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Annual report South Asia

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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**This report covers the
period 1 January 2011 to
31 December 2011**

Regional disaster response team members (RDRT) preparing a plan of action as part of simulation exercise during the RDRT refresher course in Colombo, Sri Lanka, during 28 November to 1 December 2011.

Photo: IFRC.



In brief

Programme outcome

The aim of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is to coordinate and support efforts at country and regional level to assist South Asian National Societies to scale up their work to improve the lives of vulnerable people through the provision of preparedness and resilience focused technical services.

Programme(s) summary

During the reporting period, the South Asia regional programmes focused on the work towards an integrated programming approach and tackled cross-cutting issues.

The regional disaster management (DM) team continued to focus on supporting the National Societies to improve their community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) programming and support their disaster preparedness capacity building. This included a review and restructure of the team and the working

mechanism. The capacities of disaster response teams at the regional, national and branch levels were also improved to effectively respond and function as response networks during emergencies.

With the mapping done of health projects or programmes implemented in the South Asia region, the regional health and care programme focused on assisting National Societies in their endeavour to reduce vulnerability due to poor health by enhancing their capacity to respond to HIV and other public health issues in emergencies and in peace time, through partnership, advocacy and resource development initiatives.

Furthermore, the focus was on the scaling up of community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) activities and rolling out the global CBHFA in action across the region.

Country specific tailor-made organizational development (OD) support and assistance was provided to National Societies in the region for strategic planning processes, strengthening branch capacity for resource mobilization, income generation potentials and various OD issues.

Apart from the newly formed and recognized Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC), the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) completed and published their strategic plans during the reporting period. While the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) is in process of finalizing their revised strategic plan, and the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) will plan to review and start the process of their new strategic plan in 2012. These strategic plans are used as basis for programming and implementation in all National Societies of the South Asia region.

The first South Asia online OD forum was also organized in December 2011 with hosting support from Asia Pacific Zone.

The South Asia regional delegation (SARD) integrated the regional programmes teams like DM, health and OD into one unit called the Preparedness and Resilience Unit (PRU) during the last quarter of 2011. It was a continuous effort for the 'integrated programme approach' initiatives of the region and to disseminate and build a regional understanding and promote a coordinated approach to the Movement's aims. The PRU will facilitate better integrated working mechanism and will provide even stronger technical support to the National Societies and country offices in the South Asia region.

Financial situation

The total 2011 budget was CHF 1,298,327. Coverage is 227 per cent while expenditure from January to December 2011 is 95 per cent of the total 2011 budget.

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

No. of people we have reached

The programme supports the seven National Societies and seven IFRC country offices in South Asia, who in turn work with millions of people. The plan also supports Red Cross Red Crescent partners activities in the region.

Our partners

The current partners of the South Asia regional delegation programmes are Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Department for International Development (DFID), Finnish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Taiwan Red Cross Organisation. In addition, working relationships are being developed or further strengthened with the South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) disaster management centre, Bhutan government, United Nations

International Strategy for Disaster Response (UNISDR), World Health Organisation (WHO), and non-governmental organizations in the region.

The International Federation, on behalf of the National Societies and IFRC country offices in South Asia, would like to thank the above mentioned partners for their generous support.

Context

South Asia, a region of great socio-economic contrasts as well as cultural and political diversity, is home to 1.4 billion¹ people and represents 22.6 per cent of the world's population². It remains one of the most disadvantaged regions of the world, with a population highly vulnerable to health and disaster related risks due to a wide range of socio-economic factors, especially high levels of poverty, political instability and conflict. Despite economic and social gains attained in the last decade, life expectancy, children's education, adult literacy and GDP indicators point to continued complex risks to people in South Asia.

South Asia is also faced with inter- and intra-state socio-political tension, internal conflicts and insurgencies that cause widespread violence and population movements across the region, like the Middle East crisis which led to unforeseen population movements with nearly 25,000 Bangladeshis returning home. The overall security situation remained volatile and tense in Afghanistan and Pakistan whereas political uncertainty continued in Nepal.

A severe cold wave swept across Bangladesh in January 2011, particularly in the country's northern region, taking more than 50 lives. In response to this situation, BDRCS launched a disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) appeal to assist 20,000 severely affected families (100,000 people) of 16 north western districts of Bangladesh. The outbreak of the Nipah virus during February 2011 halted the distribution of warm clothes under DREF operation in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts of Bangladesh for a number of days.

Monsoon rains and heavy flooding significantly affected countries like Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan from June to August 2011, causing severe damage and large population displacements. Over 5.2 million people were affected by flooding in the northeast states of India. Nepal and India also witnessed moderate earthquakes in September causing loss of lives and damage to infrastructure. To meet the emergency needs of the affected people, DREF operations were launched to support the affected people with shelter materials, non-food items, first aid services and safe water.

With the outbreak of dengue in Maldives, MRC initiated communication activities highlighting prevention messages and community clean-up campaigns. In Sri Lanka, despite numerous challenges, most tsunami construction projects were concluded by 30 September 2011. The recovery programming is presently focused on formalizing the closure of the tsunami operation in meeting commitments to beneficiaries and other stakeholders such as government and the donors.

During early December 2011, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement commenced joint drought response activities in five conflict affected districts in the northern part Afghanistan. Approximately 21,700 households in these districts will benefit from two rations of food supplies to sustain them until the next harvest in June or July 2012.

The reporting period also witnessed fires that swept through two Bhutanese refugee camps in the east of Nepal, destroying some 700 shelters and leaving 5,000 people homeless. NRCS responded with immediate relief items in support of efforts by UNHCR and other organizations.

¹<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/0,,pagePK:158889~piPK:146815~theSitePK:223547,00.html>

²http://www.saape.org.np/resources/publications/poverty_report03/pov_report03.htm

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management (DM)

Outcome(s)

Outcomes	Outputs
Outcome 1: Community-based preparedness or disaster risk reduction (DDR)	Build organizational capacity to enhance community-based DRR programming and improve knowledge sharing and coordination at regional and country level among the National Societies, DM/DRR organizations and government representatives working within DM/DRR.
Outcome 2: Disaster response and preparedness for response	Improve regional functional capacity and systems to respond effectively in times of disasters.

Outcome 1: Community-based preparedness or disaster risk reduction

Achievements

Disaster risk reduction

- An advocacy kit comprising 'a practical guide to advocacy for disaster risk reduction', 'facilitator's guide' and 'participants journal' has been published. A user-friendly interactive DVD linking all three documents has now been added to the kit. The DVD not only has interactive links with the above three documents, but also has additional reading or resource material and powerpoint presentations which will help the user to facilitate sessions on advocacy training for DRR.
- The final evaluation of the DipECHO project "building safer communities" has been accomplished and the final report has been received. The evaluation was done by an external evaluator through meeting with the DM focal persons in Nepal, Bhutan, India and Bangladesh and through teleconference with the DM focal persons in Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. A South Asia regional delegation 'management response' to the findings, comments and recommendations in the report was developed and shared with all stakeholders.
- The climate change adaptation (CCA) project supported by preparedness for climate change project was completed in March 2011. Brief reports from Nepal and India have been shared with the Climate Centre. Printing of DRR messages on notebooks was completed and distributed through schools in Bhutan.
- A concept paper on the future direction of regional support in CBDRR has been developed with input from National Societies, country offices and partner national society technical advisors. This paper sets out the approach that will be undertaken in providing technical advisory support to individual National Societies in the key areas of enabling them to deliver quality community impact at scale (i.e. through tailored selection of a menu of capacity building options), CCA integration in DRR, and mainstreaming DRR into National Societies' disaster response and recovery. This paper, widely circulated across National Societies, country delegations and partner National Societies, laid out the approach to be used by country office staff and PRU advisors in 2012 and beyond.
- Technical input has been provided to an Afghanistan DRR proposal and to the Maldives new DRR/CCA framework and action plan. An advisory visit was made to MRC to help shape their DRR/CCA programming and capacity building.
- Taiwan Red Cross Organisation has agreed to support SARD and country offices' programmes during three years time starting from 2011. The SARD DM team will focus on providing or mobilizing the provision of technical advisory support that benefits the National Societies of the region in delivering quality impact at vulnerable community level in line with their Strategy 2020 and aligned with DM goals. In addition, it will promote the use of regional knowledge management to identify, share, utilize

and advocate on best practice and learning. Technical advisory support is covering two main areas: (i) strengthening community resilience through CBDRR which incorporates CCA and (ii) organizational disaster preparedness through building local, national and regional capacities. This twofold strategy is envisaged to bring the regional delegation's support closer in providing a result based approach in meeting local community vulnerabilities via a deeper understanding of the country and local context and better tailored made support to address local capacity building and technical skill development to "do more, do better and reach further".

Capacity building

- MRC was technically supported to facilitate the definition of their way of working or engaging with communities in relation to community-based programming. This was especially linked to their use of vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) and is now being used by MRC in their 2011-2013 of CBDRR programming.
- SARD mobilized support, from the disaster management unit (DMU), to ARCS for a VCA training aimed at national headquarters and branch staff. This training provided an initial impetus for ARCS to explore ways to expand their CBDRR work.
- Technical support was provided to the IRCS training of trainers (ToT) in CBDRR through the facilitation of three sessions. As a result of this training, 17 out of 22 participants have been recommended to provide CBDRR training at different level such as community, district, state and national level. The remaining five participants were recommended for further training to enhance their knowledge and communication skills.



Participants having a group discussion during the CBDRR ToT training held in New Delhi from 10 to 14 October 2011. **Photo:** IRCS

Knowledge sharing

- A South Asia DM coordination meeting was held on 15 and 16 March 2011 in Kathmandu, Nepal for IFRC DM managers, supported by the Australian Red Cross and government. Knowledge and country specific challenges were shared together with coordinated planning and identification of support needed from SARD in both disaster preparedness and DRR initiatives.
- The 12th South Asia disaster management working group (DMWG), supported by Australian Red Cross and government, was held in the Maldives in September 2011, bringing together DM leaders from National Societies and country offices across the region to support and share experiences.
- Sessions on CBDRR raised awareness amongst participants on how to integrate early warning information and how to utilize climate change information in VCA processes. It also enabled a rich exchange of learning, 2012 planning priorities, identification of National Society to National Society support opportunities, and a space to challenge ourselves and agree ways forward on a range of topics including RDRT, knowledge management; volunteering in emergencies, recovery and cash programming, contingency planning, and SPHERE.
- A regional knowledge management officer was recruited during the last quarter of 2011, who will be responsible for facilitating, with the appropriate use of available technology, the identification and

documentation of lessons and best practices, sharing and dissemination of knowledge and experience for the benefit of the Movement in preparedness and resilience programming.

Regional DRR framework:

- The regional DRR framework for South Asia which was endorsed during the DMWG meeting held in Sri Lanka in November 2010 has been given final shape and printed. This document provides guidance on the direction and scope of DRR initiatives in the region, based on uniform strategic and enabling priorities.
- Two DRR advisors were recruited during the reporting period who will work closely, together with respective country offices, to support individual National Societies to identify the bottlenecks that prevent the successful implementation of specific DRR elements of community based resilience programmes. Each advisor is overseeing four countries to provide country-focused technical expertise through a long-term accompaniment process. They are based in Colombo and Kathmandu respectively to be closer to the National Societies.

Outcome 2: Disaster response and preparedness for response

Achievements

- A pre-disaster coordination meeting was facilitated in Nepal with Movement partners such as IFRC, International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), Danish Red Cross and Belgian Red Cross to agree critical steps and responsibilities for coordination during the first week of an earthquake disaster in Kathmandu.
- A pre-disaster meeting was facilitated in Pakistan together with DMU colleagues and attended by Movement partners such as IFRC, ICRC and partner National Societies (PNSs) to make progress towards a pre-disaster agreement identify priorities for preparedness and develop action plans to take these forward.



Participants from Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement involving in group presentation during the earthquake contingency plan simulation exercise held in Kathmandu in September 2011. **Photo:** NRCS

- Technical input was provided on the PRCS's standard operating procedures (SoPs) and training curriculum for national disaster response teams (NDRT); branch disaster response teams (BDRT) and district disaster response teams (DDRT). These are due to be finalized by PRCS leadership supported by Danish Red Cross and the country office.
- Technical support was provided in September 2011 to run an earthquake simulation and contingency plan revision exercise for NRCS through the use of computers. More than 60 NRCS leadership and sector team members participated in three timed scenarios. The simulation provided both a valuable learning opportunity and a coaching opportunity as a team of observers from SARD (regional DM coordinator, regional OD manager, regional health manager), operations coordinator of Asia Pacific disaster management unit (DMU) and ICRC representative were able to coach on the spot during the exercises. The learning from the simulation exercise led into a contingency planning revision workshop where the plans were updated and operationalized. This included the simplification and

reduction in size of the document, the development of key position action checklists; the prioritization of preparedness actions together with implementation plans for the top nine actions; and the development of a draft generic disaster response plan.

- Technical support was provided to SLRCS to develop flooding and dengue contingency plans. Further follow up support was provided in November 2011 to finalize the plans and to develop a wider draft disaster response and preparedness framework comprising of all the relevant building blocks.
- Monitoring has been conducted on the IFRC-supported Bhutan fire response operation and has been satisfactorily completed.
- A disaster preparedness advisor has been recruited who will work in support of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka with the PRU coordinator to provide technical disaster preparedness to the other countries.

Strengthening regional disaster response teams (RDRT) and human resource (HR) networks:

- During the year 2011, the commitment of the regional delegation was to ensure that the on-going RDRT maintenance was incorporated into 'business as usual' within the annual planning and appeal process with specific focus on administering the system, building stronger capacities and overseeing a continuous process of identifying and implementing improvements. A plan of action was supported by British Red Cross for organizing a refresher course and improving the availability of trainers for RDRT trainings, and identifying skill development opportunities other than and in addition to the traditional methods of trainings. The RDRT refresher allowed for a further 15 RDRT members to update their skills and knowledge and be evaluated whereby 14 successfully qualified.
- A RDRT induction course training was held in Bangladesh and 15 participants (out of 22 participants) were qualified to join the RDRT register in the region. The RDRT database was improved and updated. By the end of 2011, a total of 82 RDRT members including specialized trained members are ready for deployment. This database is a crucial link for RDRT deployments and most importantly minimizes time duration for deployment. Various features of the database give an access to the details of members in an organized manner and also facilitate sending of e-mail alerts to all the RDRT members at one go. E-mail alerts were sent via the database to mobilize RDRTs for Pakistan flood response operations.

Constraints or Challenges

It has taken significant time and effort to secure the funding support and undertake the necessary recruitment to equip the regional DM team with the necessary technical expertise. The new team is in place from the start of January 2012. However, the new PRU will provide integrated health, DM and OD technical support in 2012 and beyond. The DM resource gaps in 2011, pointed out several of the planned country-specific areas of technical support have not been accomplished. Specifically, this includes two CBDRR ToT training events, further support to the adaptation of country-specific CBDRR materials, support to two additional NDRT trainings, support to two additional National Societies to test their contingency plans, and conducting one needs assessment training. Those planned activities which still fit with individual National Society priorities for 2012 will be addressed during that year under the new model of technical advisory support to be provided.

Health and care

Outcome(s)

Outcomes	Outputs
Outcome 1: Regional health capacity support	National Societies have improved HIV and AIDS and other public health programming.
Outcome 2: Regional health partnership and resource development project.	National Societies have improved organizational capacity in mobilizing resources, building partnerships and advocacy for health programmes.

Outcome 1: Regional health capacity support

Achievements

The regional health and care programme focused on assisting National Societies in their endeavour to reduce vulnerability due to poor health by enhancing their capacity to respond to HIV and other public health issues in emergencies and in peace times, through partnership, advocacy and resource development initiatives. Furthermore, the focus was on the scaling up of CBHFA activities and rolling out the global CBHFA in action across the region.

Emergency health

- With an aim to develop capacities in emergency health, and the trained health professionals recommended to be part of the RDRT/NDRT roster after RDRT/ NDRT induction, SARD organized an emergency health training course in Nepal from 3 to 9 April 2011 and attended by 20 participants.
- A national level emergency health training was held in Pakistan from 3 to 6 June 2011 with support from the regional health coordinator, zone emergency health coordinator, health coordinator from the Pakistan country office and resource persons from different national, international and UN organizations. The training focused on having a health in emergencies plan jointly with relevant stakeholders and an equipped emergency relief team in place to provide service at critical times. A training report highlighting lessons learnt and recommendations for improvement in future IFRC emergency health trainings have been prepared and shared. The funding support for this training was provided by the regional DM team.

National epidemic control for volunteers (ECV) and nutrition trainings and polio campaign

- SARD provided facilitation support to the ECV training conducted in Pakistan from 20 to 22 June 2011 with an aim to strengthen the capacity of the PRCS response in managing epidemics and to harmonize with the existing CBHFA approach.

Dengue campaign

- In an effort to support national authorities in responding to the dengue outbreak (June to July 2011) in Maldives, MRC initiated communication activities highlighting prevention messages, as well as community clean-up campaigns in the communities. The regional health team provided support in sharing the information, education, communication (IEC) material developed in the region considering the expatriates in Maldives are labourers and majority are from neighbouring countries Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Outcome 2: Regional health partnership and resource development project

Achievements

The regional health team made efforts to mobilize resources in the region by submitting proposals to various donors. This is also an effort to diversify the funding sources and not depend on one funding source. Much of the focus was to diversify the programmes but simultaneously move forward with the promotion of the CBHFA approach. The various themes for which the regional health team has submitted programme documents are promotion of sexual and reproductive health in region, child protection focused interventions utilizing the CBHFA approach. The regular dissemination of consolidated monthly reports from regional health team and health programmes in all seven National Societies help in sharing information about their programmes.

Pakistan technical support mission

- Opportunities for collaboration were explored between WHO and PRCS in order to work together to strengthen the next polio eradication priority campaign. Meetings were held with WHO and United

Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) officials with PRCS and Pakistan country office for upcoming polio campaigns in Pakistan.

Epidemic control for volunteers (ECV) in South Asia

- A proposal on ECV was submitted by the regional health team to the Canadian Red Cross which focused on supporting country initiatives through improved coordination, advocacy, and knowledge transfer, training and technical services. It is envisaged that these interventions and strategies will help in raising awareness and in promoting action and impact in reducing mortality and morbidity. The project also focuses on scaling up of the Red Cross Red Crescent responses for epidemics in all countries of South Asia region particularly in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India and Maldives in collaboration with key partners and stakeholders. The initial concept note focusing on strengthening the South Asia Red Cross Red Crescent emergency health response focusing on epidemic control for two years has been approved by the Canadian Red Cross.

Regional Tuberculosis (TB) control project

- To contribute to reducing the mortality and morbidity due to TB and multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB in selected communities of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Nepal, a proposal was drafted by regional health team and submitted to Geneva and Asia Pacific zone office for negotiations with donors. In NRCS, polio intervention technical support was provided and the programme documents were reviewed and commented upon by the regional health team.
- An evaluation was done by the Hong Kong branch of the Red Cross Society of China for HIV and public health in emergencies (PHiE) project (2008-2011) in Andhra Pradesh during June and July 2011. Various field visits and discussions were held in all four districts with schools, colleges, communities, partner organizations, people living with HIV (PLHIVs) networks and government institutions to assess the impact of the programme after a period of two years.

Measles – India

- A concept paper has been developed by regional health team for IRCS and IFRC India country office for social mobilization in measles campaign. The target age group of this campaign is infants and children from nine months to ten years old irrespective of their previous measles vaccination status or measles infection. The concept paper is being reviewed by the American Red Cross.
- UNICEF has welcomed the possible partnership of Red Cross in Measles campaign. Some of the key areas that were explored where IRCS can play a key role in dissemination of IEC/IPC materials, helping in waste management, social mobilization or rallies, assisting health workers at campsite, door-to-door campaign, advocacy and immunization support in private schools, and advocacy with key stakeholders.
- A meeting was held in November 2011 with WHO India Measles technical focal points, IFRC and American Red Cross regional representative. WHO sees IRCS as one of the potential key stakeholders for social mobilization campaign and intends to bring IRCS on board through Red Cross Red Crescent Movement participation in national and other levels steering committee. The areas where the Movement can play a key role in measles targeted district were explored and discussed.

Taiwan Red Cross

- The health component in the four-year concept paper to Taiwan Red Cross Organisation will focus on assisting National Societies in their endeavour to reduce vulnerability by enhancing their capacity to respond to public health issues in emergencies, HIV, TB and other major diseases, through partnership, advocacy and resources development initiatives.
- Technical advice and support will be provided in two main areas:- (i) Enhancing health capacity to National Societies to implement public health programmes; (ii) Improving organization capacity in mobilizing resources, building partnership and in advocacy for health programmes.

Meeting with WHO, South East Asia regional office (SEARO)

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WHO-SEARO and IFRC has been renewed to 31 December 2013. As an observer, the regional health and care coordinator attended a meeting with WHO-SEARO for the development of the joint work plan and how to proceed with the work plan.

Organizational development (OD)**Outcome(s)**

Outcomes	Outputs
Outcome 1: Strategic OD and capacity building support.	National Societies have policies, systems and procedures that enable better programme implementation.
Outcome 2: Communication development project.	Communication and advocacy for the most vulnerable at National Society and regional level are more effective.
Outcome 3: Finance development.	National Society capacity in financial accountability, reporting, management is strengthened.
Outcome 4: PMER development.	The capacity of National Societies in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting is strengthened further.

Outcome 1: Strategic OD and capacity building support**Achievements:**

- During the reporting period, MRC, ARCS, NRCS, PRCS and SLRCS have completed and published their strategic plans. While BDRCS is in process of finalizing their revised strategic plan and IRCS will plan to review and start the process of their new strategic plan in 2012. These strategic plans are used as basis for programming and implementation in all National Societies of the South Asia region. To further strengthen the understanding of integrated programme approach (IPA) and its implementation at the National Society level, together with the regional DM team, a regional proposal on 'organizational disaster preparedness – capacity building of National Societies in South Asia' was developed and shared with Asia Pacific zone office and few other PNSs. The proposal aims at integration and developing OD and capacity building in emergencies skills and capacity in three National Societies so that they will be able to develop their own long term development plan. The organizational disaster preparedness (ODP) concept was also introduced during the DMWG meeting held in Maldives in September 2011. A few priorities areas of integration such as HR development, volunteer management (including database), branch development and internal communication development were identified and documented. A South Asia regional fundraising seminar was conducted in Sri Lanka from 9 to 13 May 2011 in order to enhance the capacity of the South Asian National Societies. The main aim of the seminar was to provide SLRCS a platform to increase knowledge, skill and good practices in resource mobilization and eventually share expertise and resources. In order to ensure that the learning needs and expectations of participants were met, needs assessment questionnaires were sent to each participant and National Society. The main areas of focus from the needs assessment were proposal writing, corporate fundraising and improvement in communications. Follow-up on the commitments by the participants are carried out by SARD on a regular basis. In order to integrate OD perspective to strengthen National Society contingency planning, a WebEx conference was organized for IRCS, PRCS and NRCS in August 2011. As a follow-up of a South Asia regional fundraising seminar which was conducted in Sri Lanka in May 2011, SLRCS disseminated the knowledge gained by the seminar participants with other branches. The learning was also shared with all branch executive officers at the bi-monthly meetings. An earthquake simulation exercise was conducted for NRCS in September 2011 during which technical OD inputs (how the National Society should be institutionally well functioned to address the needs of the

vulnerable people during an earthquake in the Kathmandu valley) were incorporated. NRCS and PRCS were awarded with CHF 5,000 each by the regional delegation for their proposal on celebrating International Volunteers Day. PRCS was also awarded the volunteer award for their proposal on volunteer management by Geneva. Inputs were provided by IFRC to NRCS on strengthening various documents related to volunteering and to IRCS on their draft youth toolkit (training manual for facilitator, staff and junior/youth Red Cross coordinator). The PRCS youth and volunteer booklet and the NRCS youth policy and volunteer's policy was shared with IRCS. Following discussions with the Canadian Red Cross Asia Pacific representative and OD advisor, a coordination mechanism was established to share the update on OD support to the National Societies of Maldives and Sri Lanka. The first South Asia online OD forum was organized on 7 December 2011 with seven participants from four National Societies (BDRCS, MRC, NRCS and PRCS) and eight participants from IFRC (including country offices in South Asia region, SARD and Asia Pacific zone office). In addition to the presentations made by MRC, NRCS, PRCS and SLRCS on achievements of 2011 and plans of 2012, discussions also took place on the review of the 2010 OD forum, briefing on PRU and new framework on National Society development. Participants further suggested a forum on specific thematic areas, mainly on sustainability and fundraising, youth and volunteers (retaining volunteers). Asia Pacific zone office also shared information related to the volunteer insurance. With reference to the four-year concept paper submitted to Taiwan Red Cross Organisation, the regional OD team will continue its support to the health and care and DM team members in areas such as voluntary investment and value audit, real time OD assessments and OD in emergencies. Tailor-made OD and capacity building interventions will continue especially meeting membership requirements of National Society in the region such as legal base, constitution and policy and planning development and ensuring effective and timely support. There will be continued support to develop the financial management, communication, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) and resource mobilization capacity of National Societies with an increased effort to bridge the IT divide as articulated in Strategy 2020.

Outcome 2: Communication development project

Achievements:

In the first quarter of 2011, the IFRC's president along with under secretary general (USG) for humanitarian diplomacy visited India. Various events have been organized by SARD and IRCS.

- A one-day South Asia National Societies' leadership meeting was held and attended by the leadership of ARCS, BDRCS, IRCS, MRC, NRCS, PRCS and SLRCS. The IFRC's president emphasized human and financial cost of humanitarian crises in South Asia, giving rise to an urgent need to scale up disaster preparedness and risk reduction. He also highlighted the importance of engaging with governments in the region to strengthen domestic laws and procedures to facilitate international



Participants attending the beneficiary communication session at the regional communications workshop from 5 to 7 December 2011.

Photo: IFRC

disaster response, using the International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) guidelines as a basis. In addition, a corporate event was hosted by the IFRC's president and USG for humanitarian diplomacy. The minister for corporate affairs, European Union ambassador, representatives from European commission humanitarian aid (ECHO), DFID, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Mahindra, and Coca Cola attended the event which is seen as a launch to build and strengthen partnerships with the National Societies in the region. A one-day meeting was organized on 3 February 2011 with the NRCS's secretary general to discuss the progress, future plan and required support from SARD on OD and other programme areas. Other attendees include IFRC's Nepal representative, head of regional delegation, regional programme coordinator, DM delegate, health delegate and OD manager. IFRC Afghanistan country office hosted an "effective communications and understanding the media workshop" in April 2011, where 20 members of the National Society and the country office. Sri Lanka hosted a three-day workshop in August 2011 where 20 journalists participated in to exchange experiences and address challenges on disaster and humanitarian reporting. The workshop will be replicated in several branches across the country. The South Asia communication programme supports global initiatives in the region like the International Year of Volunteers, World Aids Day and World Disaster Report (WDR). The WDR 2011 report was launched on 22 September 2011 in Delhi which focused on hunger and malnutrition. The South Asia regional communication workshop was held in December 2011 with 25 communicators (officers and delegates) from the seven country offices and National Societies. The three-day workshop includes engaging the participants' communication skills in strengthening the regional communication network and an introduction of the principles and impact of beneficiary communications and how to integrate with a strategic approach.

Outcome 3: Finance development

Achievements

- A new version of the Navision finance software (version 6.1) has been customized for IRCS and accordingly user acceptance training has been completed.
- Technical support was provided to ARCS, PRCS and NRCS in their process of replacing their existing (SCALA and QuickBooks to Navision 6.1) finance software. Related workshops were conducted for BDRCS, MRC and NRCS to use financial management tools in a cost effective, controlled and accountable way and also develop skills for the programme and finance teams in order to produce accurate and timely and balanced reports.

Outcome 4: Planning Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) development

Achievements

- Much of the focus during the reporting period continued in supporting PMER capacity for countries in South Asia and the development of the long term planning framework (LTPF) for 2012-2015 and the plan of action (PoA) for 2012.
- A regional PMER network meeting took place in December 2011, bringing together the PMER focal people from country, region and Asia Pacific zone offices to share, interact, discuss on challenges and opportunities. The two-day meeting covers topics such as managing bulk of reports during emergencies and peace time and donor expectations from country offices and from reports. The network meeting provided a platform for knowledge sharing among the seven South Asian country offices, advocated for building PME capacity of focal PMER personnel in each country office, explored opportunities to set up a regional task force for emergency reporting and built the capacity of focal PMER staff for statistical analysis of data while reporting.
- During the last quarter of 2011, the regional planning and reporting officer attended a three-day DG-ECHO training held in London in order to learn the procedures of reporting for ECHO funded projects

and to acquire the knowledge required for the management and submission of the e-single form and other financial and procurement aspects.

Constraints or Challenges

During the first quarter of 2011, some of the regional finance development planned activities such as the regional finance directors meeting, finance management in emergencies training, software up-gradation for BDRCS could not be achieved due to funding constraints. All of these activities will be carried out in 2012.

The occurrence of mega disasters and unstable security situation (related to political and social issues) in many countries in the region have hampered the implementation and monitoring of development programmes of the National Societies.

Principles and values

Outcome(s)

Outcomes	Outputs
Outcome 1: Promotion and integration of principles and values.	National Societies and IFRC country offices show an increased understanding and integration of Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

Outcome 1: Promotion and integration of Principles and Values.

Achievements:

- Technical input was provided to the SLRCS’s proposal on “Volunteers in Action” for their post recovery project. This proposal has a combination of the psycho social support (PSP) and youths as agents of behavioural change (YABC) component. Principles and values component was discussed with the regional health team and has been integrated in the regional proposal on Social Mobilization for National Immunization Day (Polio) for 14 districts of NRCS. A YABC peer educators training on the promotion of a culture of non-violence and peace for Red Cross Red Crescent youth was hosted by BDRCS with support from SARD and the Principles and Values unit of Geneva from 12 to 18 December 2012. A total of 27 youth representatives (BDRCS: 11, IRCS: 3, NRCS: 6, PRCS: 6 and Asia Pacific zone office: 1) participated in the training. The facilitation was provided by Principles and Values unit of Geneva, Lebanese Red Cross and PRCS. Youths actively participated the seven-days extensive training and learnt how to use the YABC toolkit, necessary skills to inspire behavioural change such as empathy, active listening, critical thinking, non-judgment, mediation, non-violent communication and peaceful resolution of tensions. They were also introduced to the role of a YABC peer educator within communities, in which has an objective to empower youth leaders of South Asia regions to:



Participants representing their countries during the YABC training in Bangladesh. **Photo:** IFRC

- o Be agents of behavioural change within their communities, promoting a culture of non- violence

- and peace, and implementing the YABC initiative in their National Society's structure.
- Improve youth-led service delivery for vulnerable, through greater exchange of good practices and technical assistance (foster cross-regional networking).
- Take an active role in the implementation of the IFRC Strategy 2020, the Youth Declaration and the Amman Commitment, at the national level, profiling youth contribution and developing national youth strategies.
- A similar training will be conducted in early 2012 for the remaining National Societies within the region, with the aim that the youths trained in the YABC tool kit can contextualize the tools based on their National Societies' needs and take it forward.
- A database of trained YABC peer educators from South Asia region was developed and shared with the Asia Pacific zone office and the Principles and Values section in Geneva.

Working in partnership

There will be improved coordination and knowledge sharing between various agencies following the initiative to assess, elaborate and document the existing knowledge sharing systems.

The quality of tools developed during the DipECHO project such as development of CBDRR ToT kit and advocacy training kit have gone through a consultative process, which included suggestions from DRR stakeholders from within and outside the region before they were published.

Within the Movement, development of first aid guidelines called 'First Aid is Easy' was accomplished through an integrated effort between the DM and health and care departments.

The DipECHO project also contributed to strengthen relationship between IFRC and SAARC's DM centre through participation in different training programmes.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The recommendations from the eighth regional DMWG meeting will further improve the disaster response capacity and system of National Societies, making these more effective and efficient. The NDRT/RDRT task force formed by the regional DMWG will continue to advocate RDRT redeployment in their respective National Societies. In addition, the RDRT/HR database will support the timely mobilization of trained RDRT and other human resources, as well as identify their specific skills and professional development areas and monitor the RDRT/HR development system not only within the region but also in the Asia Pacific region. Trained RDRT members have already been contributing not only to the region but also within their own National Societies towards strengthening the national disaster response systems. Furthermore, the regional DRR framework will encourage to the National Societies having their DRR implementation strategy and guidelines, in line with the global and regional approach towards DRR with focus being on the community.

The longer term impact of the DipECHO-supported 'building safer communities' initiative will be felt over a period of time when the National Societies and country offices will start using the tools developed under this project. However, the project has laid a strong foundation for meeting future needs of the organization. These tools will act as a catalyst for more balanced approach with both preparedness for response and community risk reduction that all the National Societies in the region are moving forward to.

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 IFRC's global health and care strategy. Furthermore, the focus will be on scaling up of CBHFA activities and rolling out the global CBHFA in action across the region. The health programme is also committed to the integrated programming.

The newly proposed approach to working closely with National Societies in providing technical advisory support over the next five years highlights that SARD is committed to working with country offices to provide technical support to National Societies to enable them in delivering measurable impact at scale. This means a dedicated focus on building capacity and working towards organizational change that minimizes the challenges of top-down initiatives faced by National Societies.

Looking ahead

Within the Secretariat's business model to recognize the Strategy 2020 and the objectives of the Secretary General, the programmes of SARD will continue to contribute to the IFRC Business Lines as articulated below.

During the last quarter of 2011, SARD's PRU was established in order to provide integrated technical advisory support to country offices and National Societies in the region targeting to quality impacts at vulnerable community level in line with the Strategy 2020. It will also promote the use of regional knowledge management to identify, share, utilise and advocate on best practice and learning. Technical advisory support will be in three main areas:

- i. Organizational disaster preparedness through strengthening local, national and regional capacities to respond to health emergencies, disasters and crises.
- ii. Strengthening community resilience through community-based approaches that increase the resilience of vulnerable communities to the risks posed by hazards, climate change and health issues.
- iii. Strengthening National Society capacities in their auxiliary role to government in reducing the burden of public health issues.

Under Coordination, SARD will form new partnerships, strengthen existing partnerships and promote a holistic planning process. It will also follow the global initiative of humanitarian diplomacy by developing a South Asia HD framework which focuses on both SARD supporting National Societies and IFRC country offices in the region, as well as SARD advocacy practices on regional issues.

Tailor-made OD interventions will continue, especially meeting membership requirements of National Society in the region such as legal base, constitution and policy and planning development and ensuring effective and timely support. There will be continued support to develop the communications, PMER capacity of National Societies with an increased effort to bridge digital divide as articulated in Strategy 2020.

In line with the new priorities of Strategy 2020, humanitarian diplomacy will be a high priority in the region of South Asia, 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.

How we work

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

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

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

Development Programme Financial Report

MAA52001 - South Asia

Annual Report 2011

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/1-2011/9998
Budget Timeframe	2011/1-2011/12
Programme	MAA52001
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget	500,756	211,581	315,276		270,714	1,298,327	
B. Opening Balance	281,626	126,353	135,248	26,063	204,758	774,047	
Income							
Cash contributions							
<i>Australian Red Cross</i>					55,818	55,818	
<i>Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government)</i>	44,548				0	44,548	
<i>British Red Cross</i>	178,578					178,578	
<i>British Red Cross (from DFID - British Government)</i>	28,005					28,005	
<i>Danish Red Cross</i>	30,000		-0			30,000	
<i>DFID Partnership grant</i>			65,836			65,836	141,054
<i>European Commission - DG ECHO</i>	-3,302					-3,302	
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	0	-2,161			11,052	8,891	
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>		-12,244			62,629	50,385	
<i>Japanese Red Cross Society</i>	42,662	21,331	31,996		0	95,989	
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>	90,825		90,825			181,651	
<i>Swiss Red Cross</i>	5,000					5,000	
<i>Taiwan Red Cross Organisation</i>	482,789	343,127			91,768	917,684	
<i>The Canadian Red Cross Society</i>	184,502	132,410				316,912	
C1. Cash contributions	1,083,607	482,463	188,657		221,267	1,975,994	141,054
Inkind Personnel							
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>					33,063	33,063	
<i>Italian Red Cross</i>		95,550				95,550	
C3. Inkind Personnel		95,550			33,063	128,613	
Other Income							
<i>Balance Reallocation</i>			26,063	-26,063		-0	
<i>Services Fees</i>					66,933	66,933	
C4. Other Income			26,063	-26,063	66,933	66,933	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	1,083,607	578,013	214,720	-26,063	321,264	2,171,541	141,054
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,365,233	704,366	349,968	0	526,021	2,945,588	141,054
Coverage = D / A	273%	333%	111%		194%	227%	

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance	281,626	126,353	135,248	26,063	204,758	774,047	
C. Income	1,083,607	578,013	214,720	-26,063	321,264	2,171,541	141,054
E. Expenditure	-489,092	-202,643	-273,284	0	-267,235	-1,232,253	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	876,141	501,723	76,684	0	258,787	1,713,335	141,054

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All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		500,756	211,581	315,276		270,714	1,298,327	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Construction Materials			14,232				14,232	-14,232
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	65,566							65,566
Total Relief items, Construction, Suj	65,566	14,232					14,232	51,334
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings	997							997
Computers & Telecom	21,513		1,013	15,490			16,503	5,010
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	22,510		1,013	15,490			16,503	6,007
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicles Costs	19,774	12,576				7,038	19,614	161
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	19,774	12,576				7,038	19,614	161
Personnel								
International Staff	521,631	147,504	142,816	105,067		115,963	511,350	10,281
National Staff	192,408	60,622	41,650	9,722		53,306	165,300	27,107
National Society Staff	570			3,542			3,542	-2,972
Volunteers				252			252	-252
Total Personnel	714,609	208,126	184,466	118,582		169,269	680,444	34,165
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	47,323	23,594		12,928		1,571	38,092	9,231
Professional Fees	7,661					7,611	7,611	50
Total Consultants & Professional Fe	54,984	23,594		12,928		9,182	45,703	9,280
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	199,472	98,579		91,333		6,606	196,518	2,954
Total Workshops & Training	199,472	98,579		91,333		6,606	196,518	2,954
General Expenditure								
Travel	28,321	17,706	4,065	8,259		3,063	33,093	-4,772
Information & Public Relations	25,090	10,388		8,075		46	18,508	6,581
Office Costs	46,600	4,719	65	2,686		32,405	39,874	6,725
Communications	13,634	5,921	1,083	3,672		3,191	13,867	-233
Financial Charges	18,568	-31	-45	13		25,738	25,676	-7,108
Other General Expenses	9,958	10,709	4,285	200		-4,686	10,507	-549
Total General Expenditure	142,171	49,411	9,453	22,905		59,757	141,527	645
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		46,954		-6,007			40,947	-40,947
Total Operational Provisions		46,954		-6,007			40,947	-40,947
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	79,241	29,476	6,460	16,590		14,221	66,747	12,494
Total Indirect Costs	79,241	29,476	6,460	16,590		14,221	66,747	12,494
Pledge Specific Costs								
Pledge Earmarking Fee		4,166	943	989		621	6,719	-6,719
Pledge Reporting Fees		1,978	307	473		542	3,300	-3,300
Total Pledge Specific Costs		6,144	1,250	1,462		1,162	10,019	-10,019
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,298,327	489,092	202,643	273,284		267,235	1,232,253	66,073
VARIANCE (C - D)		11,664	8,939	41,992	0	3,479	66,073	