CARIBBEAN

Appeal No. 01.49/2003; Appeal Target: CHF 2,547,557
Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: 1 January – 15 May 2003

The Federation’s mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world’s largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.

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In Brief

Appeal coverage: 53.6%; See attached Contributions List for details or see the Federation’s website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3-%20-%20ap014903.pdf

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,182,067

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Programme Summary: In early 2003, the new structure for the region with a consolidated regional delegation in Panama and sub regional offices in Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic came into effect. Although these major changes affected the capacity of the delegation and sub regional offices, programme implementation continued. During the reporting period, major advances have been made as regards revitalization of the Caribbean Red Cross HIV/AIDS Network (CARAN) and redefinition of its role in the region. The DIPECHO projects in four countries progressed smoothly, with positive and sustainable results, also creating increased capacity in the National Societies, particularly with regard to reporting and financial management. Several National Societies initiated the vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) process and six National Societies have been identified to commence national intervention team (NIT) training. Work continued with regard to the cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) process and the Federation supported the organization of an extraordinary general assembly of the Dominican Red Cross in late March. The Federation’s Trinidad and Tobago office achieved a status agreement with the government during the reporting period, facilitating the work of the Federation, and links with international and regional organizations continue to be strengthened.

Operational developments

The consolidation of two regional delegations was undertaken with success despite delays caused by the rehabilitation and remodelling of the Panama regional delegation premises in order to transform two single family dwellings into practical office space. Some time was needed for the establishment of the new delegation, hiring of local staff and the process of induction and training. The result will be a stronger, more developed regional delegation, but in the early months of 2003, the output and effectiveness of the delegation was inevitably affected.

The sub-regional offices in the Caribbean continued their routines. Certain reductions in staff in the Dominican Republic took place and there were some interruptions in the follow up of some of the projects in the Caribbean as a result of the major changes taking place, including the departure of the regional health delegate.

In March 2003, an evaluation took place of the progress of National Societies in the Americas with regard to the Inter American Regional Committee (CORI) plan of action. Conclusions were that “since the last Inter American
Conference in 1999, the majority of the National Societies in Latin America and the Caribbean have advanced in most of the areas included in the plan of action. Progress is particularly noteworthy in areas such as disaster response, HIV/AIDS related initiatives and governance and management. In other areas, the progress made is less tangible, as in financial resource development and the development of long-term nation-wide programmes in areas such as HIV/AIDS and community based disaster preparedness”.

In April 2003, 35 National Societies of the Americas entered into the “Santiago de Chile Commitment”, during the XVII Inter-American Conference which detailed objectives in health, disasters and National Society capacity building to be included in a new plan of action following the Conference. The Conference recognized that health indicators in Latin America have generally improved; however, increasing disparities exist between the countries of the region and between different population groups within each country. In the area of disasters, the last decade saw large-scale natural disasters, often related to climatic change, greatly impacting development in the poorest countries in the Americas. These events are compounded by daily, “invisible”, man-made disasters, in particular armed violence, which cumulatively results in losses far greater than those arising from the more visible causes. The challenges to raise National Society capacity in the areas of community volunteer networks, more representative volunteer groups, youth programming, communication, links with those living with HIV/AIDS and resource mobilization were identified as priority areas.

Support to the regional delegation was increased during the period (both financial, technical and in kind) with significant support from the Norwegian Red Cross, the Swedish Red Cross, the British Red Cross and DFID.

Health and care

Goal: Vulnerable populations in the Caribbean region receive appropriate and accessible health care in the context of national health policies and frameworks.

Objective: Caribbean Red Cross National Societies and overseas branches have the capacity to educate, mobilize, advocate for, and deliver health and care of appropriate scale and quality, to the most vulnerable in their societies.

Progress / Achievements

Expected result 1: National Societies and overseas branches have scaled up their activities regarding HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and stigma and discrimination.

The “Together We Can” (TWC) manual was fully revised and the final draft was forwarded to the donor National Society, the Norwegian Red Cross. The manual will now be tested in the field by four National Societies and one overseas branch to assess its use as a sub-regional resource.

The 4th Caribbean Red Cross HIV/AIDS Network meeting took place in late May 2003 with a focus on “developing sustainable infrastructures”. Emphasis was placed on developing strong sub-regional alliances with partners such as UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF, the Caribbean HIV/AIDS Youth Network (CHAYN) and donors.

A one-week evaluation of the Jamaica Red Cross peer educators’ programme was carried out by the Federation with assistance from the regional health delegate and the HIV/AIDS officer with positive preliminary results.

The HIV/AIDS officer held a workshop at the Grenada Red Cross Society to assess current capacity in HIV/AIDS activities and assist in developing the National Society’s strategic plan.

The Bahamas Red Cross Society has re-engaged in the CARAN network after years of inactivity. This is vital as the country has the second highest HIV/AIDS incidence rate in the region (after Haiti).
A video produced by the Honduran Red Cross on the theme of HIV/AIDS related stigma, was presented at the Inter-American Conference in Santiago de Chile and discussions were held with CARAN with a view to adapting it for use as a sub-regional resource in the Caribbean. Initial indications are positive, and the video and related material was also presented at the 4th CARAN meeting.

The regional delegation has worked closely with the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, assisting in implementing the National Society’s strategic plan by organizing a team building workshop and through capacity building and the implementation of a plan to identify technical resources and in-country networking. The delegation continues to offer technical support to the National Society and a PPP course was held in late May with input and participation from the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society.

A trainer of trainers’ session was held by the CARAN Chairperson in the Barbados Red Cross Society in which six instructor trainers were trained in peer education. Peer education training sessions were also carried out by the CARAN Chairperson together with the Grenada Red Cross Society, the St. Lucia Red Cross and the Cayman Islands overseas branch.

Meetings were held with the Belize Red Cross Society with regard to work in HIV/AIDS and peer education. A preliminary assessment was carried out and the National Society is now ready to work with the youth department in projects focusing on HIV/AIDS.

On 8 May, Red Cross Day, the Jamaica Red Cross organized a virtual chat room on the topic of HIV/AIDS on the radio, during which listeners called in with their questions and a panel answered their questions.

Expected result 2: Areas have been defined that are consistent with the public health agendas of the countries and territories of the Caribbean region as well as with Strategy 2010, where the Federation, National Societies and overseas branches, public health authorities, and other actors can coordinate their activities to improve the lives of the most vulnerable.

The Caribbean with the second highest HIV/AIDS incidence rate in the world after Sub-Saharan Africa, is receiving much attention in the global struggle against the spread of the disease. In this respect the Red Cross has a fundamental and globally recognized role to play. Specifically the focus is in three main areas:

Prevention: With the Red Cross volunteer network and linkages to youth, the Red Cross in the region is seen as a major potential player in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In the Caribbean, the focus has been maintained on peer education campaigns concentrating on youth / adolescents. Jamaica is recognized as the sub-regional leader and efforts are being made to scale up activities to replicate this success in other countries. Jamaica has been innovative in implementing activities in coordination with governmental and non-governmental agencies including HIV/AIDS presentations in night clubs and in parks, parades and radio dramas and “speakers forums” on HIV/AIDS.

Care: In conjunction with the peer education campaign, the “Home Based Care” manuals are under revision, and it is planned to promote these as a sub-regional resource across all 19 National Societies and overseas branches. The manual is currently with the health department of the Secretariat for final review and approval.

Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Stigma: This is an area in which the National Societies have a major role to play. The Federation is promoting the Honduran Red Cross anti-stigma video “Breaking the Silence” as a tool which can be used in the Caribbean. Initial feedback from the CARAN Chairperson has been positive, and a CARAN working group will be formulated to assess how the video should be modified for use in the sub-region.

In the Dominican Republic, the National Society formed an alliance with the presidential HIV/AIDS commission COPRESIDA, and will work closely with the commission and other partners. The Director of COPRESIDA made a presentation at the Inter-American Conference in Chile and expressed particular interest in working with the Dominican Red Cross in the fight against discrimination.
Once HIV/AIDS programming has been further consolidated within the region, the Federation’s regional health delegate will assess the needs of National Societies such as Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic in the areas of disaster health, community health and non remunerated blood donation.

Impact

- To date over 20,000 youth / adolescents in Jamaica have received peer education sessions in HIV/AIDS.
- During the reporting period, peer education sessions continued in three branches in Jamaica and in Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and Surinam, presenting vital HIV/AIDS messages to vulnerable youth.
- Whilst in Jamaica, the regional health delegate was made aware of an important unanticipated impact of peer education training in disadvantaged urban areas whilst visiting a ‘ghetto’ area where youths have built up a sustainable community committee and have leveraged governmental funding to improve overall living conditions as a spin-off of the peer educators’ programme. According to the community leader, much of the credit goes to the Jamaican Red Cross in organizing the community to take part in the HIV/AIDS programme.

Constraints

The main constraints to programme implementation and successful replication are:

- The number of National Societies in the region (19) and the large geographical area pose logistical constraints. Since the creation of the regional delegation in Panama, this has resulted in the regional health delegate ensuring coverage of two sub-regions: Central America and the Caribbean. This constraint is gradually being overcome by the employment of support staff in the Trinidad sub-regional office where an assistant is in place covering the English-speaking Caribbean. In the Panama regional delegation, interviews will be held for a Spanish / French-speaking assistant to cover Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.
- Availability of educational materials including peer education manuals has proved a constraint to the replication of programmes outside of Jamaica. This is being addressed through the modification of the TWC manual, its translation into the five regional languages and a geographical distribution.
- It has proven difficult to improve the HIV/AIDS capacity in some National Societies as it is regarded as a “non-traditional area” and there is a resultant lack of expertise, trained staff and, sometimes, interest in the subject.
- There are a limited number of fully trained trainers-of-trainers in the region. The successful duplication of the peer educators’ programme outside of Jamaica depends on a cohort of trained regional “faculty” members. This is being addressed through CARAN but much more work, finance and commitment is required to make this a reality.
- Access to funding and capacity of National Societies to write proposals and to design and operate programmes is another perceived weakness / constraint. The regional delegation is committed to addressing this through the promotion of the PPP training.
- In the past there have been negative comments regarding the emphasis on English as the language of choice in CARAN and Caribbean programmes in general. The delegation is determined to overcome this linguistic constraint through translation of all material, the hiring of translators at all CARAN meetings and recruitment of a Spanish/French speaking assistant to the regional health delegate in the Panama delegation.

Coordination

Emphasis has been placed on cultivating strong strategic alliances with all agencies working in the field of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean and in the coordination of activities with all organizations and agencies: both governmental and non-governmental. Special attention has been paid to coordination of Red Cross activities with Participating National Societies to better standardize approaches, share information including lessons learned, and to avoid duplication of activities.

To this end:
A meeting was held with interested PNS (the American Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross) in the Dominican Republic in late March to discuss programming and strategies to strengthen CARAN and with a view to appointing PNS facilitators at the CARAN workshop.

Discussions were held with representatives of the Norwegian Red Cross in Santiago de Chile and work plans and tentative budgets were reviewed.

Regular contact was maintained with the Netherlands Red Cross in the coordination of the CARAN meeting, the TWC manual and on other programming issues.

The regional health delegate:

- Participated in the workshop of the Caribbean HIV/AIDS Youth Network in the Dominican Republic and drafted a Memorandum of Understanding with the network to continue joint programming efforts.
- Invited the new Chairperson of CHAYN to the CARAN meeting and to the PPP course held immediately following the CARAN meeting.
- Met with and discussed joint cooperative activities with the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) in Trinidad and Tobago, whereby CAREC expressed interest in assisting with the revision of the TWC manual and provision of other consultancy services free of charge.
- Met with UNAIDS representatives in Trinidad and Tobago and discussed issues of common concern, particularly with regard to the Federation role as joint founder of CHAYN, together with UNAIDS.
- As part of the evaluation in Jamaica, meetings were held with all key HIV/AIDS agencies in Jamaica and discussions took place regarding further coordination of activities. Specifically, discussions were held with the Ministry of Health’s national AIDS coordinator; JN+, Jamaica’s network of seropositive people; Jamaica AIDS Support (JAS); the south eastern regional health authority’s health promotion specialist and school and community representatives.
- In preparation for the 4th CARAN meeting, close contact was maintained with UNICEF, UNDP, GTZ, UNAIDS, CAREC, CRN+ (the Caribbean Network of People Living with AIDS), CHAMP (an NGO working in the field of HIV/AIDS) and CHAYN. These organizations made presentations at the CARAN meeting and reviewed how best to further cultivate coordinated approaches to HIV/AIDS programming in the region.
- The HIV/AIDS officer underwent a three month leadership in development programme training run by UNDP and is now qualified as a regional expert resource for leadership training in the region.

Disaster Management

Goal: The impact of disasters in the Caribbean is reduced through effective disaster management measures at the regional, national and community level.

Objective: The capacity of National Societies, overseas branches and communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters is improved, and the Red Cross is firmly established as an important player in the disaster management arena in the Caribbean.
Progress/Achievements

Expected result 1: The Red Cross contributes to the strengthening of community based response to disasters.

To date, the following National Societies have participated in the initial stages of the development of a vulnerability and capacity assessment in the Caribbean: Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. A full report on the VCA is available on the Federation’s Latin American intranet page.

The community based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programme focused on the following areas during the reporting period:

- The CBDP DIPECHO III project in Grenada and Jamaica including: site visits, follow up activities, training of the two National Societies in financial management and reporting; in addition, the sub-regional office focused on the production of the narrative and financial report for ECHO including the activities of the National Societies of the Dominican Republic and St. Kitts and Nevis.
- Development of a new proposal to ECHO for this year’s DIPECHO IV project including visits to the National Societies selected for the project, sharing of information with the National Societies, collection of information and coordination with ECHO.
- Production of the CBDP tools and methodology including rapid appraisal. To date, 12 different tools have been developed and also a guide describing the methodology for use of these new tools.
- Production of two CBDP songs under the theme: “Better be ready” and “Change”.
- A think tank meeting held with six Caribbean Red Cross National Societies helped to introduce the tools and also to carry out their evaluation.
- Support to the National Societies in the preparation of the Inter American Conference, sharing of information, gathering of contributions and incorporation of these inputs into the final document presented in Chile.

The well prepared National Society questionnaire was shared with the 16 Red Cross Societies, and after follow up, 11 of these provided answers to the questionnaires which contributed to the mapping of Red Cross disaster management in the Americas which was presented during the Inter American Conference.

In the British Overseas Branches (OSBs), the British Virgin Islands Red Cross followed the example of other Caribbean National Societies in the launch, together with the government, of the community based disaster preparedness approach, as outlined in the branch strategic plan. The other OSBs were invited to attend the first training of instructors and also to discuss the possibilities of replicating this approach which is most feasible in the Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands.

Revision was made to the existing training material for the CBDP programme. This activity benefited from the support of the St. Lucia Red Cross disaster preparedness coordinator. The revision focused on the following areas:

- All available disaster management material developed in the Caribbean by the Federation and regional partners.
- Recognition of the gaps and needs to be included in the new version including an integrated approach.
- Definition of the sections of the Federation CD Rom “Disaster Management” which could be added to the Caribbean manual.
- Additional information on vulnerabilities in the Caribbean.
- The need to separate, for methodological purposes, disaster management training material and community based training material.

Expected result 2: National Societies and overseas branches have the capacity to respond to disasters, and the Red Cross is established as an important player in the disaster management field.
Red Cross staff and volunteers have been trained in disaster management. Essential relief stocks were procured in containerized form and provided to three National Societies. Disaster contingency plans and protocols are updated on a regular basis and linked with interagency planning.

All the necessary reporting has been produced and forwarded to the Japanese Red Cross Society in order to ensure this year’s container project for Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Surinam. The report included a survey analysis of the container project and analyzed the strengths and weaknesses of the project in order to optimize this year’s activities which began in the second quarter of 2003. The survey and the analysis, together with the recommendations for this year’s programme are available on the Federation’s Caribbean regional web page.

A draft disaster response plan for National Societies has been developed and at least six National Societies of the region have been involved in relevant consultations. Inputs from National Societies are expected for the hurricane preparation meeting to be held in late June 2003.

With regard to interagency planning, the sub regional office ensured the presence of the Red Cross in the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group which carried out a review of the regional disaster response plan of the donors and main humanitarian response organizations working in the Caribbean. A think tank meeting was held with the National Societies of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Jamaica and St. Lucia to evaluate the current disaster management training material, contingency plans and disaster response plans. Furthermore, a new section related to vulnerability in the Caribbean has been added to the existing training material.

Six Red Cross Societies have been identified for national intervention team training and have been requested to define the strategy for a NITs structure within the National Society. The NITs courses will be developed in those National Societies that have an interest in promoting and strengthening disaster response capabilities.

The possibility of including a section on damage and needs assessment lead by USAID/OFDA in the NITs training programme is an option which is being explored; conversations within the Federation and with OFDA have been developed.

The first coordination and preparation meeting for the hurricane season was held in April and it was decided to hold a joint activity with PADRU and the regional delegation including the Port of Spain sub regional office and the sub regional office in the Dominican Republic. A plan of action for the hosting of this meeting was developed jointly with PADRU and the regional delegation in Panama.

In the case of Cuba where a reconstruction programme was implemented after the impact of hurricanes Lili and Isidore which hit the country in September 2002, the plan of action for the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase remains under implementation. PADRU supported the sub regional office with the procurement of most of the items requested in the appeal, while the Cuban Red Cross (CRC) has implemented the programme in spite of certain difficulties, mainly related to timing; nevertheless, the reconstruction activities of the Cuban Red Cross have facilitated the speed of government plans in terms of the reconstruction of houses.

The operation also helped the National Society to strengthen its capacities. The Pinar del Rio Red Cross branch in one of the provinces most affected by Lili and Isidore has now installed VHF and HF radios; as a result, the Cuban Red Cross has the capacity to connect 95% of its branches through HF and VHF systems. A computer has also been secured for the branch which will therefore be in a position to connect internet and establish email connections with the headquarters for the first time.

With the aim to ensure the mobilization capacity of the Pinar del Rio branch in the event of a disaster, a motorcycle has been purchased to facilitate the mobilization of volunteers for early warning, disaster response and damage and needs assessment activities.

The VCA workshop with the presence of six Red Cross Societies of the region and seven regional partners, such as USAID-OFDA, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), DIPECHO, PAHO, the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), OXFAM and the organization of American states (OAS) concluded with a
plan of action whereby partners of the region defined potential areas of collaboration. A full report of the VCA workshop is available on the Federation intranet for the Americas.

**Expected result 3: National Society and community disaster preparedness will have been enhanced through an innovative disaster management distance learning programme (DMDLP).**

No funds have been received for this training programme to date. Nevertheless, contacts with the University of the West Indies have been established in order to form the overall concept of the distance learning programme.

**Expected result 4: The safety and disaster preparedness of institutions in the hotel and tourism sector will have been enhanced by their participation in a hotel and tourism safety programme (HTSP).**

A think tank meeting with four National Societies which have expressed interest in the hotel safety programme took place in March; the results of the meeting not only defined main orientations of the programme, but also highlighted difficulties which could be faced in its implementation, as well as the need to ensure impact and positive results. It is important to highlight the following elements as a result of this meeting held with the National Societies of Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica and St. Lucia.

The representatives of the National Societies reached the conclusion that to be able to implement the Hotel Safety programme there is a clear need to up-grade the management capacity of the Red Cross Societies through professional training.

The Red Cross Societies considered that prior to the implementation of the programme, although the training and marketing materials were developed by the Federation, there remains a need to train and prepare the leadership and management of the National Societies at different levels.

It is important to highlight the following points which were stressed by the National Societies:

1. There is a clear interest from the National Societies to participate in the programme.
2. There is a need for preparation at two levels: from both a technical and managerial point of view.
   - **Technical requirements:**
     There is a need for harmonized training material and methodologies, particularly in first aid and also in disaster preparedness (mainly relating to disaster plans).
     It will be necessary to define which areas relating to HIV/AIDS can be included in the Hotel Safety and Tourism programme.
     It is necessary to train and prepare a core group of volunteers in each of the areas of the project: disaster management, first aid, HIV/AIDS and advocacy.
   - **Managerial requirements:**
     It is necessary to acquire heightened management skills at the level of National Society management; departments also require support in the following areas: business management, financial management, marketing and administration.
3. The need to promote grass root volunteers to support the National Societies’ regular activities is a clear factor of concern.
4. The hotel safety programme should be broadened to include the tourist industry and not focus solely on hotels.
5. The programme should grow progressively based on capacities developed within the National Societies.

**Impact**

It is clear is that Caribbean Red Cross Societies have an interest in promoting a harmonized disaster response plan, together with contingency planning. This will promote standard operations which will be similar in the Caribbean, facilitating more clear and comprehensive management of a relief operation. Such a harmonized system will assist in ensuring improved use of human resources including NITs and RITs and will result in a more effective regional strategy.
Constraints

The main constraint is the absence of funds to be able to implement projects which results in a difficult implementation process, obliging the sub regional office to put certain initiatives on standby until a clear definition of funds available for the whole year is available.

Coordination

Contacts with disaster management and policy agencies have been established during the reporting period. In this context, the strategy has been to ensure that the role of the Federation in the Caribbean as a representative of the National Societies and overseas branches is understood by regional and international partners. The inclusion of the Federation in significant regional meetings has helped to ensure that regional plans incorporate the role of the Red Cross Societies.

In close collaboration with the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) disaster assistance section, the delegation in Haiti participated in the review of the national plan for disaster and risk management of the Republic of Haiti. This has helped the HNRCS to be seen as a major player in early warning, damage assessment and organization of response. During the hurricane season, the Federation is an observer to the Emergency Operations Committee and an adviser to the head of the HNRCS Disaster Assistance Section.

Throughout January and February, the delegation in Haiti participated in UN workshops for the design of an “Integrated Response Programme” that was the subject of an appeal in April 2003. The delegation also meets regularly with USAID/OFDA, EU and ECHO representatives and the French Cooperation agency.
Humanitarian Values

Overall Goal: The Federation’s profile in the Caribbean is enhanced and its advocacy role on behalf of vulnerable groups increased.

With the formulation of a regional humanitarian values and principles strategy by August 2003, it is expected that there may be a number of changes to the objectives set out within this programme. The regional delegation based in Panama is committed to see this programme developed during the period 2003 / 2004 to the level of other core programmes.

Programme Objective: The advocacy capabilities and activities of National Societies in the Caribbean are improved and their functioning in the field of information and communications is strengthened.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: The Red Cross Societies in the region have increased their involvement in advocacy activities.

To date, the main advocacy issue identified by National Societies within the region has been the stigma surrounding those living with HIV/AIDS. This is partially addressed within the peer youth education programmes implemented in many National Societies.

The humanitarian values and principles programme within Central America and the Caribbean has seen much development in the early part of the year with the designation of a humanitarian values coordinator based presently in Honduras. The further development of the programme for the Caribbean National Societies will be defined in July during a regional planning meeting and in August through a support visit from an expert from the Secretariat.

The anti stigma video produced in Honduras was shown to participants at the 4th annual CARAN meeting (see the health section) and a working group was set up to adapt this material for use in the Caribbean.

The Caribbean National Societies are doing much that is related to humanitarian values as was seen during a country by country feedback session at the CARAN meeting. These experiences need to be mapped, shared and a more formal strategy agreed to develop further the programme within the Caribbean.

In Haiti as part of the Red Cross Day on 8 May 2003, a march was organized by the youth section gathering some 200 youths in central Port au Prince in support of the anti-stigma campaign. This was followed by various chants, dramas and scenes carried out by Red Cross youth to disseminate messages against discrimination of people affected with HIV/AIDS.

Expected result 2: The information and communications capacities of Caribbean National Societies and overseas branches will have been significantly strengthened.

As a result of the regional change process and the formation of sub regional offices, little has been achieved as regards this objective during the reporting period. Core funding has been put aside for further development of communications capacities and this will help provide support to the sub regional office to source local focal points for information and communications activities.

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society and the British Virgin Islands Red Cross were actively supported in their advocacy campaigns on Red Cross Day. A dissemination project in cooperation with the ICRC, targeting the Caribbean media is now being developed.
Impact

- A regional coordinator for humanitarian values and principles has been nominated.
- Pilot projects in Central America are ready for adaptation or replication for the Caribbean context.
- The Santiago de Chile Commitment highlights equality as a focal issue.
- Currently, there are numerous uncoordinated activities in humanitarian values and principles which form part of National Society programming.
- There is an increased awareness within the region of the importance of humanitarian values and principles.

Constraints

The main constraint for this programme over the reporting period arises from the need to allocate time to the establishment and consolidation of the sub regional offices and the need to strengthen regional capacity in the area of humanitarian values and principles.

Organizational development

Overall Goal: Well-functioning National Societies and overseas branches in the Caribbean are providing a more effective level of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities.

Programme Objective: National Societies and overseas branches in the Caribbean receive material and technical inputs which enhance their structures and capacities to enable them to carry out the full spectrum of programmes in an effective manner.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: National Society capacities to plan and implement quality programmes are enhanced.

In the Dominican Republic, a first Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) meeting was held with the presence of members of governance, technical directors and Participating National Societies: the American, Spanish and Netherlands Red Cross Societies, and the ICRC; some 25 persons took part. The department of projects is in charge of coordinating the drawing up of the document with the support of the Federation.

In order to develop the operational part of the National Development Plan (NDP), and to link it to the CAS under development, a project planning process (PPP) training took place between 28 and 31 January 2003. 17 persons from the Santo Domingo Red Cross headquarters participated in this workshop including three national directors, three programme coordinators and three members of the finance department. On the basis of the priorities of the National Development Plan, a project was designed and presented to the Shoken Fund focusing on educating vulnerable people in the prevention of STDs and HIV/AIDS.
A first draft of a CAS was drawn up by the Cuban Red Cross following an initial meeting attended by several directors of the CRC and representatives of the PNS including the French and German Red Cross Societies, and the ICRC. A first revision was carried out by the Federation; however, improvements are still to be made.

Following a governance retreat with the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society in early December, working groups were established to continue the process of revision of Statutes, subsequently leading to changes in the management structure. It is expected that the required management structure, led by a newly hired CEO, will be in place by July. Meanwhile, strong capacity building support has been provided to reorient the activities of the National Society in the management of its HIV/AIDS programme.

The remaining eight National Societies of the English-speaking region received self-assessment questionnaires by the end of January. Even though there is clear fatigue on the part of National Societies as regards the completion of questionnaires, the results of this exercise were received by the sub regional office from Dominica, St. Vincent and Trinidad and Tobago National Societies and forwarded to the Secretariat.

**Expected result 2: Governance issues are effectively addressed by Caribbean National Societies and Overseas branches.**

**The Dominican Red Cross Election Process**

In the Dominican Republic, the Federation is, according to the Law (decree 673-000), a full member of the Provisional Commission of Direction (with the right to vote) and whose goal is to re-establish the legality of the institution of the Dominican Red Cross after the major crisis which took place in 2000. The Federation is both part of the Provisional Commission of Direction (8 members) and the Electoral Commission (6 members).

Between January and March 2003, the Federation participated in three meetings which took place on 23 January, 22 February and 8 March, as a member of the National Electoral Commission in order to support, give technical advice and supervise the organization of the national elections in the Committees, take part in the inspection of new committees and the recognition of new ones. In two of these meetings, the Federation took part in its capacity as member of the Provisional Commission of Direction which deals with key issues and decisions of the institution in all sectors such as blood banks, volunteering, finance and human resources.

The Federation supported the organization of an Extraordinary General Assembly on 29 March 2003 with the presence of 16 Committees which are recognized and 30 Committees which are, as yet, unrecognized.

In order to fulfil the goal of the preparation of national elections which takes place every four years in an atmosphere of transparency, a dossier “Guidance for Elections in the Committees” was prepared and presented by the organizational development delegate and distributed to the 46 committees with the following documents during the Extraordinary General Assembly:

- Electoral guide for a Municipal Committee (What to do? and How?)
- Profile and Characteristics of a good candidate
- Model of Electoral Bulletin
- Model of Presentation of notice to convene a Committee
- Guide for Committees which are applying for recognition
- Model of a questionnaire to be used during the inspection of new Committees.

Planning by the Federation for inspection of all new committee which wish to be recognized took place during the Extraordinary General Assembly (39 new committees to be inspected). The criteria for recognition are stipulated in the Statutes of the Dominican Red Cross and include the need for at least 30 active adult volunteers for one year and to have held activities for at least one year in the community. Since 30 April 2003, the National Electoral Commission has inspected 8 committees in the South West of the country. The National Electoral Commission is composed of at least two members with the requested presence of the Federation delegate.

A workshop in cooperation with the ICRC for the highest levels of governance and management was scheduled for the first quarter of 2003 but was postponed given to the full schedule of regional and international meetings.
The planned focus was on governance and integrity challenges of Caribbean Red Cross leadership. The National Societies of the English-speaking Caribbean are in need of training to improve their planning capacities and requested assistance from the Spanish Red Cross which subsequently, in collaboration with the Belize Red Cross, organized in early May a successful one-week project planning process workshop. This workshop was beneficial as the National Societies were exposed to strategic planning in late 2002 and could now explore its relation to the project cycle.

**Expected result 3: The capacity of Caribbean National Societies and overseas branches to effectively mobilize volunteers and youth is increased.**

In the Dominican Republic, the National Society is working on drawing up a handbook for volunteers (profile, incorporation and participation, rights, duties). The goal is to put emphasis not so much in the quantity of volunteers, but rather on the quality so that they are better trained and better qualified. A workshop to develop volunteer policies and handbooks is scheduled for the second part of 2003.

The Dominican Red Cross during the meeting of the Provisional Commission of Direction voted resolution 010/2003, which concerns a request to the ICRC to become involved in the programme “Let’s explore international humanitarian law” for youth between the ages of 14 and 18.

**Expected result 4: The capacity of the Cuban Red Cross to meet the needs of the most vulnerable is enhanced, and the public image of the National Society is heightened.**

A meeting was held in April 2003 with the Cuban Red Cross department of projects in order to plan a workshop focusing on the Project Planning Process in mid 2003 at Provincial level.

The Cuban Red Cross proceeded to undertake a full revision of the National Society Statutes taking into account the Joint Commission’s proposal. The Cuban Red Cross General Secretary sent this revision to the members of the national council and is awaiting feedback.

A meeting took place with the dissemination department in order to plan a workshop for all the Presidents at provincial branch level for the third trimester of the year. It is planned that both the Federation and the ICRC will facilitate this training.

The National Society is working to compile a handbook for volunteers regarding volunteer profile, participation, rights and regulations. A meeting with the director of youth was organized in order to plan a workshop to be held at the end of 2003 with all representatives of youth and volunteers at Provincial level to implement and disseminate these new tools. The Federation is supporting the CRC to facilitate the exchange of information with other National Societies and PNS and is providing technical support.

In order to strengthen the capacity and knowledge of volunteers in first aid at national level, a pilot committee has been created to design a new first aid handbook which will be more pedagogical and attractive. The National Society will work on the basis of the CRC first aid handbook which has not been updated since 1974.

In order to follow up the long distance learning programme in communication which started in 2002, it has been decided with the department of communication that two training sessions for modules II/III and modules IV/V should be organized in mid 2003 and at the end of the year respectively.

The National Society is working in the drawing up of a handbook in the area of finance and administration. The goal is to compile a document which harmonizes all procedures at the national level in each of the committees of the Cuban Red Cross (169) and providing basic information in the field of finance and administration. A meeting was held in April 2003 with the administration department in order to plan a workshop to implement and disseminate this tool at the municipal level at the end of the year.

In the area of branch development, 19 provincial and municipal branches of the Cuban Red Cross received specific help in building maintenance and refurbishment for a total amount of USD 9,800, as follows:
• Provincial branches: Guantánamo, Granma, Las Tunas, Ciego de Avila, Villa Clara
• Municipal branches Frente, Guamá, Palma Soriano, Contramaestre, Mella, San Luis, Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo, Niceto Perez, Jiguaní, Niquero, Bayamo, Media Luna, Amancio, Majibacoa, Gibara, C García, Mayarí, Banes, Holguín, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Placetas, Quemado de Guines, Sancti Spiritus, Cienfuegos.

Expected result 5: The capacity of the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) to meet the needs of the most vulnerable is enhanced.

National Society Self Evaluation: Following the consultation of governance leaders at central and regional level which took place between June and November 2002, 35 questionnaires were sent out and 22 were completed and returned; a summary document was drawn up by the management of the HRCNS in early 2003. Nonetheless, the results of the evaluation were not integrated in the analysis for the drafting of the National Development Plan.

Drafting of a National Development Plan: A first draft suggesting a structure for the National Development Plan was submitted to the President of the HRCNS together with an evaluation of the organization through CAPI criteria. These documents formally ended the phase of analysis of results of all consultations and workshops with Red Cross constituencies and stakeholders. In March, the HRCNS heads of departments suggested a final structure for the National Development Plan and its annexes. The deadline for finalization of the National Development Plan was set for 28 May 2003.

Partnership Conference and CAS process: the CAS process has been explained and regularly promoted among HNRCS internal stakeholders since September 2002. The principle of organizing a Partnership Conference in 2003 was discussed with management of HRCNS, members of governance and members of the steering committee during the first governance training for leaders in September 2002. In support of the ICRC sponsored leaders’ training, specific information and documents were provided to members of the NDP steering committee; and information was forwarded to PNSs present in Haiti during the Movement meeting on 13 December 2002. During this process, the members of the steering committee were trained on the Federation cooperation policy. This was an opportunity to update all members of the steering committee on all existing sectoral policies which are promoted by the Federation.

Although the General Assembly was due to take place in November 2002, it has yet to be organized.

Following Federation/ICRC joint training held on 21 and 22 September 2002 for the headquarters level, further governance training was organized for the leaders of regional committees of the HRCNS in January 2003. Federation guidelines on National Society Statutes and governance were specifically introduced, debated and disseminated to each of the 3 leaders of 13 regional committees. As regards premises, the HRCNS would prefer to rent or buy premises for its regional committees. This change will require additional planning and discussion. As a result, no premises were rehabilitated during the reporting period.

Reinforce the operational response capacity of headquarters and branches:
- The HRCNS will implement a complete telecommunications system with power back up; installation should take place before the end of the year
- Computer equipment has been procured for all 9 branches (four were already equipped in 2000 and 2001 through PNSs): additional equipment including a computer, a printer and a UPS, was purchased in late September 2002. The President of the National Society has suggested that this equipment be released to branches during the next General Assembly of the HNRCS. The latter has been delayed since November 2002.
- The HRCNS received working advances for a year for support for administrative costs for 9 branches.
- A decision was taken in January 2003 that regional training workshops on project planning would take place in June 2003.
- Regional General Assemblies were organized between January and March 2003: Nord-Ouest was held on 9 March 2003; Ouest on 23 March 2003 and Les Cayes took place 29 March 2003. Following the request of the HNRCs, the Federation lent its logistical resources, one vehicle and driver for the organization of these Assemblies. Three additional assemblies should be organized before July 2003.
Revitalize the Youth Section:

- **Youth Leaders workshop:** Following the first workshop conducted between 13 and 15 December 2002, youth leaders participate in the next Project Planning Workshop in June 2003. This workshop is being organized for the leaders of regional committees.

- **The Code for the Volunteer and Youth Policy have been drawn up** and discussed with 13 youth leaders in 2002. These were later passed on to national disseminators and to the members of central and regional governance, as well as to heads of sections at central level. The central committee and the General Assembly of the Red Cross should finally approve or amend these documents.

- **Support for the Youth Section at headquarters:** computer equipment, running costs for a year, local transport costs and expenses for organization of Red Cross youth committees in the regions, together with costs for organizing the representation of youth at central governance level have been provided. A national coordinator was appointed in February 2003 and organized a march and activities in celebration of 8 May. A campaign for the registration of new members and identification of existing members and volunteers was organized in January 2003.

Impact

- The fact that each of the National Societies has been engaged in some form of assessment has allowed them to reflect on their activities in the context of the CORI Plan of Action.

- In the Dominican Republic, the transparency and the clarity of the process for the national elections explained during the Extraordinary General Assembly, the documentation provided (dossier for committee elections) and the planning of inspections set up for those committees which request it, has created a positive climate.

- The National Societies of the English-speaking Caribbean now have strategic planning as part of their agenda.

- Workshops held in Surinam created a platform for thorough discussions regarding the options to restructure the organization. Members reached consensus over these long-standing issues. With this exercise, the final stage of the strategic planning process was completed and it is expected that the revised Statutes and by laws will now be sent to the joint commission.

- Having learnt from their colleagues concerning progress in the field of constitutional reform, two further National Societies in the region have now asked for support to start up the process to revise their Statutes, namely the St. Lucia Red Cross and the Dominica Red Cross. Both programmes were initiated in this period.

- In Cuba, it is too soon to consider the impact within the National Society as a result of the implementation of activities; however, it must be taken into account that staff are starting the process of formulating tools in first aid, administration, finance and volunteering. Moreover, the majority of workshops are scheduled for the third trimester of the year in order to disseminate these tools. However, direct concrete result can be measured concerning rehabilitation of 11 committees, also including improved visibility, basic facilities for volunteers such as electricity and water.

- In Haiti, although, it is too early to assess the changes the process will provide, this has provided an opportunity for the Haitian National Red Cross Society central management and governance to engage with and consult all branches as well as youth and volunteers between October 2001 and July 2002. As a result, there have been major benefits for the management and governance of the HNRCS at central level.

- The process in Haiti has helped the Movement in establishing an updated organizational diagnosis of the HNRCS and ways forward for cooperation.

- The ICRC has sponsored leadership training with strong Federation participation as regards course content and facilitation. This has created a dialogue between members of governance both at central and regional level; governance can now be discussed openly. Nonetheless, efforts will need to be sustained if lasting change is expected.

- The Haitian National Red Cross Society has now formally restored the youth section at national level. The case for improved participation has been introduced to the governance and staff and should be facilitated by the existence of the Code of the Volunteer and a Youth Policy.
Constraints

The main constraint is the absence of funds for management issues mostly with regard to the English speaking National Societies and the Dominican Republic. In the case of Dominican Republic, the National Society decided to fund PPP training with its own resources; the technical support was offered by the Federation with the presence of two delegates to facilitate the workshop.

In the Dominican Republic, the establishment of a National Training Centre with pedagogical material has not yet been possible in the absence of funding. However, local staff are working towards the preparation of the technical staff in first aid in the event of the provision of financial support in the coming months, as well as the preparation of tools such as the first aid handbook.

The approval of Capacity Building Funds for Cuba was not granted until March 2003. As a result, activities were put on hold during the first three months of the year. Nevertheless, the Cuban Red Cross received technical support from the Federation in terms of documents needed to develop handbooks and policies in first aid, CAS and volunteering. Moreover, planning of activities has taken place with the Cuban Red Cross in order to set out the programme of activities for the year.

In Haiti, the promotion of strategic planning has encountered various obstacles such as resistance to change and to self evaluation. In addition, there is a lack of knowledge regarding organizational development and the distinction between the roles of governance and management. Furthermore, the National Society is operating in a difficult political environment.

Federation Coordination

Overall Goal: The Red Cross in the Caribbean, as a collective entity, contributes effectively and efficiently to capacity building related to service delivery to the vulnerable in all four core areas of Strategy 2010.

Programme Objective: The Red Cross in the Caribbean - through effective coordination - makes better use of the linkages and resources available in the region, both within and beyond the Red Cross Movement, for the purpose of institutional development and service provision.

Progress/Achievements

Expected result 1: Throughout the two-year period covered by the present appeal, the momentum established by the process of RCAS and CAS development during 2001 will have been maintained, and all Red Cross stakeholders in the region will have been involved in the process of review and further refinement of Federation strategies. The RCAS monitoring group will have held six-monthly meetings to oversee the implementation of the RCAS. The CAS process in Haiti and Cuba will have been completed and partnership meetings held.
The next discussions focusing on the monitoring of the regional CAS are to take place during the 7th Caribbean Biennial Meeting scheduled for July. The National Societies of the region, however, took the opportunity to perform an internal review, both during the XVII Inter American Red Cross Conference in Santiago de Chile in April and in meetings in Belize in May.

**Expected result 2:** A perceptible strengthening of the CCORC will have been achieved, permitting it to play a more proactive role in fostering regional cooperation amongst the various Red Cross components. The Federation will have provided inputs for a functioning Secretariat of CCORC, in the form of a part-time staff member at the Federation’s Trinidad sub-regional office (SRO), and have met at regular intervals with the CCORC leadership. Caribbean representatives will have attended and participated actively in key regional and global Red Cross meetings in 2003 and 2004.

As a result of the time required for the formal establishment of the sub regional office in which the delegate responsible for maintaining relationships with the CCORC is based, this objective was only partially developed. During the reporting period, meetings were held only once with the CCORC President and communication with member Red Cross entities was facilitated to achieve registration of the CCORC Constitution. Due to the schedule early in the year, resulting in time constraints, it was decided not to convene a CCORC and Biennial Meeting prior to the Inter American Conference in Chile, but to organize these meetings in the Caribbean region later in the year. All National Societies in the region participated in the Inter-American Conference in April and several made presentations regarding their work.

**Expected result 3:** The programme for the regional recruitment of delegates has been promoted effectively, and up to fifteen delegates from the region identified and trained, through a basic training course held in the region, for deployment on Federation missions, in the region and elsewhere.

The basic training course for the English-speaking region was scheduled to take place in the last week of July, but has now been re-scheduled for November 2003.

**Constraints**

The major constraint during the reporting period has been related to time pressures as a result of the transition period and the establishment of the sub regional office in Trinidad, as well as the preparation of the XVII Inter American conference held in Santiago de Chile.

**International Representation**

**Overall Goal:** A wider range of international support will be mobilized to further Federation aims at the national, regional and international level.

**Programme Objective:** The Federation will have raised awareness of its aims and activities, and will have mobilized support for Red Cross activities at national and regional level in core areas of *Strategy 2010*.

**Progress/Achievements**

**Expected result 1:** The Federation, its aims and activities, and the role of the various Red Cross components, are better understood and supported by governments and international agencies, through the promotion and development of partnerships with key institutional actors, including PAHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, the International Labour Organization (ILO), CDERA, and CARDIN, and through a systematic review of possible future partnerships with intergovernmental bodies (CARICOM, ACS, OECS) and private sector associations.

With regard to interagency planning, the sub regional office ensured the presence of the Red Cross in the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group which carried out a review of the regional disaster response plan of donors and main
humanitarian response organizations working in the Caribbean. At the sub-regional level in Trinidad, further contacts with key agencies based in Port of Spain were developed. Members of the sub regional office have been invited to participate in activities in the area of health and disasters. Official talks started with the representatives of the Association of Caribbean States resulting in an official visit of the Secretary General of the ACS to the Secretary General of the Federation. Throughout January and February, the delegation in Haiti participated in the UN workshops focusing on the design of an “Integrated Response Programme” that was the subject of an appeal in April 2003.

The Federation is in the process of reviewing the existing MoU with CDERA signed in 1998. With regard to PAHO, the Federation sub-regional office has taken advantage of the MoU signed between the two organizations to develop relations further.

Expected result 2: Specific sectoral aims of the Federation - in each of the core areas of Strategy 2010 – are acknowledged and supported by governments at relevant international fora, as a result of targeted lobbying with governments and embassies, and participation by the Federation at relevant international fora.

Little has been achieved in this area over the reporting period, given the priority of establishing the sub regional office and limited resources.

Expected result 3: Additional resources for the Federation in the Caribbean are generated through targeting by Federation staff of critical professional and private sector bodies, wide distribution of appeals, reports, updates, and other public relations and public information material, and focused advocacy campaigns around key dates: World Red Cross Day, World AIDS Day, release of the World Disaster Report), see also the humanitarian values programme.

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society and the British Virgin Islands Red Cross were actively supported in their advocacy campaigns on Red Cross Day. A dissemination project in cooperation with the ICRC, targeting the Caribbean media is now being developed.

Expected result 4: Durable linkages will have been built between the Federation and key intergovernmental, non-governmental, and private sector agencies, to the benefit of the Red Cross as a whole.

During the reporting period the Federation was successful in securing official recognition of the sub regional office by the government of Trinidad and Tobago. The process took place over a period of seven months and the visiting head of the Americas Department subsequently signed the Status Agreement. As a result of this, delegates are now exempt from immigration and work permit regulations. Tax exemptions are now also applicable to the Federation office. The office moved to more suitable accommodation in the same building and secured additional administrative support.

The Federation is in the process of formulating and signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). A meeting was held in Geneva between the ACS, the Americas Department and the Secretary General of the Federation. The next meeting will take place in Mexico in June.

Impact

- With ACS, the Federation is in the process of signing an MoU.
- The definition of a training session on damage and needs assessments within the NITs courses is being explored with OFDA.
- As regards CEDERA, the presence of the Federation in the Eastern Caribbean group, the international organization working group and also in the Vulnerability and Risk Analysis working group, has been ensured.
- The level of coordination and information flow with ECHO, including close support and sharing of knowledge and information, has been much enhanced.
The Federation has regular contact with PAHO and is looking forward to the implementation of a regional mass casualty training, led by PAHO and also a joint First Aid meeting for community based programmes.

**Constraints**

Participation in international meetings is expensive and time consuming; with resources in short supply in the regional delegation the level of participation has been limited to the most important fora. A more proactive participation of National Societies should be secured to work in a federated way, thereby increasing Movement participation.

**For further information please contact:**

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- Luis Luna, Regional Officer; e-mail: luis.luna@ifrc.org; phone (41 22) 730 42 74; fax (41 22) 733 03 95.

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at [http://www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)
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