

# Plan 2010-2011

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## South Asia Region

### Executive summary

In the context of Asia Pacific Zone, its demographic, socio-economic and environmental trends, and the International Federation's strategic priorities, South Asia remains one of the most disadvantaged regions in the world and is vulnerable to health and disaster-related risks due to poor socio-economic conditions. The region has some of the highest levels of poverty, being home to about half of the world's poor<sup>1</sup>. Although the region has seen some economic and social progress over the last decade, human development indices like life expectancy, children's education, adult literacy and per capita gross domestic product, of most South Asian countries remain below the rates of medium human development countries in the Human Development Index<sup>2</sup>. The financial crisis has also hit the region hard with rising cost of living and food insecurity across the region. In addition, the region is prone to natural hazards and many countries in the region are hit by internal conflicts, political instability and militancy.



Children from the safer communities of South Asia  
Photo credit: The International Federation

There are seven national societies in South Asia (in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). An International Federation country office supports each of these national societies. It is in this context that the Red Cross Red Crescent national societies in the region, as auxiliaries to the governments in their respective countries, provide needs-based services to the most vulnerable communities, in close collaboration with their governments, other Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners and external partners such as UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations and civil society.

The goals, means of delivery and strategic framework of this South Asia regional plan fit within the International Federation's wider Asia Pacific strategy, guided by the International Federation's newly adopted Strategy 2020. The priorities in the coming two years are to:

- Build safer and more resilient communities through services to member national societies that increase the reach and impact of their programmes;
- Strengthen Red Cross Red Crescent mechanisms and networks that build mutual capacity, improve knowledge sharing, and increase leverage of collective voice;
- Influence changes in humanitarian policies and practices through improved access to and cooperation with governments and key institutions;
- Diversify financial and human resources for the benefit of programmes at the national level through a collective Red Cross Red Crescent approach;
- 

---

<sup>1</sup> World Bank:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/0,,pagePK:158889~piPK:146815~theSitePK:23547,00.html>

<sup>2</sup> UNDP: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/>

- Lead and coordinate zonal, regional and country planning, performance and accountability mechanisms to increase Red Cross Red Crescent effectiveness.

The overall goal of this regional plan is to coordinate and support International Federation efforts at country and regional level to assist South Asian national societies to scale up their work to improve the lives of vulnerable

people. To achieve this goal, four regional programmes will be carried out during the 2010-2011 period: disaster management (DM), health and care, organizational development (OD)/capacity building (CB) and principles and values (P&V), each with a purpose aligned with the four Global Agenda goals.

- The South Asia regional office has existed since 1997, and its role will continue to evolve as a part of the new secretariat zonal structure and the Asia Pacific operating model; a model that was designed to create a more unified and efficient approach to the International Federation support to national societies across the whole of Asia Pacific and work as a zone-wide team. In specific terms, the South Asia regional office directions in 2010-2011 will be as follows: Strategic guidance, management and monitoring of programme performance at country level;
- Provision of technical support to programmes as required, in particular those with no in-country technical delegates;
- Ensure regional coordination, networking, mutual learning, optimising the utilization of regional resources and knowledge sharing;
- Ensure that global initiatives are disseminated, understood and prioritized within the region, and that the required support is given to roll out such initiatives;
- Mobilization of international assistance for the International Federation's programmes in the region in close collaboration with the zonal resource mobilization team;
- Ensuring strengthened Movement approaches with all components of the Movement (e.g. in the harmonized Movement support plan process with Afghanistan Red Crescent, the promotion of the cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) and operational alliances in selected countries, and hosting partner national societies regional teams within the International Federation delegation structure at the South Asia regional office);
- Support the humanitarian diplomacy (HD) agenda and the strengthening of the national society capacity to use their auxiliary role for the benefit of vulnerable people and with full respect for the Fundamental Principles.

The total programme budget for 2010 is CHF 2,396,690 (USD 2.32 million or EUR 1.57 million) and CHF 2,163,936 (USD 2.09 million or EUR 1.42 million) for 2011.

[Click to go directly to the attached budget summary of the plan](#)

## Regional Context

The countries in South Asia are generally poor performers in human development indicators. The region suffers from some of the highest levels of poverty in the world. Of the 1.5 billion people living in the region,<sup>3</sup> 40 per cent of them survive on less than USD 1.25 a day according to a recent UNICEF report. According to the same report more than 400 million people are now chronically hungry in South Asia and nearly half of the children under five are malnourished, the worst level in the world, including sub-Saharan Africa. About 15 per cent of the region's population does not survive beyond the age of 40<sup>4</sup>. While adult illiteracy rates are approximately 40 per cent, only 56 per cent of children complete primary education<sup>5</sup> and 15.8 per cent aged five to 14 work full time<sup>6</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup>Statistical yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2007

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF 2007

<sup>3</sup> World Bank:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/0,,pagePK:158889~piPK:146815~theSitePK:223547,00.html>

<sup>4</sup> South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication:

[http://www.saape.org.np/resources/publications/poverty\\_report03/pov\\_report03.htm](http://www.saape.org.np/resources/publications/poverty_report03/pov_report03.htm)

<sup>5</sup> UN : <http://www.unsystem.org/scn/archives/npp16/ch05.htm>

<sup>6</sup> World Bank:

<http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/sar/sa.nsf/2991b676f98842f0852567d7005d2cba/6114c3934c4776238525696000487390?OpenDocument>

South Asia lags behind other regions in its progress towards health-related development goals. Health indicators are very poor. According to statistics published by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF in November 2008, 756 million people in South Asia do not have access to improved sanitation and a large majority practise open defecation. A total of 88 per cent of the under-five deaths from diarrhoeal diseases are attributable to unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation and poor hygiene behaviour. This shows the magnitude of the sanitation issue in South Asia. Of the eight countries in the region, only Sri Lanka and Pakistan are likely to meet the sanitation target of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and only Sri Lanka and India are expected to meet the water target of the MDGs. The under-five mortality rate is 78 deaths for 1,000 live births and

the infant mortality rate is 59 per 1000 live births<sup>2</sup>. Public health concerns are also frequently aggravated by frequent natural disasters triggered by cyclones, floods, windstorms, earthquakes and drought. Despite decades of public health promotion, disease prevention and control measures, tuberculosis, malaria, dengue and other vector borne diseases, cholera and other communicable diseases continue to be of high concern. Newer and emerging infectious diseases, such as HIV and avian and human influenza (AHI), also increasingly threaten the people in the region. An estimated 3,400,000 people are infected with HIV in South Asia<sup>7</sup>. The epidemic has the potential to advance at an alarming rate in the region. India and Nepal are on the verge of 'generalized' HIV epidemics, and stigma and discrimination remain high throughout the region.

The poor socio-economic conditions contribute towards making the population in South Asia more vulnerable to the risks of natural and man-made disasters and public health emergencies, particularly as the region is one of the most disaster-prone in the world, in terms of both seismic and hydro-meteorological hazards<sup>8</sup>. Since 2000, natural disasters resulted in 189,747 people killed and close to 700 million affected<sup>9</sup>. Over the past decade, the disasters in the region have included: the Orissa super-cyclone (India, 2005) and Cyclone Sidr (Bangladesh, 2007); earthquakes in Gujarat (India, 2001), Nahrine (Afghanistan, 2002) and Pakistan in 2005 and 2008; the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004; and the floods across the region in 2004, 2007 and 2008. In 2009, Cyclone Aila hit India and Bangladesh. The frequency and magnitude of natural disasters in the region is increasing as a result of rapid and uncontrolled urbanization, deforestation and the effects of climate change. There is, therefore, an urgent need to reduce underlying risk factors; integrate and adapt disaster risk reduction strategies with the new risks brought by climate change; and mainstream disaster risk reduction into long-term development work, in line with the International Federation's framework for community safety and resilience and the Hyogo Framework for Action.

South Asia is also faced with wide socio-political tensions and armed insurgencies. Inter- and intra-state armed conflicts and widespread violence fuel population movements across the region. This results in large numbers of refugees (many of whom are hosted by other countries in the region) and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Civil unrest in Pakistan and Sri Lanka in 2008-9 led to millions of IDPs. In this context, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's Fundamental Principles, along with the proper use of its emblem and the basics of international humanitarian law become very important. There is a need to develop tolerance through respect for diversity and to carry out special efforts to reduce discrimination. Reducing discrimination in the communities across South Asia is a major challenge as the region's diversity is often overshadowed by discriminatory practices based predominantly on gender, caste and religion.

In this scenario, the national societies in the region seek to provide sustainable humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations through their respective headquarters and extensive networks of branches and volunteers. However, they continue to face a number of challenges to further modernize their organizational structures and systems for better service delivery. Revision of statutes, human resource development and in-country fundraising are issues in need of attention to ensure their strengthened independence and integrity, and the ability to scale-up programme delivery. Continuous skills development is needed in the areas of planning, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, finance and communications, to ensure that programmes achieve sustainable results and the high level of performance and accountability demanded by the international community. The capacity of national societies to incorporate the Movement's Fundamental Principles and values in their programming also needs further development.

The national societies of South Asia are committed to assisting vulnerable populations both in normal situations and in emergencies. Their work is firmly placed in the context of their auxiliary role to the government, and consequently they work closely with the ministries of health and education, and government departments like

---

<sup>7</sup> UNICEF 2007

<sup>8</sup> The wide range of meteorological, hydrological and climate phenomena that can pose a threat to life, property and the environment, mostly the frequently occurring and extensively and routinely observed hazards

<sup>9</sup> [EM-DAT](#); THE OFDA/ CRED INT.DATABASE

national disaster management authorities and national AIDS control organizations in their countries, as well as in partnership with other organizations. As South Asia is a very conflict-prone area, special attention will be given to promoting and integrating better programming initiative into the disaster management programme as well as close cooperation with ICRC.

The secretary generals (SGs) of the national societies have been meeting on a regular basis for the last ten years in the SGs' forum, which is a forum for exchange of information and finding common ground to develop a regional voice representing 1.5 billion people. It is also an important forum for programme staff to present regional initiatives and programmes to the SGs and obtain their support and approval. The follow up to the 2006 Singapore Conference was discussed in this forum in 2009.

The priorities of the national societies are based on their strategic plans and are aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda goals. National society strategic plans exist in Afghanistan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. In Bangladesh, the Maldives and Pakistan, a strategic plan is in the process of being developed. The current priorities, needs and capacities of the national societies in the region provide the basis for the design of the South Asia regional office's programmes. The regional programme will keep analysing the emerging global trends such as climate change, migration/IDPs, urbanization and food insecurity and assessing and revising programmes accordingly.

The South Asia regional framework which sets out the regional priorities of the national societies and the International Federation in South Asia sets as the overarching focus to build safer communities through an integrated programming approach (IPA). Programmes will employ a comprehensive and integrated approach to programme management for more realistic and sustainable interventions with a community focus. The aim is to integrate the various programmes disaster management, health, organizational development and humanitarian values to meet the needs of the vulnerable in a more holistic way. A concerted effort has been made to discuss how to strengthen and structure integrated programming to move the national societies to pursue integrated programming to build safer communities. In 2009, the South Asia regional office developed an IPA checklist that will be disseminated across the region to support the IPA at country level.

In South Asia, only Nepal currently has a CAS. In Bangladesh and Pakistan, there are discussions to start the CAS process. 2009 was a year of transition in Pakistan moving from the last phase of the earthquake and floods emergency operations towards working longer term with a few partners. In Afghanistan, a Movement-harmonized planning approach has been piloted. This has led to a transparent and optimized mechanism for resourcing funds as well as technical support for the Afghan Red Crescent Society in a coordinated manner. The harmonized plan will continue to be the road map for coordinated programming in Afghanistan in the coming years and will be adjusted in line with the lessons learnt and changes in the context. Coordination with partner national societies continues in Maldives and Sri Lanka during the last phase of the tsunami operation. Both will be part of the multi-annual planning process but Sri Lanka will in parallel be closing the tsunami operation. In the Maldives, the focus will be on building the new national society.

Findings from the regional disaster management review and a comparative analysis of the well-prepared national society survey (WPNS) indicate that the regional building safer communities' initiative is central to achieving the national society's commitment to counter and minimize the impact of disasters. As mentioned above, this requires IPA which is being championed in the region. Overall national societies in the region have stepped-up and strengthened their community-based initiatives. Under the "Building Safer Communities" umbrella, the International Federation continues to work with regional partners and national societies to reduce the risks posed by re-occurring disasters in South Asia. The regional initiative is linked to the global development of a Red Cross Red Crescent approach to reducing risk, building resilience through the development and adoption of the Framework for Community Safety and Resilience. It also contributes to the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) and MDGs.

The priority is also to strengthen the national societies' national disaster preparedness response mechanism (NDPRM) and aligning it with regional and global disaster response systems. This includes planning for emergency response by formed community, branch, national, and regional disaster response teams (CDRT, BDRT, NDRT and RDRT). There has also been increased awareness of the need to advocate for the strengthening of legal frameworks for international disaster response, as endorsed by national societies' leaders in the Singapore Declaration of the seventh Asia Pacific regional conference and the resolution on international disaster response law (IDRL) at the 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference.

With numerous recovery programmes continuing within the region that address disaster affected communities' needs, recovery has also become a regional priority. The work within the recovery area will include: promotion of early recovery concepts, involvement of beneficiaries to develop community led recovery approaches, developing

greater understanding and skills in recovery programmes and their integration (such as livelihoods, cash programming and psychosocial support programmes), and recovery reviews and evaluations.

More specifically at the seventh disaster management working group (DMWG) meeting in Bangladesh, the following priorities were agreed upon for South Asia: strengthening community-based disaster risk reduction, including community-based early warning systems and mainstreaming climate change adaptation. Furthermore the priority will also be to strengthen the disaster response system including database and resource mapping as well as logistics. At the meeting a mapping was done of the region to see which national society can provide support and where support was needed.

The regional support in health and care is responsive to the needs of national societies and is in line with the Global Agenda goals and priorities and aligned with the International Federation's global health and care strategy.

The regional HIV programme has created a common approach to respond to HIV in the region and contributed to the commitment of all South Asia national societies to the Global Alliance on HIV and to the regional initiatives. Furthermore, the focus will be on scaling up of community-based health and first aid activities and rolling out the global community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) in action across the region. Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion programme development will be a high priority in the coming years in South Asia. A regional water and sanitation action plan will be developed in line with the Global Water and Sanitation Initiative and Asia Pacific zone water and sanitation strategy, which will guide the water and sanitation/hygiene promotion activities in South Asia. In addition to this, support will also be given to developing the capacity of national societies in water and sanitation in emergency response, with a particular emphasis to assist those national societies with water and sanitation emergency response unit equipment that was handed over after previous emergency operations. Primary health care including vaccine preventable diseases, emergency health activities and new emerging and re-emerging diseases, such as H1N1, will also remain as priority areas of intervention.

The regional organizational development priorities will focus on core organizational development areas such as legal base revision, branch development, volunteer management including focus on volunteers in emergencies, human resource management and resource mobilization/fundraising. The regional fundraising development programme launched in 2009 will focus on strengthening the funding base of the national societies in the region in the coming years. This will link to the Asia Pacific zone resource mobilization and communications forum to be held in early 2010 where those national societies attending will receive opportunities to further knowledge sharing and training. All South Asian national societies are committed to achieving the characteristics of "well-functioning national societies" and there has been some progress made by them during the past few years. The need for higher quality and accountability in programming has led to an increased understanding of the importance of good operational planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) as well as the modernization of financial management systems. Efforts to establish an understanding of communications as a humanitarian response in its own right – be it in informing the wider world, mobilizing response and preventive measures, or informing vulnerable people of how to get help – will be pursued.

Similarly, all the national societies in the region have a strong commitment to disseminate the Movement's Fundamental Principles and values. The main approach taken is to integrate humanitarian values in all programmes, making dissemination of humanitarian values and fighting stigma and discrimination an integral and prioritised part of all service delivery. Furthermore, the regional programmes will follow up on the outcomes of the gender and disaster management workshop held in Nepal in June 2009 and the regional humanitarian values workshop looking at lessons learnt and how humanitarian values can be integrated into programmes held in autumn 2009.

The major Movement partners working bilaterally and/or multilaterally in South Asia include the American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Chinese Red Cross including the Hong Kong branch, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Hellenic Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Iranian Red Crescent, Japanese Red Cross, Kuwait Red Crescent, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Spanish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). A number of Movement partners are a part of the operational alliance initiative based around the community development programme in Nepal<sup>10</sup> as well as a new operational alliance light on organizational development also in Nepal. The Global Alliance on HIV for South Asia was launched on 1 December 2008, and has further strengthened partnerships, as the framework highlights on the role of partner national societies in

---

<sup>10</sup> Belgium (FL), Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, Swedish and Austrian Red Cross

providing resources, capacities and specific inputs to support products and services of the Global Alliance in line with the principles of ‘seven ones’<sup>11</sup>. So far, the South Asian national societies that are participating in the Global Alliance on HIV are the Bangladesh Red Crescent, Indian Red Cross, Nepal Red Cross and Sri Lanka Red Cross. Afghan and Pakistan Red Crescent Societies have indicated an interest in joining.

Besides Movement partners, the British Government, Department for International Development (DFID) and the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO/DIPECHO) are also key partners working with the International Federation on disaster management issues across the region; the World Bank is the partner for the Global Facility on disaster risk reduction for 2009-2010; and the Australian Government and the OPEC Fund for International Development are supporting health programmes in the region. Partnerships formed in health and care programming at the global level, for instance with UN agencies and the global network of positive people, have led to formal and informal partnerships at the regional and country level, which are being further strengthened. The WHO is a partner of the regional health programme in the areas of HIV and emergency preparedness and response. The memorandum of understanding with the WHO South East Asia regional office will be renewed; joint actions agreed with WHO are part of the regional health programme and will be implemented.

The table below reflects all key partners supporting the regional programmes:

No.	Partners supporting regional programmes	Programme components
1	Swedish Red Cross	Disaster preparedness (building safer communities), community based health and first aid, HIV/AIDS, PMER, finance development, communications development
2	Danish Red Cross	Organizational development/ capacity building , PMER, finance development, International Federation coordination
3	Japanese Red Cross	Disaster response (contingency planning), community based health and first aid, organizational development/ capacity building , PMER, communications development, International Federation coordination
4	British Red Cross	Disaster response and emergency health (RDRT) and DRR
5	American Red Cross	Disaster response
6	Finnish Red Cross	Community based health and first aid
7	European Commission/ ECHO	Disaster preparedness (building safer communities/ DIPECHO)
8	DFID	Disaster preparedness (building safer communities)/DRR

## Secretariat-supported programmes in 2010-2011

### Disaster Management

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

Programme purpose
Reducing the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters

The total budget of the programme for 2010 is CHF 783,957 and for 2011 is CHF 627,166.

The regional disaster management programme focuses on supporting the national societies in the region to meet the challenges rising from the risks of re-occurring disasters with the aim of contributing to the Global Agenda goal 1, of reducing the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. The regional disaster management programme is committed to champion the Red Cross Red Crescent approach to disaster risk reduction in line with the priorities outlined by the global Framework for Community Safety and Resilience. It will also encourage national societies to align their disaster risk reduction programming with the four outputs of the Global Alliance on disaster risk reduction and the Red Cross Red Crescent commitment to the Hyogo Framework and the MDGs.

<sup>11</sup> The Global Alliance on HIV is described as an enabling framework, and all members must follow a standard approach under seven basic principles

Building on collective action and mutual commitment, the South Asia national societies are jointly working towards a common approach for “ building safer communities” as the region’s approach to community safety and resilience which is guided by the regional disaster management/disaster risk reduction framework developed by the national societies in the autumn of 2009 and lessons learnt from previous disaster risk reduction programmes in the region. Previously through collaborative action, national societies supported by the International Federation and partners have developed the following tools and guidelines: improvement of the system, procedure and tools and standardization of disaster risk reduction training curricula and manuals. These will be implemented by the national societies in the coming years. The Government of Bhutan will also benefit from the regional disaster risk reduction programme through training and sharing of guidelines and standards.

Building on the past years initiatives, the regional disaster management programme will also work towards supporting the national societies to further consolidate and strengthen disaster response, preparedness for

response and recovery at regional and national levels. This entails strengthening the regional disaster response system, including regional disaster response teams (RDRT), as well as national disaster preparedness and response mechanisms (NDPRM). Technical support will be provided in specific disaster management areas such as logistics, relief, shelter, recovery and water and sanitation. As South Asia is exceptionally prone to large-scale and devastating hazards, recovery has become a regional priority. To enhance the knowledge sharing and exchange of information across the region, disaster management working group (DMWG) meetings will be held to discuss strategic directions and set priorities for the regional disaster management team.

To ensure a comprehensive response, the disaster management programme is committed to building safer communities through IPA. In the field of health, integration is made with public health in emergencies and CBHFA, hygiene promotion, and water and sanitation. With the organizational development programme, integration will especially be pursued in the field of volunteer management and branch development. The disaster management programme will especially focus on volunteers in emergencies and will learn from Sri Lanka and Pakistan as well national societies from the South East Asia region who have undertaken a process for developing minimum standards for volunteer management in disaster management. National societies will further be supported to undertake volunteer investment value audits (VIVA) in emergencies.

As humanitarian value does not have any stand-alone programmes, the principles and values component is integrated into the disaster management programmes through principles and values being part of all disaster management training. The humanitarian charter and code of conduct as well as the SPHERE guidelines will be promoted through trainings, awareness raising and promotion in emergencies. IDRL will be integrated with the regional disaster management/disaster risk reduction framework and into contingency plan and IDRL will be promoted in dialogues with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) disaster management centre. As South Asia is a conflict prone area, special attention will be given to promoting and integrating better programme initiative into the disaster management programme.

Key recommendations of the Asia Pacific workshop on gender and disaster management held in June 2009 and the outcome of the regional principles and values workshop in the autumn of 2009 shall be incorporated in the programme activities. The disaster management and disaster risk reduction activities done by the national societies shall be made visible and advocated through a communication plan. PMER issues will be streamlined in the training modules and support will be given to the disaster management team in setting up monitoring and evaluation systems for the building safer communities programme.

The persons reached by the regional disaster management programme will be 3000 staff and volunteers from all South Asian national societies as well as staff from the International Federation country offices in the region. Approximately 300 people will benefit from lessons learned and best practices workshops.

<b>Programme component : Community preparedness</b>
---

<b>Component outcome:</b> Build national societies’ capacities to enhance community-based DRR programming and improve knowledge sharing and coordination at regional and country level among Red Cross Red Crescent national societies and other external DRR actors.
---

**Key activities:**

Regional level:

- Support at least three community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) training of trainer (ToT) courses to cover all national societies.
- Support to set up a more systematic approach to knowledge sharing among South Asian national societies and institutions working in the disaster management/disaster risk reduction field.

Country level:

- Support all national societies to contextualize and take forward the CBDRR training package at local level.
- Provide technical support to all national societies to mainstream climate change adaptation in their CBDRR programmes at country level.
- Support three national societies (Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Indian Red Cross Society and Nepal Red Cross Society) to elaborate national disaster risk reduction frameworks and disaster risk reduction country plans with IPA.
- Provide technical support to all national societies in the region to conduct school-based disaster risk reduction activities.
- Provide technical support to Afghan Red Crescent Society, Indian Red Cross Society, Nepal Red Cross Society and Sri Lanka Red Cross Society to conduct vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) learning by doing exercises integrating BPI elements.
- 

**Programme component: Organizational preparedness and disaster management planning**

**Component outcome:** Improve national societies' functional capacity and systems to respond effectively in times of disasters.

**Key activities:**

Regional level:

- Further strengthen and disseminate the RDRT system ( i.e. pre-deployment agreements, conduct RDRT refresher courses, simulation exercises, Training of Trainers, update web-based database, exchange programmes, leadership development and strong linkage with NDRT, field assessment and coordination team (FACT) and emergency response unit training programmes).

Country level:

- Establish NDPRM/NDRT system at national societies and conduct refresher courses and ToT.
- Provide technical support to Afghan Red Crescent Society, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Indian Red Cross Society, Nepal Red Cross Society and Pakistan Red Crescent Society to update and test the contingency plans and develop a regional contingency plan.
- Provide technical support to Nepal Red Cross Society and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society for the implementation of the Global Alliance on disaster risk reduction.
- Strengthen volunteer in emergency by sharing, learning and new tools emerging from other organizational development and volunteering in emergencies work being conducted in South East Asian national societies and conducting VIVA in emergency.
- Explore possibility to select two national societies for longer term logistics capacity building.

**Programme component: Coordination, advocacy and addressing cross cutting issues**

**Component outcome:** Convergence of South Asia disaster management programmes through lessons learnt, cross cutting issues/concerns, good practices through knowledge sharing and learning, and to establish a regional information centre.

**Key activities:**

Regional level:

- Consult with SAARC and national societies regarding application of the national society auxiliary role and promotion of IDRL.
- Facilitate coordination, knowledge sharing and exchange programme between national societies as well as with other disaster risk reduction agencies and disseminate IPA guidelines.
- Participate/organize regional and cross-regional disaster risk reduction knowledge sharing and coordination events.
- Facilitate a study into the possible establishment of a South Asia Red Cross Red Crescent disaster risk reduction reference centre.

Country level:

- Support national societies to carry out third phase of the WPNS survey.
- Support national societies to be gender and disability inclusive in disaster management plans.
- Support at least three national societies to document the CBDRR programme's lesson learned and good practices.

<b>Programme component: Recovery</b>
--------------------------------------

<b>Component outcome:</b> Further develop the capacity of national societies to plan for and implement effective recovery programmes
--

**Key activity:**

Country level:

- Together with the Asia Pacific disaster management unit, provide technical support to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Nepal Red Cross Society, Pakistan Red Crescent Society and Sri Lanka Red Cross Society to implement effective integrated recovery programmes, implement community led initiatives as well as carry out reviews and lesson learnt opportunities.
- Host at a minimum one (maximum two) training events within the region that address the following: early recovery concepts, developing greater understanding and skills in recovery programmes and their integration (such as livelihoods, cash programming, PSP etc). ,
- Through the Asia Pacific disaster management unit, provide technical inputs into processes supporting Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Nepal Red Cross Society and Pakistan Red Crescent Society to develop recovery guidelines and tools.

**b) Potential risks and challenges**

One of the potential risks is the occurrence of a mega natural disaster or a series of medium sized natural disasters that will demand much support from the regional disaster management team and thus hamper the implementation of the regional disaster management programmes. To address this, clearer divisions of labour are being established between the various levels (country, regional, zonal and Geneva) and surge capacity that can step in is being set up. The security situation in the region related to political and social issues frequently causes serious problems for the national societies in terms of access to the population and ability to work closely with some branches, as well as causing difficulties in monitoring of programmes. As the International Federation is supporting the implementation of the programmes of the national society whose volunteers are accepted at community level and who are often well perceived in society for their humanitarian mandate, the International Federation programmes are not as affected by political and security incidences. In addition, disasters are becoming more complex, with natural catastrophes interrelated with man-made conflicts and wars. To complicate things further, climate change has to be considered as well. All these factors demand that new ways and visions need to be addressed when facing such challenges. One solution is to conduct regular and in-depth disaster management reviews of dialogue with ICRC in conflict areas to create linkages with regional disaster risk reduction efforts related to conflict issues and IDP concerns in the region.

## Health and Care

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

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

National societies have enhanced capacity to reduce number of deaths, illnesses and impact from disease and public health emergencies.
--

The total budget of the programme for 2010 is CHF 858,561 and for 2011 CHF 854,390.

The regional health and care programme is guided by the global health and care strategies and policies and contributes towards Global Agenda Goal 2 “To reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from disease and public health emergencies.” The regional support of the national societies’ health programme will continue to focus on the HIV programme, CBHFA, public health in emergencies (PHiE), water and sanitation. The main focus of the HIV programme will be to further strengthen and support the rolling out of the Global Alliance on HIV. 2010 will be a year of consolidation and planning for the HIV programme and a final evaluation of the regional HIV programme 2004-2009 will be conducted in 2010. Support will be given to the Afghan and Pakistan Red Crescent Societies to join the Global Alliance on HIV. In 2009, the standardized first aid kits for volunteers, households and schools were finalized and the CBHFA training modules developed and they will be rolled out in the coming years through the regional pool of master trainers. The CBHFA programme will expand to include climate change, avian influenza and pandemic preparedness activities, vaccine preventable diseases, prevention of vector borne and non-communicable diseases and tuberculosis.

The PHiE programme will focus on supporting national societies to have an increased capacity to respond to public health emergencies through the regional and national disaster response mechanisms, by building capacity at regional, national and community levels. This will be done through regional and national workshops and joint deployments during emergencies. A public health approach will be applied when responding to health aspects of crises and epidemics. The health and care programme will develop a pool of health and care resources in South Asia in the field of PHiE and CBHFA that can be accessed by all societies in the region.

Water and sanitation will be given high priority over the next years, due to the immense needs in South Asia as well as the strategic role that national societies see themselves playing in this area. The aim of the water and sanitation component will be to meet both the acute and chronic needs of vulnerable communities to access safe water and sanitation as well as build national societies' capacities in implementing water, sanitation and hygiene promotion programmes. Based on the Global Water and Sanitation Initiative and Asia Pacific Zone Water and Sanitation Strategy, a common regional approach for water and sanitation will be developed to guide water and sanitation programmes in the national societies. In addition to this, support will also be given to national societies to improve their emergency response in water and sanitation by converting their water and sanitation emergency response unit equipment into 'water and sanitation disaster response kits' and assist them to be able to store, maintain and have enough trained staff and volunteers to be able to deploy this equipment when required. Water and sanitation in emergencies training will be planned to support this process and link in with the national and regional disaster response mechanisms. Support will also be given to national societies to network with each other and participate in relevant regional and zonal water and sanitation/hygiene promotion events, such as the Asia Pacific water, sanitation and hygiene promotion workshop.

The health programme is also committed to the Integrated Programming Approach. The CBHFA component of the health programme will be an integral part of the building safer communities programme. In addition, health and disaster management will work closely on emergency health, which will include water and sanitation and PSP. Principles and values are addressed by stigma and anti-discrimination activities of the HIV programme. Discussions have been held on child protection issues and how to build a safer environment for children at the regional health meeting in July 2009. These issues will be discussed further and integrated into programmes in the following years. The planning and management tools, and especially the monitoring and evaluation system of the HIV programme in line with the Global Alliance on HIV, will be further strengthened. The health activities carried out by the national societies shall be made visible and advocated through a communication plan.

The direct beneficiaries of the regional health programme are the national societies' health staff at headquarters and branches, and volunteers engaged in health programmes. It is estimated that 1,800 people will benefit directly from the programme – 50 staff (headquarters and branches inclusive) and 250 volunteers in each national society.

#### **Programme component 1: HIV**

**Component outcome:** Vulnerability to HIV and its impact reduced through preventing further infection, expanding care, treatment, and support, and reducing stigma and discrimination

#### **Key activities:**

##### Regional level:

- Advocate for components of the HIV programme, especially prevention and stigma/ discrimination.
- Conduct two regional workshops on gender and sustainability.
- Develop, disseminate and market regional health programme information.
- Facilitate information sharing, best practices, cross-border initiatives and resource mobilization under a common national society platform for HIV.
- Address gender equity and child protection as an integral part of planning and implementation.
- Conduct a final evaluation of the regional HIV programme 2004-2009.
- Support and improve implementation of a uniform framework for monitoring and evaluation.

##### Country level:

- Support the rolling out of Global Alliance tools and guidelines on HIV (especially the prevention guidelines).
- Support Afghan Red Crescent Society and Pakistan Red Crescent Society in becoming part of the Global Alliance on HIV.
- Provide technical support to national societies to develop and review their HIV strategy.
- Support the Maldives country office to develop the HIV strategy for Maldivian Red Crescent Society.

#### **Programme component 2: Community based health and first aid**

**Component outcome:** Increased healthy communities which are able to cope with health and disaster challenges achieved through community based integrated health and first aid activities.

#### **Key activities:**

##### Regional level:

- Promote integrated programme approach for CBFHA and disaster risk reduction.
- Standardized first aid training across the region.

South Asia (MAA52001), 2010 – 2011 Plan

- Conduct joint planning and training activities with disaster management, organizational development, and principles and values.
- Address gender equity and child protection as well as principles and values as an integral part of health programme planning and implementation.
- Develop, disseminate and market regional health programme information.
- Establish strategic partnerships and undertake joint activities with key regional and international public health partners, including academic/research institutions.

Country level:

- Support Maldives in developing the Maldivian Red Crescent Society health strategy.
- Provide technical support for increased social mobilization for measles, polio, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria.
- Undertake joint monitoring and evaluation of programmes with Movement partners.

**Programme component 3: Emergency health**

**Component outcome:** Increase access to curative and preventive health services improved in the target area.

**Key activities:**

Regional level:

- Continue to develop, adapt and disseminate standardized PHiE tools and guidelines (such as water and sanitation and PSP).
- Conduct trainings and provide tools to enhance response capacity in health emergencies.
- Develop, update and promote a database of public health professionals.
- Conduct joint planning and training activities with disaster management, organizational development, and principles and values.
- Address gender equity and child protection as well as principles and values as an integral part of health programme planning and implementation.

Country level:

- Support the national societies in organizing PHiE trainings and workshops for strategy or programme development.
- Undertake joint activities with the WHO South East Asia regional office in HIV/AIDS and PHiE in line with the memorandum of understanding.

**Programme component 4: Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion**

**Component outcome:** Access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities are increased and hygiene practices are improved in the targeted areas.

**Key activities:**

Regional level:

- Develop a South Asia regional water and sanitation action plan in line with the Asia Pacific water and sanitation strategy and the global water and sanitation initiative.
- Support national societies to convert their water and sanitation emergency response unit equipment to water and sanitation disaster response kits and to store, maintain and deploy this equipment as required, as outlined in the Asia Pacific water and sanitation strategy. Disseminate new tools and support national societies in the adaptation and training of participatory methodologies, including the participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) approach.
- Provide support to national societies in water and sanitation in emergency training at the national, regional and zonal levels, linking with disaster management systems, including an RDRT specialized water and sanitation training.
- Support national society participation in relevant national and regional networks and events, including the Asia Pacific water and sanitation workshop.
- Undertake technical support visits to national societies.

**b) Potential risks and challenges**

Stability of national societies' human resources and security of funds are two major risks of long-term health programming. The regional health programme will continue to be vigilant of national societies' staff turn over patterns and reasons for potential lack of funding for some of the components of the health programme of strategic importance and will continue to promote sustained long-term programming and funding in health. Some

of the solutions to reduce the funding gaps, especially in the public health in emergencies project, include programme integration and resource sharing.

## Organizational Development/Capacity Building

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

<b>Programme purpose</b>
Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability

The organizational development/capacity building programme budget for 2010 is CHF 552,781 and CHF 534,465 for 2011.

Although this regional organizational development programme appears to have ambitious targets, these will be resourced from a wider variety of technical support personnel – some from peer support between national societies, some from external consultants, and some drawing on the International Federation organizational development delegate support from the Asia Pacific zone and other regional offices as well. A newly appointed

South Asia regional programme coordinator and South Asia organizational development officer will ensure the strategic as well as practical connections between these technical resources to enable national societies to achieve their objectives.

The programme addresses a range of organizational development and capacity building needs and will provide support to the seven established national societies through four related components: 1) strategic organizational development and capacity building, 2) communications development, 3) finance development, and 4) PMER development. The technical support provided in these areas will be increasingly integrated and a joint strategy will be developed to provide comprehensive organizational development and capacity building support and interventions to the national societies. The programme is aligned with Global Agenda Goal 3 (increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability).

<b>Programme component 1: Strategic organizational development and capacity building support</b>
<b>Component outcome:</b> National societies have developed structures, policies and procedures that enable better programme implementation.

This component works within the framework of the Asia Pacific zonal organizational development programme and will address national societies' organizational development challenges, aligned with their strategic plans. The key organizational development issues across the region, with regard to national societies' developments towards well-functioning national societies, are auxiliary status issues (particularly legal base), human resource development, strengthening membership and volunteer base, branch development, fundraising and gender equity. Two consultants visited the region to develop strategies, plans and policies in human resource management and resource mobilization<sup>12</sup>. Work continues to follow up on the outcome of these consultancies. The organizational development programme will follow up at country level on the Integrated Programming Approach (IPA) checklist developed at regional level to make it country specific. This component will address national societies' priority issues through the following approaches:

1. Provision of tailor-made organizational development and capacity building support.

**Key activities:**

- Supporting legal base development in national societies across the region.
- Pilot the new organizational development approach in one or two countries in the region with support from the Zone.
- Support in formulation of national society strategic plans and aligning them with Strategy 2020.
- Support national societies in setting up human resource systems.
- Supporting the national societies to develop their fundraising capacity through the regional fundraising development project.

<sup>12</sup> HR consultancies in Afghanistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

Resource mobilisation consultancies in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The two consultancies visited the countries between 2004 and January 2007.

- Supporting the national societies in setting up volunteer management.
  - Assisting in branch development in the national societies.
  - Support Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in addressing integrity issues.
2. Integration of organizational development and capacity building aspects with health, disaster management and principles and values programmes.
- Key activities:**
- Advocating and supporting IPA.
  - Providing guidance on integration of organizational development and capacity building aspects in other programmes such as volunteer management, including volunteers in emergencies, branch development, human resource development and fundraising.
  - Advocate for women’s participation at all levels of the national societies.
3. Cross-regional information sharing and knowledge management.
- Key activities:**
- Facilitating the South Asia web-based group.
  - Facilitating the organizational development network meetings.
  - Facilitating peer-to-peer exchanges and learning.
  - Facilitating compilation and dissemination of lessons learnt, tools and best practices.
  - Facilitating gender sensitization across all disaster management programmes, and thereafter across all other programmes and institutional characteristics of South Asian national societies by the maintenance of the “Gender Focal Point” in the region (initially agreed as the International Federation gender consultant in the Pakistan programme).

As there is a strong organizational development team across South Asia, the country organizational development capacities with support from the Zone can be synergized to support the organizational development programme across South Asia coordinated by the regional programme coordinator and the South Asia regional office organizational development officer. The direct beneficiaries of this component are the national society staff and governance members who will receive skills development, peer support, mentoring and guidance on organizational development aspects of their work.

**b) Potential risks and challenges**

A potential challenge to the implementation of strategic organizational development and capacity building support might come from exceptional disasters that require national societies to divert all their resources to managing the emergency operations. A strong focus on ensuring that organizational development/capacity building components are included in all parts and phases of emergency response, linked to the Asia Pacific zone learning on “OD and volunteering in emergencies”, will ensure that opportunities for organizational development/capacity building are not missed. Changing political situations at country level or internally in national societies can also hamper or delay the implementation of interventions. This will be addressed by providing flexible and tailor-made support to national societies and country offices, based on close consultations with them.

<b>Programme component 2: Communications development</b>
<b>Component outcome:</b> Communications and advocacy for the most vulnerable at national society and regional level are more effective.

The regional communication unit aims to further position the regional delegation, its country offices and national societies, as the primary, credible sources of information on humanitarian issues and disasters in the eight countries in which they operate. To do so, it will assist national societies and country offices to establish a culture of communications in line with the global strategy to make the Red Cross and Red Crescent *the global reference* and *the global preference*. This component will address national societies’ priority issues through the following approaches:

1. Integration of effective communication into programme planning.
- Key activities:**
- Encourage the inclusion of purpose orientated communications and marketing components in the annual work plans of each regional team.
  - Actively support communications needs of each programme.
  - Increase quality content, design, International Federation alignment and distribution of communications tools/materials that effectively target beneficiaries and donors.
  - Ensure all content and messages reflect the International Federation principles and values.

2. Increased communications capacity and team building at all levels.

**Key activities:**

- Effectively build collaboration, share best practices, and widely promote a consistent message across the South Asia region.
- Design and implement a “media training” programme for all core programme delegates to be used across the zone.
- Organize an annual South Asia communicators meeting; include needed capacity building workshop.

3. Effective emergency communications response and capability.

**Key activities:**

- Design and distribution of a set of key tactics and key messages for effective media relations, to be used by those responding to emergencies.
- Development of basic inventory of “every time” elements of national society disaster response.
- Development and utilization of comprehensive communicator/spokesperson roster in more than one language.
- Implementation of “leaning forward” posture for media outreach during emergencies.
- Supporting national societies who attend the Asia Pacific Zone resource mobilization and communications forum and training in early 2010 to implement their plans with appropriate technical support from peer support and external consultants on their return

4. Increased knowledge sharing and capture of institutional success.

**Key activities:**

- Successful support to the editorial process of developing the *Asia Pacific Voices* newsletter as a zonal platform to share stories and experiences.
- Skype conference.
- Explore possibility of setting webex as a regional communications resource.
- Set an online photo gallery for South Asia on the domain sard.asia.

The direct beneficiaries are principally the communications focal points in the national societies and country offices, and programme managers, equipping them with skills and a better understanding of the importance of communications. The improvement of their communications skills and the building of bridges (networking) with programme managers, media, donors and other interlocutors, ultimately benefits the vulnerable people and communities that the national societies/country offices serve in the region. The donors and media too are more appropriately addressed in terms of their communications expectations from the Red Cross Red Crescent.

**b) Potential risks and challenges**

The most significant challenge for communications is the lack of a culture of communication across the International Federation. Communications and advocacy tend to be thought of as “after the fact” priorities, not being fully integrated into response and programme planning. This lack of understanding reflects on the insufficient funds allocated for it, making it difficult to accomplish its objectives and implement the communication plans of national societies. To address this, the regional communication unit will work with the senior management to ensure all programmes understand the importance of integrating communications as a crosscutting component in their budgets also in the emergency appeals.

**Programme component 3: Finance development**

**Component outcome:** National societies’ capacity in financial accountability, reporting, and management is strengthened.

Though good progress has been made under this component, the establishment of a fully functioning modern financial administration system is a long term, technically demanding and institutionally complex process. This is the key priority that this component will address. This component will address national societies’ priority issues through the following approaches:

1. National societies have increased self-reliance in financial management.

**Key activities:**

- Give technical support to the Indian Red Cross Society, Maldivian Red Crescent Society and Pakistan Red Crescent Society in developing Navision finance software.
- Give technical support to Afghanistan Red Crescent Society to develop their finance management and audit system.

South Asia (MAA52001), 2010 – 2011 Plan

- Give technical support to Nepal Red Cross Society to develop their further finance management and audit system.

2. National societies have skilled members of finance management staff.

**Key activities:**

- Support country level finance management workshops in Afghanistan Red Crescent Society, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Nepal Red Cross Society and Sri Lanka Red Cross Society.
- Training for finance management in emergencies for national society staff.
- Provide salary support to one finance development consultant at the Nepal Red Cross Society.

3. A regional resource pool of technically trained finance staff supports each other to build mutual capacities.

**Key activities:**

- Organize regional finance directors meeting.
- Support exchange programme visits between national societies.

4. Capacity building of the finance staff of branch level.

**Key activities:**

- Give technical support to the Nepal Red Cross Society and Sri Lanka Red Cross Society to develop their finance management and system at districts level.
- Give technical support to the Nepal Red Cross Society and Sri Lanka Red Cross Society to develop local software for their district branches.

The principal direct target audience is finance staff in the national societies.

### **b) Potential risks and challenges**

A key challenge is the high staff turnover in the finance departments in national societies in the region, which hampers the steady and sustainable progress in finance development work. An attempt to address this will be made through staff exchange programmes between national societies. Another challenge is that proposals for finance development work take time to get approved from the national societies, thereby delaying the carrying out of planned activities. To facilitate a quicker process, close follow-up will be done with senior management of national societies and specific finance development trainings will be organised for them. The risk of low funding for this component, as well as late confirmation of funding by donors, might also pose a challenge in carrying out planned activities.

### **Programme component 4: Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting development.**

**Component outcome:** The capacity of national societies in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting is strengthened further.

Over the past years, substantial capacity has been built across the region in PMER and a strong PMER team has been established in the Asia Pacific zone. There is an increasing awareness with the programme staff on the importance of strengthening accountability and quality of programmes. The PMER unit has when requested worked with the programmes to strengthen monitoring and evaluation and reporting like the regional HIV and disaster risk reduction programme as well as at national level to Nepal Red Cross Society and Pakistan Red Crescent Society. Lessons learnt from the PMER training at branch level in the Indian Red Cross Society will feed into how to roll out PMER at branch level across the region. These initiatives will continue over the coming years. The PMER priorities for 2010-11 remain the same:

1. National societies and country offices are supported in filling identified PMER gaps through training and coaching with special emphasis on monitoring and evaluation.

**Key activities:**

- Mapping of PMER needs and capacities.
- Roll out the recommendations from the global report quality review.
- Provide continuous quality support through training, coaching and feedback.
- Provide input to the global PMER training package and roll it out also at branch level.

2. Stronger links and integration will be established with core programmes.

**Key activities:**

- Develop a common strategy with other organizational development components and carry out joint trainings.
- Include PMER in health and disaster management trainings.
- Promote that the regional health and disaster management programmes have logical frameworks, SMART indicators and monitoring and evaluation plans in place.

- Support Pakistan, Nepal and the regional HIV and disaster risk reduction programme in setting up a monitoring and evaluation system.
- Support programme teams with evaluations, reviewing terms of references and commenting on reports.
- Put PMER on the agenda of senior management.

3. Ensure cross regional information sharing, knowledge management and networking.

**Key activities:**

- Hold annual PMER network meetings.
- Collect lessons learnt from region and share with zone and keep all evaluations on record.

The direct beneficiaries are PMER and reporting focal points and programme managers in the national societies, both at national and branch level, who will principally receive skills development, coaching and training support, as well as continual constructive feedback on their performance in these areas.

**b) Potential risks and challenges**

The key challenge is to change the mindset of the programme staff and management from PMER being a necessary burden to an understanding of the importance of accountability and improved quality of programme delivery. There is a need for senior management to acknowledge the importance of PMER and push for it within the regional and country teams. The International Federation remains weak in the field of monitoring and evaluation. A particularly large “mega-disaster” or an unusually large number of “normal” disasters could challenge the normal continuation of longer-term development aspects under this component, due to the pressure

of emergency planning and reporting. In an effort to address this, the larger network of PMER focal points across South Asia could be tapped into for the provision of planning/reporting assistance during disaster times.

## Principles and Values

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

<b>Programme purpose</b>
Increase the capacity of national societies to promote dignity and respect for diversity and fight discrimination and intolerance in communities

The Principles and Values programme budget for 2010 is CHF 37,433 and CHF37,433 for 2011.

The principles and values programme contributes to Global Agenda Goal 4 “to promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion”. This programme builds on significant work in the past few years in South Asia (including regional and country-based principles and values orientation and training, case studies, and lessons learned sharing to improve programme approaches. A regional level workshop on principles and values will be held in the autumn of 2009 to disseminate principles and values concepts, exchange best practices and to map the various population groups vulnerable due to discrimination, violence, social exclusion and intolerance within each country in the region. The outcome from the workshop will feed into the disaster management, health and organizational development programmes to improve the targeting of these marginalized groups within the programmes. Furthermore a disaster management and gender workshop was held in Nepal in June 2009. Outcomes from both workshops will feed into strengthening the principles and values component of the programmes in the coming years. Principles and values is part of all the programme trainings as well and whenever any advocacy, dissemination or similar communication is undertaken to provide a background of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and about the International Federation and its activities.

<b>Programme component 1: Promotion of humanitarian principles and values</b>
<b>Component outcome:</b> National societies and International Federation country offices show an increased understanding of principles and values.

**Key activities:**

- Ongoing dissemination through volunteers and staff induction and workshops.
- Promotion of principles and values under the regional communications programme.
- HIV in the workplace has been introduced and will be followed up.

<b>Programme component 2: Operationalization of fundamental principles and humanitarian values</b>
<b>Component outcome:</b> Fundamental Principles are integrated into national society operational programmes

### **Key activities:**

- Follow up on the regional humanitarian values workshop held at the end of 2009.
- Address stigma and discrimination in the HIV programme.
- Address child protection and gender issues across the programmes.
- All programmes work towards more gender balance in staff and volunteers.
- The disaster management programme will follow up on the recommendations from the disaster management and gender workshop held in Nepal in June 2009.
- Disaster management will promote the code of conduct, SPHERE project, humanitarian charter and minimum standards in disaster response as well as IDRL.
- The disaster management programme addresses the needs of the marginalized in the communities and the gender issues which have been identified in the VCA.

The integrated activities under the principles and values programme will target staff and volunteers of the national societies.

### **b) Potential risks and challenges**

The reduced scope of the principles and values programme will result in missed opportunities to support youth camps, conduct principles and values workshops in national societies, engage with academics, civil society and the media to examine related issues and publish communication materials like case studies. Therefore, funding for principles and values activities will continue to be sought and the regional communications programme will give special attention to principles and values in its work with the media.

## **Role of the secretariat**

The South Asia regional office coordination budget for 2010 is CHF 163,957 and CHF 110,481 for 2011.

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

The regional office, with a mix of international delegates and national/regional staff, will continue to support the seven national societies and country offices in the region in the implementation of their programmes. The country offices are primarily responsible for the provision of International Federation support to the ongoing programmes of the national societies they work with, as well as coordination with in-country partners. The regional office support to the countries is four-fold: 1) strategic guidance, management and monitoring of programme performance at country level; 2) provision of technical support to programmes as required, in particular those with no in-country technical delegates; 3) ensure regional coordination, networking, mutual learning, optimizing the utilization of regional resources and knowledge sharing; 4) ensure that global initiatives are disseminated, understood and prioritized within the region, and that the required support is given to roll out such initiatives. South Asia regional office also plays an important role in the mobilization of international assistance for the International Federation's programmes in the region and in the promotion of the human diplomacy agenda.

All regional programmes will be implemented by the respective technical units at the regional office, in close collaboration with counterparts in the zone and country offices and national societies. The health and disaster management teams will maintain a basic structure with two to three senior level staff each including a coordinator. There will be a programme coordinator who will also oversee organizational development and principles and values issues and a finance development delegate.

In the field of organizational development, support from the zone will be required for volunteer management especially volunteers in emergency and branch development as well as rolling out the new organizational development approach in the region. Support from the zone resource mobilization unit will also be needed as well as from the zone monitoring and evaluation roster. In times of disaster surge, capacity from the zone disaster management team will be required. Support will also be required from the zone water and sanitation department.

### **b) Humanitarian diplomacy**

In line with the new priorities of Strategy 2020, humanitarian diplomacy will be a high priority in the Asia Pacific zone and the regions. Humanitarian diplomacy is persuading decision makers and opinion leaders to act, at all times, in the interests of vulnerable people, and with full respect for fundamental humanitarian principles. Humanitarian diplomacy is a tool to enhance and further develop the work of national societies and the International Federation. The International Federation *Humanitarian Diplomacy Policy*, which was adopted in May 2009 by the International Federation's Governing Board, is an overarching policy which recognizes that our

diplomacy involves all aspects of our work and is exercised in different ways as required by the objective: advocacy, negotiation, communication, formal agreements, fundraising and other measures.

In the Asia Pacific zone, our ambition is to develop existing and new relations with a number of major international and regional organizations and key governments active in the humanitarian field. The goal of the work is to ensure that agreements and partnerships with such organizations realize their operational potential, adding real value for national societies and the International Federation and their programmes. It also supports the strengthening of national society capacity to use their auxiliary role for the benefit of vulnerable people. Humanitarian diplomacy also improves our overall humanitarian access, maintains humanitarian space for national societies and the International Federation and strengthens the ability of national societies to pursue their own national objectives.

In South Asia, humanitarian diplomacy will be given high priority both in terms of strengthening new partnerships, promoting the humanitarian agenda, including principles and values and in strengthening the auxiliary role and advocacy of the national society. More details are given below under partnership development and representation and advocacy.

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

Besides strengthening existing partnerships, the programmes will continue to forge, nurture and develop new partnerships. The disaster management programme will develop partnerships with a wide range of organizations including the UN and International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), regional and national non-governmental organizations, academic institutions such as Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) and government bodies at national and regional levels. In particular, there will be an increased dialogue and engagement with SAARC with a view to promoting implementation of the IDRL guidelines and undertaking advocacy on a number of other key issues such as community participation, non-discrimination and disaster risk reduction. Wide-ranging partnerships with key institutional donors such as ECHO, DFID, AUSAID, USAID, SIDA, Asian Development Bank and the World Bank (through the ProVention consortium, the Global Facility on disaster risk reduction, South to South initiative (a new disaster risk reduction initiative)) and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Change Centre will also be enhanced. Collaboration with national societies will continue through the regional DMWG.

The regional health programme will continue to establish collaborative efforts in HIV prevention and in preparedness to health emergencies with Movement partners, UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations, networks of people living with HIV, government ministries and national AIDS control programmes. The memorandum of understanding with WHO was renewed in 2009. The memorandum of understanding covers joint actions under HIV and emergency preparedness and response. Positive initiatives like the operational alliance in Nepal, HIV consortium in India and the Global Alliance on HIV, already exist and can form the basis for partnership development. Annually two regional meetings are held in the field of health one on general health issues and one on HIV to provide for sharing of experiences, lessons learnt, best practices and case studies.

In keeping with an increasing focus on aligning Movement support, the regional organizational development programme will promote the Movement's harmonized approach to operational planning in the region, guided by the harmonization process in Afghanistan. The aim is to strengthen the cooperation with ICRC at country level and optimize use of Movement resources. The implementation of the operational alliance in Nepal is also strengthening movement cooperation. The communications component of organizational development will partner with the ICRC for specialized trainings and events, as well as maintain close cooperation during disaster situations. The communications component will also maintain close cooperation with reputed media agencies like Reuters, BBC and CNN, as well as with other major humanitarian actors and donors in the region like ECHO, for efficient information flow especially during disasters. Organizational development, communication and PMER will hold annual regional network meetings. The Cooperation Agreement Strategy process and operational alliance process in Nepal continue to generate learning for other national societies and to provide examples of enhanced Movement coordination.

### **b.ii) Representation and advocacy**

The regional office will continue to represent the South Asian national societies and country offices in international and regional forums and events and will also facilitate the participation of national societies from the region at various international conferences, training programmes and events. The regional office will also represent the International Federation towards embassies and UN agencies. In addition, the regional programmes will ensure coordination and visibility in events related to technical areas of work of the national society, in order to advocate for their cause. In line with the priority of Strategy 2020 to strengthen the auxiliary role of the national society and

humanitarian advocacy, a regional mapping will be done of the national society's auxiliary role. The outcome of the mapping will be discussed at the secretary general's forum where the role of advocacy will also be raised. The regional disaster management programme has already developed a practical guide to advocacy for disaster risk reduction, which will be implemented in the region and beyond.

### **c) Other areas**

In addition to programme support, based on a need for assistance requested by the countries, the regional office, in collaboration with the zone office, will also support them and develop their capacity in the areas of human resource management and administration (sharing up-to-date human resource procedures, organizing a regional training for administration/human resource managers and supporting travel arrangements of internal/external visitors), information technology (upgrading computer hardware and software and providing IT training) and procurements (including supporting the procurement of disaster preparedness stocks).

## Promoting gender equity and diversity

The regional office promotes integrating gender equity and diversity issues in all programmes across the region. All national societies are encouraged to keep balance in gender representation while recruiting staff for their programmes and in ensuring gender equity in accessing services. The focus is on building the capacity of the national societies/country offices to design and implement trainings, assessments and activities that are sensitive to cultural diversity, age and gender. Disaster management will build on the RDRT training for women and the disaster management and gender workshop held in 2009 to further enhance gender issues in the disaster management programme. The latter meeting generated the concept of a gender focal person in South Asia to inspire and advocate for better gender sensitive approaches in programming and institutional characteristics in all national societies. Under health, the HIV component gives special attention to women whose low social status

makes them more vulnerable to HIV. The strategic organizational development/capacity building component has direct focus on gender equity. The organizational development programme supports gender sensitivity and equity among staff and volunteers as well as advocating for development and implementation of national society gender policies, providing technical support for gender focal points and sharing good practices across the Asia Pacific zone. The communication component will continue to promote gender issues through publications and the PMER component will facilitate access to guidance on gender and diversity sensitive planning and monitoring. Continued emphasis will be on supporting national societies' disaster management and health programmes to understand and integrate methods and approaches that address issues of diversity and discrimination.

## Quality, accountability and learning

As all the regional programmes are focused on capacity building, they make a significant contribution to improving national societies' understanding and use of International Federation and international quality standards in their programme areas. National societies will be supported to carefully align their work with relevant aspects with the International Federation Framework for Action, global strategies, as well as international standards and best practices. Organizational development/capacity building, financial management, PMER and communications are directly related to improving quality, accountability and learning in national societies and will provide continued support across the region. Over the next two years, much attention will be given to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation framework to improve quality of programmes, accountability and learning. Specific monitoring and evaluation plans will be developed for each programme based on the programme logframes. All programmes will also be monitored through regular communication with programme counterparts in national societies and country offices, and during country visits. Currently the PMER department in Geneva is finalizing a revision of the planning training module based on the project planning process (PPP) approach and a monitoring and evaluation training. This training will be rolled out in 2010-11 to enhance the quality and accountability of programmes.

Under the disaster management/disaster risk reduction framework, standard disaster risk reduction indicators will be developed for monitoring and evaluation of activities, which will enhance measuring the impact and quality of the disaster risk reduction programmes in the region. Under the health programme, follow up will be done on the monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks developed in line with the Global Alliance on HIV to ensure proper accountability and measure progress. In 2010, a final evaluation of the regional HIV programme component will be carried out. Additionally, under the organizational development programme, an evaluation of the integrated programme approach will be carried out. VIVA studies of the HIV programme as well as disaster management in emergencies will be carried out. Furthermore, the WPNS survey will be conducted in 2010.

Knowledge sharing is also a key function of the regional office, with significant aspects of each programme dedicated to increasing peer learning, learning from other good practices and lessons learned from the relevant areas. A wide range of techniques will be used to achieve this, including development of case studies and lessons learned, communications materials, along with regional workshops, exchange visits and technical meetings, like the regional disaster management working group and regional health meetings.

## How we work

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

For further information specifically related to this plan, please contact:

### International Federation South Asia office in Delhi:

- Azmat Ulla, Head of regional office; phone: +91.11.2411.1125; fax: +91.11.2411.1128; email: [azmat.ulla@ifrc.org](mailto:azmat.ulla@ifrc.org)
- John Roche, regional disaster management coordinator; email: [john.roche@ifrc.org](mailto:john.roche@ifrc.org); phone: +91.11.2411.1122; fax: +91.11.2411.1128.
- Mahesh Gunasekara, regional health and care coordinator; email: [mahesh.gunasekara@ifrc.org](mailto:mahesh.gunasekara@ifrc.org); phone: +91.11.2411.1122; fax: +91.11.2411.1128.
- Michael Higginson, regional programme coordinator; phone: +91.11.2411.1122; email: [michael.higginson@ifrc.org](mailto:michael.higginson@ifrc.org)

### International Federation Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur:

- Jagan Chapagain, Deputy head of zone; phone: +603 9207 5702; email: [jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org](mailto:jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org)
- Penny Elghady, Resource mobilization and PMER coordinator; phone: +603 9207 5775; email: [penny.elghady@ifrc.org](mailto:penny.elghady@ifrc.org)
- Please send all funding pledges to: [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)

[<map below; click to return to title page>](#)

## MAA52001 - South Asia region

### Budget 2010 - 2011

#### Budget 2010

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

	Disaster Management	Health and Care	Capacity Building	Principles and Values	Coordination	Total
Supplies	12,000	20,000				32,000
Land, vehicles & equipment		3,000	3,000			6,000
Transport & Storage	8,400	7,800	4,000		9,000	29,200
Personnel	372,000	347,800	311,200		64,900	1,095,900
Workshops & Training	282,000	331,100	130,100	35,000	31,000	809,200
General Expenditure	58,600	93,055	68,550		48,400	268,605
Depreciation						
Contributions & Transfers						
Programme Support	50,957	55,806	35,931	2,433	10,657	155,785
Services						
Contingency						
<b>Total Budget 2010</b>	<b>783,957</b>	<b>858,561</b>	<b>552,781</b>	<b>37,433</b>	<b>163,957</b>	<b>2,396,690</b>

#### Budget 2011

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

	Disaster Management	Health and Care	Capacity Building	Principles and Values	Coordination	Total
Supplies		5,000				5,000
Land, vehicles & equipment		3,000	500			3,500
Transport & Storage	8,400	7,800	4,480		9,000	29,680
Personnel	226,800	362,400	314,095		17,900	921,195
Workshops & Training	248,000	318,600	114,100	35,000	28,000	743,700
General Expenditure	103,200	102,055	66,550		48,400	320,205
Depreciation						
Contributions & Transfers						
Programme Support	40,766	55,535	34,740	2,433	7,181	140,656
Services						
Contingency						
<b>Total Budget 2011</b>	<b>627,166</b>	<b>854,390</b>	<b>534,465</b>	<b>37,433</b>	<b>110,481</b>	<b>2,163,936</b>



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

# South Asia



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, Federation