or Challenges

- Lack of direct funding for Principles and Values has limited the number of activities to be undertaken by National Societies.
- There is no continental coordinator in place for Principles and Values, and there is only one focal point at the regional level to move forward the Principles and Values plan.

The Role of the Secretariat

Administration

The Americas zone administration unit main responsibilities are currently focused on moving the all secretariat offices in Panama to a single building, which includes the selection of a consultant to support the design for the renovation and refurbishment of the new premises and after the identification of a construction contractor to execute the project under the management of the consultant. This project is expected to be completed in early 2012. The administration unit is also in charge of the coordination and support to the Haitian Red Cross for the Inter American Conference to take place in March 2012 in Port-au-Prince. In order to support the travel costs of National Society and secretariat participants to the conference, discounts of 15 and 20 per cent for the air tickets for the participant with Copa Airlines. In regards to improving security measures in the zone office, a new procedure was put in practice by introducing identity cards for all staff, external personnel and visitors. Furthermore, the administration unit is making the necessary arrangements to provide space to new personnel arriving to the office and re accommodating for internal changes.

Communications

The development, distribution and promotion of communication packages and materials have contributed to National Society profiling within volunteering, health and other key sector areas, and further supported the membership in addressing critical issues of global concern such as climate change adaptation and risk reduction.

The launching of a thematic communication initiative around urban risk has further served as a catalyst for advancing the internal process of integrating *urban risk* as a priority focus area for integrated programming in the Americas over the next four years, 2012–2015, while raising awareness and reinforcing knowledge-basis to better enable a programme and service transition to relevance with regard to the urban reality. Furthermore, the urban risk initiative has provided a base for focused profiling of Red Cross in the Americas as a leading humanitarian actor tackling new vulnerabilities and adapting its business to the external trends.

Ongoing support through emergencies related to the 2011 hurricane season, including floods in Brazil and landslides in Bolivia, has been geared towards the development of communication materials, the dissemination of public information, and media relations. The effective outreach of Red Cross key messages has in turn contributed to further positioning the Movement's leading role at the event of disasters and crises.

The IFRC beneficiary communications programme implemented in Haiti has continued to expand in 2011. The programme has secured funding (250,000 US dollars) from the Humanitarian Innovation Fund to establish an interactive voice recognition information line at Red Cross base camp and further develop the TERA SMS system. Working closely with local institutions will enable this system to provide critical information, to a maximum number of people, during a crisis.

A regional mapping of opportunities linked to available technologies in the Americas has fed into the development of a zone approach to using beneficiary communications in emergency and non-emergency situations.

The weekly radio show of the Haitian Red Cross, *Radyo Kwa Wouj*, implemented by the communication unit in Haiti, has increased its reach by introducing a second show on a second network. Over 20 shows have been broadcast in the first half of 2011, focusing on a range of topics from preparations for the rainy and hurricane season, cholera awareness and first aid. One of the indicators for the growing success of *Radyo Kwa Wouj* is the increasing number of calls. From only a few in 2010; the show is now answering between 10 and 20 calls to each show.

Additionally, communication activities in the first half of 2011 have contributed to improved awareness of the Humanitarian Diplomacy strategic framework and alignment between the zone and global priorities.

Finance

The zone finance unit has focused its main efforts in four main areas during the first six months of the year:

1. Development or improving the capacities of the secretariat staff in finance matters
2. Supporting the National Societies in issues related to the statutory contributions declarations
3. Support to the Haiti operation
4. Finance training

Within the reporting period, two formal project manager trainings have been conducted during the first semester of 2011 and an additional one is planned for the third quarter of the year in the CRRO (Port of Spain, Trinidad). The first two trainings were conducted in Haiti and in the Americas zone office in Panama.

As a result of these trainings, more than 35 staff have been trained in financial matters which will enable them to increase their knowledge and skills on programme financial management including financial systems and procedures.

The second area of special attention has been the support provided to different National Societies for the statutory declarations submissions. This support includes the following National Societies:

- Ecuadorian Red Cross: a three-day visit was carried in the National Society to train, fill out and ensure that all the documentation is ready for the submission of the next Finance Commission. The target was achieved successfully.
- Uruguayan Red Cross: virtual meetings took place to provide the guidance to the finance staff which allows preparing and submitting the declaration on time.
- Mexican Red Cross: Teleconferences were held to clarify some balances and obtain the confirmation that a payment will be submitted shortly.

Furthermore, ad-hoc support has been provided as well to the Nicaraguan Red Cross. The former head of support services visited the Brazilian and Peruvian Red Cross which enable him to obtain a better perspective of the financial situation in both National Societies and provided some recommendations to be presented to the Finance Commission as well.

The third area of focus has been the provision of support the Haiti operation. A dedicated finance advisor for the operation has been hired in the reporting period and the advisor will provide strategic advice to the management team. Objectives for this position include:

- a) Successfully preparation and posting of the Federation Wide Report for the Haiti Operation
- b) Preparation of the financial analysis report for this operation

The fourth area of focus will be the provision of training to the finance staff in the region that will enhance their capacities to provide better services. The objectives of these trainings include:

- Add value to the organization
- Create and preserve financial value
- Create a high performance finance team
- Improve and innovate the financial systems and procedures to increase the effectiveness and efficiency through the service provided

Human Resources

In the first six months of 2011, the zone human resources (HR) management unit has been shaping itself further toward a human resources body that next to providing internal professional human resource solutions, dedicates to the building of human resource capacity in the National Societies. A new innovative online performance management tool has been introduced that combines a one-stop function for objective setting, performance review, staff development and staff learning opportunities. Initiatives have been increased to establish a community of practise with HR professionals of National Societies in the Americas resulting in HRM assignments with the Chilean and Panamanian Red Cross Societies. A new model of capacity building has been introduced with the Haitian Red Cross, focusing on embedding delegates directly into the National Society structure. This approach facilitates the creation of instant capacity on mostly middle management level which will in a first phase serve the HRC in the areas of institutional development, disaster management and HR. In July an IMPACT induction course has successfully been organized in Haiti in cooperation with the Canadian Red Cross. In addition the promotion of the IFRC learning platform has been intensified through rolling out of the e-learning platform to National Societies in the Americas. The HRM unit will continue to commit to increase the availability of high impact courses in English, Spanish and French for National Society staff and volunteers. To increase ownership of National Societies over the platform it is expected that the first existing National Societies trainings are added onto the learning platform in the second half of 2011.

Information Systems

The information systems unit for the Americas zone works to support all secretariat's offices and National Societies in the region with technology-related needs and initiatives. During the first half of 2011, as part of the Digital Divide initiative, the unit organized a one week certification session for National Society IT coordinators. This was the culmination to the eight week virtual training workshop followed by 12 National Societies from the region. Taking the opportunity of the certification session, the first National Society IT coordinators meeting was organized at the same time. In this meeting, the 12 National Societies had the opportunity to present their current status regarding technology and exchange experiences with other National Societies. One positive result from this meeting was the sharing of a volunteer management application by the Argentine Red Cross with the National Societies of Chile and Honduras.

During the reporting period, the unit started discussions with Dell and Microsoft in search of opportunities for National Societies. With Microsoft, National Societies were made aware of the NGO programme opportunity to apply for no-cost licenses for their programmes. The National Societies of Colombia and Chile are currently pursuing this option. Meetings were held with Dell Latin-America for a possible partnership.

Support to the Haiti operation has been constant, especially with the staff rotation and replacement process. The new IT/Telecom coordinator was hired in May 2011 for the remainder of the year. The unit is working on the exit strategy for the next year along with the coordinator. Furthermore, an evaluation of the skills and expertise acquired by local staff in Haiti is ongoing, in order to confirm if the national staff will be able to support the operation during its third year. In addition, support to the Inter-American conference, planned for March 2012, has been provided with local visit to assess conditions and requirements.

At local level, the unit has been part of the integration of the PADRU/Zone offices in Panama. All IT staff is now part of the unit as one team and services are being coordinated. The unit is involved in the move to a new building, assisting in the evaluation of contractors' proposals and organization.

Logistics Management

For the first six months of the year the Global Logistics Services in the Americas zone (GLSAMZ) has conducted:

- Training for 13 IFRC logisticians
- Logistics workshops in the zone for 29 Red Cross staff
- Briefings and debriefings for 36 Red Cross staff by the GLSAMZ team
- Supported an average of 3 operations per month within the Americas
- Distributed health manuals throughout the zone, to Geneva and many countries in Africa
- Contributed to the Global planning framework as well as writing the GLSAMZ strategic planning framework for 2015
- Terms of reference for sourcing study developed
- Terms of reference for stock prepositioning study developed

The GLSAMZ also manages the sourcing and transportation of 13,000 tonnes of relief items and equipment in support of 200,000 disaster-affected families, and utilising 23,500m³ of warehousing annually. Additionally the team support National Societies to carry around double this volume in their own operations.

In addition to the global studies the team is also working closely with the Georgia Institute of Technology, Centre for Humanitarian Logistics on a project (Capstone Project) an independent study that has helped the unit to develop tools. A Factor rating tool that grades countries by allocating weights, summing those weights against other countries to give a picture of which countries are the best suited. The other tool is the Demand Estimation tool in which, the team has taken information from the Emergency Events Database (EMDAT) from 1966 to 2010, and then calculated the trend and the affected population by countries within the Americas.

These tools will assist the secretariat in obtaining a clearer picture of the priorities within the region in terms of logistics capacity, disaster preparedness and a probability rating for disaster prone countries, thus enabling GLSAMZ to prioritize the needs within the Americas and position ourselves accordingly.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

In the area of planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), the PMER unit works towards enhancing the collective accountability of the IFRC in the Americas; the unit works with the Zone programmes including PADRU in the area of emergency planning and reporting as well as the regional representations and country representatives. The unit promotes adherence to standards and ensures improved monitoring, constantly enhancing the quality and timeliness of reports for traditional and non-traditional donors.

In the first six months of 2011, the PMER unit has been involved in the constant updating of the Federation's evaluation database which is now available on FedNet. The purpose of the database

is to facilitate tracking of evaluations and to ensure improved sharing of information and lessons learned. In addition, the unit is involved in the consultancy which has been assigned to assess the implementation of the 2007–2011 Inter-American Plan and a further consultancy commissioned to draw up a case study focused on migration, taking into account the experiences of the Dominican Red Cross.

With a view to working to improve both secretariat and National Societies' capacities in project cycle management, the PMER unit organized a project planning process workshop in Panama in March which introduced the new Federation methodology and didactic tools. The workshop took place in Spanish with the participation of 11 National Societies, the organizational development officers from the five regions, PMER unit staff, the health officer from the Andean regional representation and the resource mobilization officer from the Haiti support team. Two experienced facilitators led the workshop which was considered very successful. In May, a gender planning workshop was also organized focusing on how to incorporate gender considerations into planning, and one day of the workshop was allocated to violence prevention sessions which were facilitated by the Canadian Red Cross. Thirty five people took part in the workshop, including participants from 16 National Societies.

The unit continues to promote the roll-out of *Strategy 2020*, ensuring that National Societies' strategic plans are aligned with the overall strategic framework of the Federation. The Strategic Plan of the Barbados Red Cross was revised during the reporting period with the support of one of the trained *Strategy 2020* facilitators.

The Federation databank initiative linked to Federation-Wide Reporting will be launched during the second half of the year.

Working in partnership

The Americas zone office continues to establish partnerships and nurturing the alliances established in previous years. Work within the existing continental and regional platforms for disaster risk management, health and humanitarian diplomacy is promoted in other maintain and increase the profiling of the Red Cross within the Americas.

Within the Movement, tripartite agreements (National Society, ICRC and IFRC) are in place in several National Societies. Furthermore, collaboration continues to take place with PNS with multilateral and bilateral programming in the continent.

For example, the Global Alliance on HIV in the Americas is supported through a multi-lateral partnership with the Norwegian Red Cross and through bilateral partnerships with the American, Finnish, French, Italian, Netherlands, Norwegian and Spanish Red Cross Societies. National Societies report partnerships in 2011 with national and regional PLHIV networks, community based associations and NGOs, ministries of health, education and social services, UN agencies and international NGOs. In addition, National Societies are continuing to expand their HIV work in partnership with PLHIV networks, and community organisations and associations representing key populations at heightened risk of HIV. Club 25 programmes mobilizing voluntary non-remunerated youth blood donors work in partnership with Red Cross and government blood services. Inter-agency collaboration is established with PAHO for emergency health and voluntary blood donation, with UNICEF on maternal, newborn and child health and the WASH cluster (water, sanitation and hygiene).

In addition, the Disaster Risk Management programme has worked to establish partnerships and alliances as follows:

- Work through the existing DRM networks in the Caribbean and Central America which facilitate communication and coordination with the National Societies.
- Coordination with the Movement components present in the continent: The American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Finish Red Cross, the French Red Cross (PIRAC), the Netherlands Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross. The programme is promoting a working model that strengthens the collaboration with partners beyond the donor relationship with some PNS.

- The working relationship with governments has been strengthened through the participation and dialogue in forums, meetings and joint activities through the sub-regional systems such as CEPREDENAC, CDEMA, CAPRADE, FEMICA, RedHum, the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the OAS.
- Dialogues, coordination meetings and joint work continue with the UN system, multilateral organizations and international cooperation organizations. Positive and productive relationships have been maintained in particular with UN-ISDR, OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, PAHO/WHO, DG ECHO, OFDA, CIDA, the World Bank and AECID.

However the main challenges continues to be the mapping of all DRM actions taking place in the Americas. This is important in order to have a better understanding and reach of our collective goals as partners, as well as to optimize resources.

Contributing to longer-term impact

In terms of monitoring and evaluation, efforts are in place to ensure better management, learning and improvement in the programmes by promoting and updating the IFRC evaluations database. In addition, two external HIV evaluations planned for 2011 will contribute to ensuring enhanced management in the Red Cross HIV programmes.

The emergency health programme component seeks to ensure longer-term impact through a few focused measures: a) having global tools as a starting point for capacity building and consistently promoting the use thereof; b) local and regional validation of any new methodology; and c) awareness-raising towards national societies, donors and partners highlighting the inter-linkage and complementarity of different tools.

The updated IFRC programme/project planning (PPP) manual has been promoted in the reporting period and the second planning workshop conducted specifically addressed the integration of gender in the planning process. The PPP roll-out will continue in 2012 to improve project implementation within the secretariat and the National Society level.

In order to contribute to gather best practices and improve projects/programme based on past experiences, lessons learned workshops have taken place within emergency operations such as Chile for example, and programmes (health, emergency health, shelter, resource mobilization). For example, the shelter coordinator participated on the development of the Federation-wide shelter strategy framework for Haiti in January. Based on these approaches, mechanisms to capture and disseminate emerging good practices and lessons learned will be built particularly into emergency operations as outlined in the draft Americas Long Term Planning Framework 2012–2015.

The innovative experiences of the beneficiary communications team in Haiti will also be promoted in the future in other. A workshop on this topic is planned in Haiti for the second half of the year.

Looking ahead

Based on the progress achieved during the first half of the year, the programme areas will focus on the following activities for the remainder of the year:

- Development of small, medium and large scale proposals to ensure the sustainability of the four water and sanitation technical units established in Central America.
- Finalization and dissemination of the operational framework for water and sanitation programming in the Americas.
- National societies will develop Global Alliance proposals for 2012–2015 and an external evaluation of three years of the Global Alliance on HIV in the Americas will be undertaken.
- The CBHFA *in Action* roll out will continue with peer support processes for training of staff and volunteers at national level in Latin America, training of additional master facilitators in Latin America and the Caribbean (funds permitting), completion of the community tool adaptation in the Caribbean, and a CBHFA workshop for delegates and programme managers scheduled for late August in Panama.

- A psychosocial support in emergencies module will be piloted in Chile and Colombia and national society focal points will come together to share experience on psychosocial support programming in September in Colombia.
- Epidemic Control for Volunteers training will be conducted in the English speaking Caribbean for 13 National Societies in October.
- Planning for 2012 in line with the new four-year Zone strategic framework and the Global Health operational framework with a stronger focus on tailored support and a country approach.
- An evaluation of the *Together we Can* youth peer education methodology will be conducted in Central America during October.
- Under the framework of the next Inter-American Conference, the DRM programme will seek to include under the vision and strategic planned for the region the new trends such as urban risk, climate change and civil – military relations.
- The DRM programme will also work toward consolidate the public awareness and education platform to strengthen the progress carried out by the Centres of Reference, DesAprender and the regional programmes. The aim is to better-position the Red Cross in the Americas in relation to similar processes taking place at the regional and global level.

One of the main priorities for the second half of the year will be finalizing the new planning process for the secretariat covering the next four years. This process started in June with the involvement of all programme areas and units. After the finalization of the Long-Term Strategic Planning Framework for the Americas zone and country level long-term strategic planning frameworks, the departments will be working on operational plans for the zone and country level that will cover the next two years.

The Long-Term Strategic Planning Framework for the Americas zone will reflect increased emphasis on National Society capacity building. The work of the Support Services: namely Administration, Finance, Human Resources, IT and Telecommunications, Logistics and Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting is shifting its focus from supporting mostly the secretariat's day to day functions to giving more priority to promoting learning and development within the National Societies. The Support Service units, in cooperation with the Regional Representations, will work with National Societies to foster south-to-south cooperation and enhance their support services capacities through trainings, internships, the development of case studies, dissemination of policies and best practices, the use of FedNet and other information-sharing tools and platforms. Alliances with external partners will also be explored to enhance collective capacities in all support services.

Finally, during the second semester of 2011, work will be concentrated as well on supporting the Haitian Red Cross and the Inter-American Committee (CORI) in the preparations for the upcoming XIX Inter-American Conference. On the assumption that humanitarian endeavours not only assist those in need but also develop the capacities of the most vulnerable, the Planning Committee has reached a decision on the overarching theme for the Conference which will be "Reducing the Gaps". Eight working groups have been established to cover strategic and thematic areas (Secretaries/Directors General, Coordination with State structures, Volunteering and Youth, Disasters and Crises, Enabling Health and Safe Living, Social Inclusion, Migration and Violence Prevention). The working groups will hold face to face meetings as well as virtual meetings in order to draft technical documents in each area in preparation for the event. The secretariat team will share regular updates with National Societies, secretariat staff and potential donors on the progress and practical information for the Inter-American Conference through bulletins.

How we work

All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

<p>The IFRC's vision is to:</p> <p>Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.</p>	<p>The IFRC's work is guided by <i>Strategy 2020</i> which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises. 2. Enable healthy and safe living. 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
<h3>Contact information</h3>	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Americas zone office, in Panama: phone: + 507 317 3050 and fax: + 507 317 1304. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Xavier Castellanos, director of zone; email: xavier.castellanos@ifrc.org - Jan Gelfand, head of operations; email: jan.gelfand@ifrc.org - Ruben Cano, head of support services; email: ruben.cano@ifrc.org - Zuleyka Maynard, resource mobilization senior officer; email: zuleyka.maynard@ifrc.org 	

**HIV programme performance by eleven National Societies
in the Global Alliance on HIV in the Americas - January to June 2011**

Service rendered	Caribbean ¹⁴	Central America	South America	Total 2011
Number of people reached with prevention messages	32,436 (Trinidad & Tobago) 2,713 (Guyana) 6,685 (Jamaica) 416,140 (Bahamas) 220 (Barbados) Total 458,194	7,309 (El Salvador) 4,482 (Honduras) 17,506 (Guatemala) Total 29,297	38,413 (Ecuador) 11,200 (Colombia) 131,359 (Argentina) Total 180,972	668,463
Number of PLHIV supported	218 (Trinidad & Tobago) 136 (Jamaica) 3 (Bahamas) Total 357	(El Salvador) 69 (Honduras) 103 (Guatemala) Total 172	62 (Ecuador) 337 (Colombia) 390 (Argentina) Total 789	1,318
Number of OVC supported	45 (Trinidad & Tobago) 4 (Jamaica) Total 49	25 (Guatemala) Total 25	15 (Argentina) Total 15	89
Total population reached & served	33,417 (Trinidad & Tobago) 2,713 (Guyana) 6,825 (Jamaica) 416,155 (Bahamas) 220 (Barbados) Total 459,330	7,309 (El Salvador) 4,551 (Honduras) 17,506 (Guatemala) Total 29,366	38,413 (Ecuador) 12,269 (Colombia) 135,978 (Argentina) Total 186,660	675,356
Volunteer hours mobilized annually	1,166 (Trinidad & Tobago) 1,600 (Guyana) 1,751 (Jamaica) 1,730 (Bahamas) 80 (Barbados) Total 6,327	2,640 (El Salvador) 16,620 (Honduras) 11,700 (Guatemala) Total 30,960	19,200 (Ecuador) 19,000 (Colombia) 67,488 (Argentina) Total	105,688
Number of staff & volunteers reached through HIV workplace programmes	134 (Trinidad & Tobago) (Guyana) 26 (Jamaica) 12 (Bahamas) 20 (Barbados) Total 192	10 (El Salvador) 277 (Honduras) 199 (Guatemala) Total 486	192 (Ecuador) 2,200 (Colombia) 268 (Argentina) Total 2,660	3,338
Resources mobilized for HIV programme in CHF	179,765 (Trinidad & Tobago) 82,233 (Guyana) 130,509 (Jamaica) 65,693 (Bahamas) 10,000 (Barbados) CHF 468,200	65,000 (El Salvador) 177,450 (Honduras) 70,124 (Guatemala) CHF 312,574	85,712 (Ecuador) 67,493 (Colombia) 85,000 (Argentina) CHF 238,205	CHF 1,018,979

¹⁴ No data received from Belize or Haiti for the reporting period

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA42003 - Americas Zone

Mid Year Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/1-2011/6
Budget Timeframe	2011/1-2011/12
Appeal	MAA42003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	3,274,244	772,436	934,679	0	535,534	5,516,894
B. Opening Balance	1,103,281	27,956	89,426	486	96,958	1,318,106
Income						
Cash contributions						
American Red Cross	19,084					19,084
British Red Cross		141,199				141,199
CARE International	9,897					9,897
Centre for Cooperation in the Mediterranean	10,004					10,004
DFID Partnership grant	-3,111		-727		-1	-3,839
European Commission - DG ECHO	-6,231	-1,442				-7,673
Finnish Red Cross	26,331	3,267	70,618			100,216
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)	149,209	18,511	71,163			238,882
Guatemala Private donors	10,282					10,282
Honduras Private Donors	20,446					20,446
IFRC at the UN Inc			1			1
Intermon Oxfam	9,943					9,943
Italy - Private Donors (from United States - Private Donors)	445					445
Japanese Red Cross Society			55,860			55,860
Mexican Government	6					6
Norwegian Red Cross	3,339	56,396	5,680			65,415
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)	313,789	481,465	51,123			846,377
Other		2,665				2,665
PAHO (Pan American Health Organisation)		24,371				24,371
Portuguese - Private Donors	10,192					10,192
Salvador - Private Donors	10,316					10,316
Save the Children	10,199					10,199
Spanish Red Cross	-888		31			-857
Swedish Red Cross					70,800	70,800
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)			-40,000			-40,000
The Canadian Red Cross Society	14,559					14,559
The Netherlands Red Cross	10,206					10,206
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	11,110					11,110
UNDP - United Nations Development Programme	9,940					9,940
UNESCO	9,989					9,989
United States Government - USAID		-816				-816
C1. Cash contributions	649,055	725,614	213,749		70,799	1,659,217
Inkind Personnel						
American Red Cross	34,393					34,393
Finnish Red Cross	40,297		54,600			94,897
Other	74,856		53,690			128,546
Spanish Red Cross	100,800	54,600				155,400
Swedish Red Cross			54,600		54,600	109,200
The Canadian Red Cross Society	54,600					54,600
C3. Inkind Personnel	304,946	54,600	162,890		54,600	577,036
Other Income						
Balance Reallocation	12,557	6,160	26,737	258		45,712
Services Fees	6,530				58,313	64,842
C4. Other Income	19,087	6,160	26,737	258	58,313	110,554

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA42003 - Americas Zone

Mid Year Report

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C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	973,088	786,374	403,376	258	183,712	2,346,807
D. Total Funding = B + C	2,076,368	814,329	492,803	743	280,670	3,664,914
Appeal Coverage	63%	105%	53%	#DIV/0	52%	66%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	1,103,281	27,956	89,426	486	96,958	1,318,106
C. Income	973,088	786,374	403,376	258	183,712	2,346,807
E. Expenditure	-1,117,926	-240,542	-307,421		-48,123	-1,714,012
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	958,442	573,787	185,382	743	232,548	1,950,902

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA42003 - Americas Zone

Mid Year Report

Selected Parameters	
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Budget Timeframe	2011/1-2011/12
Appeal	MAA42003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure						Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	
A		B						A - B
BUDGET (C)		3,274,244	772,436	934,679	0	535,534	5,516,894	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Teaching Materials	16,698							16,698
Utensils & Tools	10,000							10,000
Other Supplies & Services	21,760							21,760
Total Relief items, Construction, Su	48,458							48,458
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	77,616	1,364					1,364	76,252
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	77,616	1,364					1,364	76,252
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	2,798	28	968	14		14	1,023	1,775
Distribution & Monitoring	21,013		10,394	20		93	10,507	10,506
Transport & Vehicles Costs	20,365	8,875	85			93	9,053	11,313
Logistics Services			314				314	-314
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	44,176	8,902	11,761	34		199	20,896	23,280
Personnel								
International Staff	1,391,119	412,897	75,779	223,457		65,975	778,109	613,010
National Staff	465,531	53,901	22,766	7,772		111,613	196,052	269,479
National Society Staff	230,711	50,798	2,250	662			53,710	177,001
Volunteers		2					2	-2
Total Personnel	2,087,361	517,598	100,795	231,891		177,589	1,027,873	1,059,488
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	294,054	158,246	9,883	2,020			170,149	123,905
Professional Fees	55,969	2,499		1,771		919	5,188	50,781
Total Consultants & Professional Fe	350,023	160,744	9,883	3,791		919	175,337	174,686
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1,576,035	174,698	23,069	7,203		605	205,575	1,370,460
Total Workshops & Training	1,576,035	174,698	23,069	7,203		605	205,575	1,370,460
General Expenditure								
Travel	426,159	48,131	40,971	15,167		5,974	110,244	315,915
Information & Public Relations	247,703	16,164	3,655	2,934		1,470	24,223	223,480
Office Costs	78,055	13,957	3,378	506		5,980	23,821	54,234
Communications	76,316	12,495	8,237	1,312		9,648	31,692	44,625
Financial Charges	48,870	11,387	3,031	1,522		10	15,949	32,921
Other General Expenses	202,980	16,092	7,411	2,194		-60,726	-35,030	238,010
Shared Office and Services Costs	-106,074	49,935	22,046	20,592		-94,519	-1,945	-104,128
Total General Expenditure	974,010	168,161	88,730	44,226		-132,164	168,953	805,057
Depreciation								
Assets Depreciation	2,521					1,261	1,261	1,260
Total Depreciation	2,521					1,261	1,261	1,260
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies		4,707					4,707	-4,707
Total Contributions & Transfers		4,707					4,707	-4,707
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions	14,420	28,565	-6,931	9,660			31,295	-16,875
Total Operational Provisions	14,420	28,565	-6,931	9,660			31,295	-16,875
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	323,913	49,387	11,226	8,705		-402	68,915	254,999
Total Indirect Costs	323,913	49,387	11,226	8,705		-402	68,915	254,999
Pledge Specific Costs								
Pledge Earmarking Fee	6,690	1,800	1,469	1,274		116	4,660	2,030

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA42003 - Americas Zone

Mid Year Report

Selected Parameters	
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Budget Timeframe	2011/1-2011/12
Appeal	MAA42003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination			
A		B						A - B	
BUDGET (C)		3,274,244	772,436	934,679	0	535,534	5,516,894		
Pledge Reporting Fees		2,000	540	636			3,176	-3,176	
Total Pledge Specific Costs	6,690	3,800	2,009	1,910		116	7,836	-1,146	
Operational Forecasting									
Operational forecasting	11,670							11,670	
Total Operational Forecasting	11,670							11,670	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	5,516,894	1,117,926	240,542	307,421		48,123	1,714,012	3,802,882	
VARIANCE (C - D)		2,156,318	531,894	627,258	0	487,412	3,802,882		