

PROGRAMME UPDATE



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 REGION

8 January 2002

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.33/2001

Appeal Target CHF 2,414,190

Programme Update No. 2 Period covered: 1 July to 31 December (last Programme Update issued Programme Update no. 1, issued 13 August 2001;

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 76.2%

Related Appeals: 01.36/2001 India

Outstanding needs: CHF 574,066

Update: The withdrawal of the Federation’s delegation in Afghanistan and the projected scale of the impending refugee influx into Pakistan required initial support from the South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD). This necessary shift in focus has meant a slowing of progress in implementing long term programming. Donor support for the region has been good. Overall, the regional delegation has proved in many areas that it has added value to various country programmes in support of vulnerable people. This has been highlighted in its assistance in the huge relief and rehabilitation operation in the wake of the Gujarat earthquake (Appeal 20/01).

Operational Developments:

The regional delegation was in catch-up mode in the second half of 2001 because of the enormous workload created by the January 26 earthquake. The disaster consumed 800 work days. This meant the intended objectives of the Appeal 2001 were not fully achieved by South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD) during the first six months.

Just as the delegation was making progress in implementing a backlog of outstanding work in the second half of 2001, the 11 September incident attacks on the US occurred. This has had a huge impact on all countries in South Asia with Afghanistan experiencing further conflict. Neighbouring Pakistan has suffered politically, socially and economically. India, Nepal and even distant Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have faced tightened security and have reinforced their police and armed forces, with some national funding intended for health, welfare and development, diverted away from their population and increasing the vulnerability in the poorer

sectors. Instability in Nepal caused by the increasing activity by Maoists and the continuing conflict in Sri Lanka contribute to a pessimistic outlook for long term regional stability.

Finally the tensions between Pakistan and India has increased during the latter half of the year. A peak was reached on 13 December when an attack on the Indian Parliament took place. This was followed by a build up of troops along the line of control between the countries.

However on the positive side, SAARC, the regional co-operation forum attended by heads of states, is planned to be held in Nepal early next year . The forum may come up with co-operation strategies to improve Regional co-operation and stability. In addition, the newly elected governments in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka may also have positive effects.

In the meantime the socio-economic trends in the South Asia region have continued to be of concern to commentators. Their effects on increasing vulnerability for those with already reduced access to public services are of concern to all humanitarian institutions. The key export markets for the region have been experiencing serious economic downturn: the European Union's growth was around only 1.6% in 2000, and 1.5% in 2001, the USA had a 1% growth rate for 2000 and 2001, while Japan had have negative growth in both years, and the volume of world trade, which grew by 13% in 2000, have fallen to zero in 2001. The East and South East Asian countries other than China are in, or close to, a recession and perhaps another financial crisis.

Although India continued to experience moderate growth at 5.2% in 2000 and 5.8% in 2001, other countries of the Region are not so insulated from external forces by import and exchange regulations. The funds available for social sector spending will decrease, leaving vulnerable populations in urgent search of the basic humanitarian and development essentials in their lives.

Preparations were well underway for a Secretary General's meeting in Kabul in October. This planned 3 day meeting was postponed and a curtailed meeting was held in Geneva after the Council of Delegates.

The withdrawal of the Federation's delegation in Afghanistan and the projected scale of the impending refugee influx into Pakistan required initial support from the Regional Delegation. The Head of Regional Delegation spent three weeks in Pakistan between 18 September and 16 October setting up the relief operation and the Regional Information Delegate spent one week assisting the Pakistan Red Crescent with information tasks such as media and advocacy issues.

The Sri Lanka RC, supported by SARD, launched a drought operation (see appeal 25/2001 issued on 14 August) in a textbook example of advocating on slow onset disasters. The lessons learnt from this operation that have won acclaim from Government and a wide range of other institutions across Sri Lanka have also been fed into a Regional disaster preparedness (DP) workshop. A case study on this and other successful operations will be one way of SARD increasing the knowledge sharing between National Societies (NS) in the Region for them to be able to facilitate their own mutual capacity building agendas.

Significant progress has been made in improving the foundation of each national society through focusing attention on constitutional review. The action plans produced at the constitutional review workshop held in Sri Lanka in June have been included in a comprehensive report and are being followed up in individual countries.

The adoption of the new constitution by the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in November, has been a major achievement with the support of the Federation and ICRC delegates in country. This will serve as a modern and effective model for the rest of the region in line with Federation priorities.

The new generation of cooperation agreement strategies (CAS) are underway in Nepal, Bangladesh and Afghanistan (the initial work being done before the crisis). The first draft of the Regional CAS has been completed and is about to be circulated to each NS in the region, the ICRC and to the Secretariat for further consideration.

An HIV/AIDS network has been set up and there is an active regional health managers forum, and a safe blood forum which is seeing NS working together more effectively. Similarly, all the Finance Directors in the region

attended a regional Finance development workshop in Nepal, a regional meeting of human resource managers where HR standards and policies were set, and a manual produced.

Disaster Preparedness

A Regional Disaster Response Delegate (RDRD) was appointed from 1 October 2001. This has enabled the regional disaster preparedness program to gain momentum through the fourth quarter of the year. The new RDRD will be responsible for all new disaster response operations in the region. He is already involved in closing all existing relief operation run by regional delegation and has also been involved in floods in Andhra Pradesh during the middle of October.

This increased capacity in the disaster management unit has allowed the regional disaster preparedness programme to move forward and catch up with the slow progress of first six months of the year, as mentioned in a previous update. Achievements against Appeal objectives for the last two quarters of the year are as follows :

Objective 1 : To develop, through regional workshops, a shared understanding among National Societies in South Asia on developing common standards and guidelines, drafting and adopting a regional disaster preparedness policy and action plan, and learning from regional case studies and evaluations.

The second regional DP workshop was held in Delhi from 22 to 25 October 2001. This workshop built upon the first regional workshop of 2000, and was designed to share knowledge, review draft regional DP policy, examine training material for standardisation and to introduce advocacy as a concept in RC/RC DP/DR programmes. Three participants (DP practitioners) from all NSs in the region, four Federation DP delegates, one Federation health delegate and two bilateral DP delegates working in the region were invited to the workshop.

A day was spent on sharing information between the participants, where each country gave a clear presentation with focus on - success of the programme, problems encountered and constraints in implementation, lessons learned so far, future plans and how these have been influenced by past experiences. Other sessions included were, training on information and advocacy issues, discussions on Regional field assessment and coordination team (FACT) concept and regional DP Policy review.

The draft regional DP policy was discussed at length during the workshop. The main issues of concern were, structure for the document and what should this document be called. The recommendation from the workshop was a a clear structure of the document and its eight policy priorities. It was also recommended that the regional delegation will further complete this draft and circulate to each NS for comments before a final presentation in next secretary general meeting for approval. This draft has been produced since then and comments received from NS. This document, regional disaster preparedness policy priorities, will now be presented at the secretary general meeting in January 2002.

Two more structured lesson-learned exercises were conducted during the reporting period in India and Sri Lanka. In India, the exercise was conducted with the help of a local consultant at state level, while the regional delegation facilitated a branch level lessons learned exercise in Sri Lanka. A Case Study documenting the four "Lessons Learned" exercises carried out this year in Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan, is nearing completion and will be published by early January. The exercises were carried out to review and learn from response activities following disasters during 2001.

The Regional Delegation is also facilitating a chapter for the World Disaster Report (WDR), which will document community based disaster preparedness by the Nepal Red Cross. An independent writer has been commissioned after consultation with editor of WDR, with a brief to investigate if investment in CDBP programmes has paid by making communities more self reliant.

A strengths, weakness, opportunities threats analysis (SWOT) of regional DP programme has also been done to take NS feedback. National Society participants felt that knowledge sharing, best practice documentation, investment in developing HR for disaster management and a strong regional team for technical advice were some of the strengths of the programme. They felt that different level of disaster management experience in NS

made it difficult for a big regionalisation strategy and therefore was a big weakness in the programme. Another weakness highlighted was the lack of training (both technical and capacity building of NS in DM) in the programme. Based on this analysis NS recommended that regional disaster preparedness programme should focus on the following areas.

- Strategic approach to regional and local fund raising and development of longer term sustainable DP programmes.
- Increase networking and co-operation within and outside RCRC on Disaster Management
- Standardise training material and modules for basic DM and CBDP.
- Improve human resources in the NS through more training and introduction of all Federation concepts like FACT and advocacy.

Objective 2 : *To review and assess the existing disaster preparedness training modules in current use by all National Societies and draft, develop and implement training modules for disaster preparedness for common disasters in the region.*

As mentioned in the previous update progress on this objective has been limited. During the regional DP workshop some more training material has been collected. But the actual review of this training material and various training modules will be done in 2002. Work on developing standardised DP training materials for South Asia, a decision from the Regional DP Workshop, will commence early next year once the holiday season has ended. This will be a long task which will need careful planning. A small Working Group (one member from each NS along with Federation delegates) has therefore been set up to guide this process. The group will meet in early next year to discuss and to decide who does what and to agree on a time-frame for the work.

Standard Federation Disaster Management Training material and a copy of community based self reliance manual has been shared with all NS and country delegations in the region. This material is already in use by some of the projects running in the region, like the Assam community risk reduction programme.

Objective 3 : *To establish regional Rapid Assessment Teams, comprising personnel trained in multi-sectoral assessments, Sphere standards and other current assessment tools and techniques, drawn from all National Societies in the region, in order to improve the timely, appropriate, and professional quality of assessment and response.*

A decision was taken during the regional DP workshop by NS to align regional thinking of Rapid Assessment Teams to the new standard Federation FACT concept. The recommendation from the discussions on the regional FACT concept were at two levels. On the administrative level NS agreed that the Regional Delegation should co-ordinate with Geneva on all future FACT deployments in the region and ensure that all such teams will at least have one member from the region. On the conceptual level, NS wanted regional delegation to commit to increase the numbers of FACT trained staff within each NS. National Societies also agreed to invest in training their own staff on assessment techniques and use FACT material for all such training.

In the meantime Regional Delegation supported four people from the region in a FACT workshop held in Singapore. Two people from the region participated in an emergency response unit (ERU) workshop. Two people within the region were sent to a basic Logistic workshop in Budapest while another staff from the Regional Delegation was sent to a similar course in Geneva. Two NS staff were also sponsored to Bangkok for a 3 week disaster management course. A conscious effort is being made to select pool and train them in various disaster management training. This core of trained pool will help the Regional Delegation to build a strong regional disaster management team.

1500 SPHERE handbooks have been distributed in the NS and a plan to train more NS staff on SPHERE standards is in place for 2002.

This objective will from 2002 be part of a regional disaster response programme.

Objective 4 : *To develop a regional Disaster Preparedness (DP) Network, using newsletter communications and a twice yearly meeting for representatives from each Society to share achievements and learning; develop co-ordinated networking strategies with other agencies having a*

regional presence and strategy; link up with other country level DP networks and other regions' networks for shared learning; ensure that effective disaster preparedness and management policies and practices are placed more prominently on the agendas of all responsible institutions.

A structured approach towards developing a DP network has been adopted. A database has been established of various DP stakeholders in the region (Red Cross/Red Crescent stakeholders as well as Governments and other partners). Contacts and meetings have been initiated with these stakeholders to discuss country (CARE, UNDP and Governments) /regional (DFID, ECHO and Oxfam) DP issues and share experiences. Regional Delegation team has also provided input into country DP programmes through monitoring visits and reviewing plans.

The regional DP network was finally launched in December with the launch of a regional DP news letter. The news letter, which is "chatty" in its format aims to provide DM staff in the region quick information about events happening in their field within or outside the Red Cross Red Crescent. This news letter will also serve as a platform for knowledge sharing between the yearly regional DP workshops.

During the last quarter of the year, regional delegation has also created a small technical library on disaster management publication. This will act as a resource for NS and country delegations and various staff on loan to the regional delegation.

In December, the Regional Delegation organised a structured learning visit for Sri Lanka Red Cross to Bangladesh Red Crescent. The objectives of the visits were to learn about vulnerability assessment processes and tools in use, the training curriculum used to train community level DP volunteers, experiences of effective co-ordination with Government and other NGOs and the roles of NHQ and Branches in this respect, and the roles and functioning of DP and Relief Committees. A similar visit was also planned for Indian Red Cross and Pakistan Red Crescent to Nepal Red Cross, but the sudden change in the political situation of Nepal did not allow this to happen in 2001. This visit has now been postponed to early 2002.

Objective 5 : To improve the regional approach to communications during disasters by defining a common set of policies and practices on information flow and communications logistics as part of disaster preparedness programmes.

Half day training was given to the DP practitioners in the region on advocacy concepts and how to incorporate it in the DPDR work of NS. During the same training, practical exercises were conducted on how to deal with the media after disasters and use them for RCRC advantage. Information officers on secondment to the Regional Delegation were also shown new disaster management information tools (like DMIS) and were also introduced to various Federation assessment and emergency appeal formats. Sri Lanka Red Cross and Nepal Red Cross information departments were also provided with digital cameras. This was based on the lessons learned exercise feedback, where work done by information department of SLRCS was seen as critical factor in improving the drought appeal response in Sri Lanka.

Regional Delegation actively participated with the Federation Secretariat in developing the web based disaster management information system (DMIS). This is being further promoted in the region and will be used to monitor disaster trends in all the countries in South Asia.

Information Development/Humanitarian Values

In contrast to the first six months of the year, between June and December the regional information department has been able to commit considerably more time and resources towards capacity building initiatives with National Societies in the region. In general, most of the proposed objectives outlined for Information Development for 2001 have been successfully achieved although some activities are ongoing and will be carried over to 2002.

Whilst the primary focus has been towards supporting the development of information departments of NS, the regional information department has also been involved in providing communications support to the Federation's response to various emergencies that have arisen in the region, most notably the current crisis in Afghanistan, the July/August floods in Orissa and the drought in southern Sri Lanka.

The current crisis in Afghanistan has dramatically reduced the focus of the international media on other humanitarian issues affecting the region. Despite this efforts have been made to market the Federation in South Asia more aggressively, particularly with donors, peer organisations and Government counterparts.

Objective 1: To develop and strengthen the information and public relations capacities of NS in the region through technical support and training

With additional funding made available by the Swiss Red Cross to the OD programme for Nepal, an additional information officer has been recruited to join the Nepal Red Cross information unit. Funding has also been provided to support English language training for two members of the information unit.

In August the regional information delegate facilitated a two day communications workshop hosted by the Nepal Red Cross. Twenty five participants from the headquarters and branches attended the workshop. Participants were drawn from specific programme departments and the main aim of the workshop was to impart basic training in areas such as media relations and internal communications. External facilitators at the workshop included representatives from the regional office of PANOS who provided participants with an insight into issue based campaign planning and guidance on working with the Nepali media.

In July the regional information delegate also participated in a two day communications workshop hosted by the Indian Red Cross. Twenty participants from State branches attended, most of whom were branch secretaries. The workshop was jointly facilitated with the regional co-operation delegate of the ICRC who participated in various sessions on dissemination and IHL.

In November, the regional information delegate facilitated a half day module on communications to NS DP managers at a regional DP meeting held in Delhi. Specific topics covered included an introduction to advocacy, managing communications in crisis situations and mock interview exercises.

In September the Indian Red Cross recruited a new Information officer after the post had been vacant for four months. The regional information delegate participated in the selection process and the regional information unit has provided a structured induction programme to orientate the information officer into a better understanding of the RC Movement.

In November information officers from the Sri Lanka Red Cross and the Indian Red Cross spent a two week internship with the regional information unit at SARD. External facilitators were used to provide structured technical training in various areas including strategic planning, desk top publishing, web site design, photography and video techniques. The regional information officer arranged a five day field trip to Orissa which allowed the interns to experience and document some of the field activities and programmes carried out by the Orissa State branch of the Indian Red Cross and the Federation.

During consecutive visits to Orissa during the course of the year, the regional information officer has been instrumental in training a staff member of the Orissa State branch to undertake communications activities which has contributed to the Society gaining a higher profile across the State, particularly amongst the media.

In October the regional information delegate spent time supporting the work of the information officer of the Pakistan Red Crescent, part of which entailed helping to recruit an additional information officer to support communications activities linked to the PRCS response to the crisis in neighbouring Afghanistan. Since September 10, the information unit has been extremely active in promoting the work of the PRCS, the results of which have contributed to the high recognition and support of the Society amongst peer organisations and line ministries within the Government.

Objective 2: To develop a closer degree of collaboration on strategic communications activities with information counterparts in Asia and Geneva

In the wake of the Gujarat earthquake the regional information unit has provided a support function to the India Operations centre. Both the regional information officer and the regional information delegate have assisted the

India information delegate with the development and implementation of a communication strategy in preparation for the first anniversary of the earthquake. Interaction with the IOC OD delegate is also underway to discuss future strategic support for the development of the Indian Red Cross information capacity, more specifically - support to the IRCS headquarters information unit.

Having been approved at the Asia Pacific heads of delegation meeting in June, the Asia Pacific Communications strategy has been adopted across the region and has been integrated into the SARD information development / Humanitarian Values objectives for 2002 - 2003. Further development of the marketing component of the strategy is still required which will entail closer collaboration between regional information delegates in the field and counterparts in the Secretariat.

The number of news stories and features from South Asia which have featured on the Federations website has risen significantly, in particular those contributions coming directly from NS information officers. A comparative analysis has been made of the stories that appeared on the web in 2000 and 2001. Overall there has been a 400% increase with 47 stories featured in 2001 against 14 in 2000.

Contributions to FOCUS Magazine from the region have also risen. In 2001, 37 stories from South Asia were featured against 25 in 2000. Direct contributions from NS information officers have also risen accordingly with each issue of FOCUS now featuring stories from all NS in the region.

The region has also been well represented in the Red Cross Red Crescent magazine with feature stories in two of the quarterly editions this year.

Objective 3: To develop and expand upon strategic communications links with local and international media to secure sustained and high profile media coverage for the activities of the Federation and NS in the region, particularly in times of emergencies

The SARD network of international and regional media has continued to expand over the past six months. Since September 11, events in Pakistan and Afghanistan have dominated the global media agenda and the international print and broadcast media based in South Asia have devoted most of their resources to the crisis which has meant that there has been greatly diminished attention to humanitarian issues arising in other parts of the region.

The crisis in Afghanistan served as an excellent opportunity to position the Federation and establish numerous contacts with international media from across Asia. The regional information delegate spent a brief period in Islamabad - generating media coverage of PRCS, ARCS and Federation activities in relation to the unfolding crisis in the region. This role has continued with Delhi based international correspondents who are regularly briefed and updated on Red Cross / Red Crescent activities.

During August and September, the regional information unit provided communications support in response to the extensive flooding that struck the State of Orissa. Both the regional information delegate and the regional information officer spent approximately three weeks in Orissa generating media interest in the disaster with local and international media as well as producing video material which was used by the international wire agencies and writing news stories for the Federations website.

In September, the regional information unit supported the Sri Lanka Red Cross with the launch of the emergency appeal for the drought in Hambantota district. The proactive media strategy that accompanied the launch of the appeal targeted at local and international media evolved into a highly successful advocacy campaign which led to a high degree of support and recognition for the SLRCS by the Government and peer organisations.

In November / December the regional information unit supported the India earthquake information delegate to produce a media strategy aimed at marking the first anniversary of the Gujarat earthquake and highlighting the activities of the Red Cross Movement to date. Various publicity materials have been produced for distribution to key stakeholders (inc. PNS, media and int. donors) in advance of the anniversary. These including an Insight publication that documents the rehabilitation operation and a four minute Video News Release on the operation that has been produced locally.

Objective 4: *To continue to promote Red Cross principles and humanitarian values amongst key target audiences through the mass media*

Contributions to Federation publicity outlets from NS and the SARD information unit have increased measurably as mentioned under Objective 2. A comprehensive mailing list has been established for the distribution of FOCUS Magazine and the Red Cross Red Crescent Magazine. This list has been expanded to include representatives of all major international and regional media, key counterparts in the Indian Govt., donors within the diplomatic community and multinational organisations, and representatives of peer organisations.

Video material and photographs shot by the regional information unit of major emergencies (Orissa floods, Gujarat earthquake) in the region have been shared with international broadcasters including APTN and Reuters for global distribution, as well as being distributed to the communications departments of PNS.

A communications strategy is being developed in co-operation with the ICRC and the Indian Red Cross to support an Emblem awareness campaign across India in 2002. The campaign is already underway - largely centred around seminars aimed at addressing misuse of the Emblem. The main publicity component of the campaign will be launched on May 8th next year. Activities surrounding International Year of Volunteers have continued with a number of volunteer based articles submitted by NS to local media and also articles from the region appearing on the Federations website and in FOCUS Magazine.

No journalistic assignments have been funded during the reporting period although support has been provided to a locally recruited journalist who is writing a chapter on disaster preparedness issue in Nepal for inclusion in the next issue of the World Disasters Report.

Due to other priorities, production of the regional brochure profiling SARD and NS in the region is underway and will be completed in the first quarter of 2002.

Health and Care

The programme is titled the South Asia Regional Health Capacity Building Programme. The overall goal of the programme for the next three to five years is to strengthen National Societies' capacity to plan, implement and manage quality health programmes which make a positive difference to the health of vulnerable people, with the active participation of National Societies in the Region in this process.

The Regional Health Capacity Building Programme has three main long-term objectives, with the possibility for modification in the event of a change in National Society needs.

Objective One: *To provide technical and financial support for strategic health capacity strengthening.*

Below are stated activities to achieve the objective and the progress to date within each activity:

1.1 Develop standardised but adaptable tools for community health assessment; health project proposal writing; report writing; monitoring of a health programme; and evaluation of a health programme.

The issue of health management tools development formed the basis for discussion at the inaugural meeting of the Regional Health Forum Meeting for National Society Health Managers, held in Sri Lanka in mid-July. The intention was not to reinvent health management tools but rather to utilise Federation initiatives such as the African Red Cross Red Crescent Health Initiative 2010 (ARCHI 2010), existing health management tools and the experience within the Health Forum group to create a central resource of standardised tools which can support the management aspects of health programming. The group agreed to look in the first instance at health programme monitoring which are already available in each country. These will be brought to the next Forum meeting.

1.2 Undertake a brief inventory of all National Society health activities.

This was undertaken at the Health Forum, when each Health Manager was required to give a brief presentation on their National Society's health activities, and a more detailed analysis of the health management capacity of their National Society, against a set of ten key standard questions.

1.3 *Undertake an in-depth assessment of the health capacities, activities and vulnerabilities within four National Societies*

The in-depth assessment of the health capacities, activities and vulnerabilities of the Pakistan Red Crescent was commenced. Similar assessments for Nepal and Sri Lanka were planned for the second half of the year but unfortunately these were not achieved, due to the unforeseen demands of the Humanitarian Crisis in Afghanistan and Pakistan, in particular.

The health assessment in India was not undertaken earlier in the year as planned, but has been integrated in the country health plan for 2002, following the establishment of a country delegation to support the earthquake operation as it is still necessary to gain an in-depth analysis of the health activities and capacities within the Indian Red Cross before any major health programmes can be developed with the National Society. Funds were allocated and available within the Regional Health budget for this work and the lack of utilisation of these funds is the main reason for a significant underspend on the Regional Health programme during 2001. The Regional Health Delegate meets regularly with the India Operations Centre Health Co-ordinator to discuss the development of the health programme in India. As a result of the in-depth assessment planned for 2002, a detailed report should then be available.

Thus two detailed analyses of country health programmes are expected to be completed by the Regional Health Team in 2002, in addition to that planned for India.

Objective Two: *provide technical and financial support through the Appeal for National Society health programmes, especially in the areas of health prevention/ promotion/ education and basic curative care; reproductive and child health (including HIV/AIDS); appropriate First Aid; and safe blood.*

Below are stated activities to achieve the objective and the progress to date within each activity:

2.1 *Identify priority needs within each National Society*

This was achieved for Sri Lanka and Pakistan in particular. In Sri Lanka, the National Society started the pilot phase of a community health programme, supported through the Federation by the Canadian Red Cross, which also provided some technical support. In Pakistan and with support from the Swedish Red Cross, the focus was on the Health Management and Promotion component. The support included the recruitment of a Health Officer (a new position in the Development and Co-operation Unit of the National Headquarters). It also entailed support for the Baluchistan Provincial Branch Health and Training Officer in order to confirm the position within the Society, rather than having it linked to emergency project funding, as was previously the case. Support for CBFA was also a priority. Other key needs for Pakistan included support for the mobile health teams serving drought-affected communities in Baluchistan and the scaling-up of polio activities around the national immunisation days, as part of the reproductive health services component of the Health and Care programme.

As indicated above, plans to address the priority health support needs for the Indian Red Cross were developed by the National Society and the Indian Operations team. These form the basis for the 2002 Appeal. Nepal Red Cross Society has well-established health programmes, but unfortunately plans for a visit by the Regional Health Delegate in the second half of the year had to be postponed due to the humanitarian crisis in Pakistan.

It should be noted that Afghanistan and Bangladesh have country delegations with health delegates, but they are invited to join all Regional health activities and the Regional Health team remains available to provide additional support if required.

2.2 *Identify possible providers of technical support from within the Region*

This was an ongoing process and became more closely linked with the broader development of a SARD database of expertise and human resources within the Region. This with a view to developing intra-Regional technical support for programmes rather than depending on the limited capacity of the Regional health team or external

technical assistance. Additionally, the hope was to make better utilisation of other existing Federation health capacity, but the huge workload of all Federation colleagues made this difficult to translate into a practical reality.

2.3 *Provide the identified and planned support*

This was ongoing, with again the main focus on Pakistan, which was to be expected as the Regional Health Delegate is based there and of course the humanitarian crisis developed there after the September terrorist attacks in the USA. However, a working relationship was also developed with Sri Lanka for the implementation of their pilot community health programme.

India, Afghanistan and Bangladesh were supported by country health delegates.

2.4 *Attract maximum possible funding through the Appeal for National Society health programmes.*

Certainly not all funding received by National Societies for health programming was the direct outcome of any specific intervention by the Regional Health team. Funding support for health activities outlined in the Appeal 2001/2 was pledged and received for Nepal (around 100%), Pakistan (around 60%) and Sri Lanka (around 30%). However it was agreed in Sri Lanka not to proceed with seeking the full amount for this year, but rather to establish the pilot phase first without expansion and to further develop the relationship with Canadian Red Cross. The huge response to the Gujarat earthquake clearly assisted the wider development of health programmes in India.

Objective Three : *To develop a learning environment and facilitate the better utilisation of existing intra- and inter-Regional resources.*

Below are stated activities to achieve the objective and the progress to date within each activity:

3.1 *Develop a simple database of human health resources available within the Region*

As indicated above, this activity was subsumed into a wider Regional objective to develop a multidisciplinary human resource database. The Regional Health Team will ensure that relevant information is fed regularly into the database, once standard procedures have been established

3.2 *Establish the South Asia Health Forum*

The first meeting of National Society health managers was held in Sri Lanka in mid-July, with all six National Societies in attendance. This is a forum for National Headquarters-level Health Managers, Co-ordinators or Directors. The theme for the workshop was "Making more of a difference in health", and the main objective was to focus on health programme management issues and to discuss the additional tools or support required for National Society health programmes to have more measurable impact. The group highlighted the availability of various existing materials and resolved to collect example of health programme monitoring tools from their own countries in preparation for the examples for the next meeting in the second quarter of 2002. This meeting which will focus on the monitoring and evaluation of health programmes. A full report is available from the first meeting.

3.3 *Establish the South Asia Safe Blood Working Group*

The first meeting of the Regional Safe Blood Working Group was held in May in Pakistan and attended by all six National Societies. The main focus was on the recruitment and retention of voluntary non-remunerated blood donors and the whole issue of Red Cross/Red Crescent roles and responsibilities in ensuring quality blood programmes.

It was agreed to hold the second meeting of this group in October and Sri Lanka Red Cross offered to host this meeting. Unfortunately, the developments in Afghanistan and Pakistan and the subsequent additional workload on the Pakistan office meant this was not possible. However, the meeting is now rescheduled for 6th-9th February, still in Sri Lanka. The main focus for this meeting will continue to be on the donor recruitment issue, but the group will also consider partnerships in blood programmes and linkages between blood programming and the capacity development of the National Society.

3.4 *Provide two training workshops per annum*

As planned, these were discussed at the Health Forum. It was agreed to combine the two training workshops into one larger one, focusing on the training of trainers (CBFA) and the need to development Branch Health management capacity by looking at programme management issues as they affect the Branch. It was clearly envisaged that this would be achieved before the end of the year but again, regrettably, the Afghanistan/Pakistan humanitarian crisis meant that it was not possible to undertake this training, as much forward planning would have been required ahead of the actual workshop. However, the Regional Health Delegate did initiate communications with health colleagues from other regions in an effort to gather some information about what had been done elsewhere with specific regard to Branch-level health management training and the need for such training to trickle down below the Headquarters level.

3.5 *Facilitate two specific and focused exchange visits per annum*

One of these was identified at the Health Forum. The new Director of Health from Sri Lanka was hoping to visit Nepal to gain firsthand experience of NRCS programmes, but this was not possible due to civil unrest in both countries at one time or another. The second exchange visit was not identified or undertaken due to the demands on the Regional Health Team for the humanitarian crisis. However a concerted effort will be made to achieve this activity early next year.

3.6 *Undertake one piece of research/study on a relevant health issue per annum*

The intention was for the Regional Health Delegate to undertake a piece of work on the impact of CBFA, in conjunction with the Afghan Red Crescent and Kabul Delegation colleagues. This was not to be another evaluation but rather to look at what can actually be expected to be achieved by such programmes and, more importantly, what more could be achieved using this approach. Before the end of August, terms of references were drafted and the fieldwork was planned for some time between September and November. Clearly subsequent events made this an impossibility. It is however very much hoped that it can be undertaken next year.

3.7 *Identify key partners and other organisations in each country for improved co-ordination*

All National Societies were encouraged to improve and increase their contacts with other relevant organisations and partners in their own countries.

Additional Regional Health Activities

There are two additional Regional projects which were not included in the Appeal 2001/2. The first relates to the Federation's commitment to WHO and UNICEF to work with National Societies to scale up polio activities around the national immunisation days. Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh were identified as the priorities for this Region. The country delegations in Afghanistan and Bangladesh have reported separately and have made good progress. A consultant undertook the assessment and planning work in Pakistan and was planning to do the same in India, but again because of demands on the Indian Red Cross after the earthquake, this work was not possible. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society appointed a Polio Co-ordinator and the National Society was very successful in both the scaling-up of its polio eradication activities and the development of a close working relationship with partners such as WHO and UNICEF.

The second issue relates to the establishment of a South Asia Regional HIV/AIDS Task Force (SART). Some National Societies in the Region are still members of ART, but since South Asia became a separate Region a couple of years ago there was some feeling that a separate group should be formed. This commitment was endorsed by all six National Societies attending the Regional Health Forum meeting in July, and as a result, a SART Project Co-ordination team was established in December to prepare the Region for the first meeting, to be held in Nepal in April 2002. Despite the enormous additional challenges in the latter part of the year, it was a great achievement to be able to start with the SART project and to acknowledge the Region's commitment to HIV/AIDS.

Outstanding needs

The Regional Health Capacity Building Programme was fully funded due to a combination of unearmarked DFID funding; a carry-over of funds for the training/workshop components of the programme from the Japanese Red Cross; unearmarked funding from Swedish Red Cross; and provision of the Regional Health Delegate by British Red Cross. Unfortunately there was an inevitable underspend at year-end mainly due to the inability to undertake the detailed health analysis in India for six to nine months as planned, and also due to the global

events after September 11th which resulted in a hugely increased workload for the Regional Health Team which is based in Pakistan.

The scaling-up of polio activities and the establishment of the SART project were extra to the Appeal for 2001, but will be included in next year's appeal. The Secretariat has assisted and will continue to assist with some funds for polio activities in Pakistan, but additional funds will certainly be required if a SART is to be established and maintained.

Institutional and Resource Development

Objective 1: To develop and implement common standards regarding measurable progress towards the "Characteristics of a Well-functioning NS", particularly beginning with a regional approach to reviewing all NS Constitutions and Legal Bases.

The Regional Organisational Development programme has an ambitious goal, "To establish further measurable progress towards well functioning National Societies in the Region, and thereby greater capacity to respond effectively to the needs of the most vulnerable, by establishing consistency in constitutional, governance and management standards in all National Societies".

In June the first ever Regional Constitution Review workshop was attended by Chairpersons, Vice Presidents, and Secretary Generals from all 6 Societies in the Region, who also brought with them the senior Legal Advisor to each Board. The experience, with joint facilitation by the Federation and ICRC Delegates and a Legal Expert from Geneva, assisted all NS to agree action plans to adopt processes to improve their Constitutions to meet the new minimum standards advocated by the Federation's "Guidance for NS Statutes". Each NS developed and shared a clear action plan to take forward internal Constitutional revision processes in order to realign the existing Constitutions of the Region to be in accordance with the Federation's "Guidance for NS Statutes" guidelines.

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has been the first to successfully complete the adoption of a new Constitution incorporating all the minimum standards of the Federation guidance and has become the Regional model which inspired others to follow. The Nepal Red Cross and Bangladesh Red Crescent Societies have already instituted their Constitution Revision Committees to follow the same process.

The Regional Organisational development Delegate has been working with the Regional ICRC Co-operation Delegate to provide the technical, legal, and process support to the NS in India, Bangladesh and Nepal to help the revision processes which have been started. These have also taken place in tandem with workshops in each of these countries on International Humanitarian Law, and the protection of the Emblem as integrated components of a strong RC/RC legal base in each country. Workshops on these related legal base issues have been held in Nepal, Bangladesh and India for members of the governing boards of all NS, as well as for external stakeholders from key Government Ministries and other institutions as appropriate.

Objective 2: To build strategic management capacity in all NS by implementing a Regional approach to management development programmes

A Regional Change Management Workshop was planned for December 2001 for all secretary generals (SGs) and 3 Directors from each NS to learn about change management techniques for senior managers to help with change processes in each NS. However, at the request of the Regional Secretary Generals, the workshop has been postponed until February 2002 in Sri Lanka.

Improving management standards and management development in all NS was identified as a key priority by all participants in the Strategic Planning workshops which were held in each NS in June and July 2000. It is hoped that one outcome of this workshop will be an effective use of a 3 month staff on loan position which has been agreed from Nepal Red Cross to train trainers in all other NS to develop and run self-sustaining management training programmes in each NS, as is already successfully done in the Management Development Training Programme of Nepal Red Cross.

Objective 3: *To build a Regional approach to human resource development and maximising internal capacities in all NS*

A Regional workshop on Human Resource Development was held in December 2001 for representatives from five of the six National Societies to follow up on the previous HR forum held in Nepal in December 2000. The objectives of the workshop, which was attended by a mix of senior governance and management from each NS with specific responsibilities to manage the HRD systems, were to use and evaluate the new Regionally proposed HRD tools drafted since the last HR forum; to finalise a draft Regional HRD Manual for volunteers and staff; to recommend mechanisms for adopting and implementing the Federation's Volunteering and Gender Policies; and to agree and plan further Regional HRD activities for 2002/03.

The draft Regional HRD Manual was introduced and discussed and amended to include further ideas and revision with regard to improving good practices in staff and volunteer management across all NS in the Region. Through participatory learning exercises drawing from their existing best practices, and introducing new HR concepts such as competency based approaches and performance development systems from outside the Red Cross Movement, participants develop skills as trainers of others on their return to their respective NS. Amongst the outcomes were clear agreed plans within each NS to qualitatively improve volunteer and staff management, and to adopt and implement the Federation's Gender and Volunteering Policies respectively.

This workshop served as a platform to continue an annual meeting of HR managers from all NS in the Region. The aim was to keep exchanging their views, good practices, and training tools with each other, while at the same time receiving training in new HR techniques to help strengthen the HRD programmes of each NS.

Another outcome was the agreement to set up a South Asia Regional "Volunteer Expert Network". This to help support those who have responsibilities for effective volunteer recruitment and management across all NS. Planning was initiated for a Regional Volunteering Conference in 2002 to strengthen learning across all NS. The focus will be on using and retaining volunteers more effectively and having annual meetings to keep sharing volunteering recruitment and development plans across all NS. This will also help NS to implement the Federation's Volunteering Policy to common minimum standards and produce more motivated and skilled volunteer bases in each NS across the Region.

It has also been planned to continue the momentum on Gender Policy implementation from the Regional HRD workshop. A regional Gender Sensitisation trainer from Nepal Red Cross has been appointed on a specific Regional three month staff on loan position to help other NS adopt gender sensitisation training. This will be finalised and conducted as a series of training of trainers events in early 2002. The Nepal RC resource person will also be attending the Federation's global gender learning group meeting in December to keep feeding the gender related experiences from other Regions into South Asia to benefit all NS.

Finance Development

Objective 1: *To provide appropriate technical support to NS to implement Finance Development programmes, ensuring shared learning and the development of broadly consistent approaches*

A Regional meeting of the Finance Directors of all NS took place in Nepal to further develop Regional Finance development standards and plans. This first meeting of its kind will help Finance Directors to unify their areas of progress, share resource persons for mutual training, and help them to strategies about how Finance Development work can be more urgently introduced at Branch levels across the Region to help overall reporting on programmes and effective monitoring systems.

The specific objectives and discussions of the meeting included the sharing of current Regional Finance Development plans for the next two years at both country and Regional levels. It provided all NS to contribute to a common mapping of existing activities, issues for concern, and proposed solutions. The meeting used an independent professional facilitator with extensive experience in South Asia, South East Asia, and Europe.

The sessions of the meeting enabled participants to emphasise the importance of Finance Development as an integrated part of Institutional/Organisational Development of NS. The group also identified the future objectives of regular regional meetings on Finance Development as understanding existing financial systems in each NS, sharing common problems and solutions, improving collective reporting systems, exploring common approaches to computer-based accounting, and establishing effective internal audit departments and mechanisms.

Other recommendations and agreements included the more effective utilisation of Regional expertise in NS to support the development of sound technical financial manuals and procedures, development and exchange of appropriate software across all NS to improve management information systems, and achieving better uniformity in basic accounting standards and reporting frameworks to donors.

Objective 2: *To ensure Finance Development objectives are integrated into relief and development programme planning at Branch and NHQ levels*

The Regional Finance Development Manager has completed the task of orienting the NS in India, Nepal and Pakistan on Federation standards and requirements in budgeting and reporting as part of relief and development programmes at NHQ and Branch levels. Training workshops have been organised for finance personnel at all levels in NS to plan, share experiences, and identify mutual capacity building strategies.

A series of exchange visits between finance personnel between NS in the Region has improved the mutual capacity building. The Finance Director of the Indian Red Cross and of the Sri Lanka Red Cross made visits to study the systems in the Nepal Red Cross. A visit of the Nepal Red Cross Treasurer, Internal Auditor, and Finance Director has been planned for January 2002 to study the Internal Audit department of the Sri Lanka Red Cross which is the strongest in the Regional NS.

Two NS, Nepal and Sri Lanka, have developed Internal Audit manuals aimed at building the capacity of Branches and NHQ through phased internal training of governance and management at all levels. It is hoped that by sharing this learning at the regular Regional Finance Directors' meetings that more Regional consistency in Finance Development programmes will be achieved, and that there will be a technically trained cadre of staff at NHQ and Branch levels across the Region to improve the overall Management Information Systems (MIS).

One anticipated outcome of the Regional programme is to develop a Regional resource pool of technically trained staff, with computerisation skills as well, who could be deployed to train other NS, or to support specific emergency relief programmes with accountancy skills.

Resource Development

Objective 1: *To build a regional forum between National Societies for common sharing of experiences and learning in resource diversification efforts*

A Regional training course has been prepared on "Local Resource Mobilisation" to help all NS improve local fund raising techniques in Branches and NHQs. The training course is to be run in 5 NS initially, and has completed in Sri Lanka and Nepal in November. It will be run in India and Bangladesh early 2002 (dates to be confirmed with SGs in December). The course is aimed at helping NS make both their programmes and core structures more sustainable in the medium and long term.

Although at the outset the common Regional modules are to be run in each Society independently to help them reach a Regionally consistent standard, there will be a full Regional "Local Resource Mobilisation" workshop held in 2002 to bring together the experiences of all NS in specific experiments of fund raising to exchange information about successes and failures and learn mutually from these.

The "Local Resource Mobilisation" course which was conducted in Nepal Red Cross Society using the Regional standardised module was fully documented by the Federation's Regional Reporting Delegate. It will include full documentation of the many varied resource mobilisation techniques and experiences that already exist in Nepal

Red Cross, in order for these to be shared with other NS in the Region and indeed globally through the Federation Secretariat's knowledge sharing mechanisms.

It is also hoped to document some case studies from the existing NS activities and use these for structured learning and provision of guidelines on successful models, which should be completed by 2002 and shared at the Regional workshop. Following this, there are plans to have an annual meeting at Regional level for personnel with resource mobilisation responsibilities to exchange good practices, and benefit from refresher training in new techniques by external training resource agencies.

Regional Co-operation

Objective 1 : To provide a regional forum for stakeholder participation and strengthen relationships between the stakeholders.

A regional partnership meeting was planned for April 2001 in southern India but with the earthquake in Gujarat on 26 January, the partnership meeting was delayed until early in 2002. A second India earthquake partnership meeting was held on 6 and 7 December 2001 which attracted 20 people from 15 participating NS.

Although attention was primarily on India, a number of the participants who also have South Asia in their portfolio, were approached before and after the main meeting, to examine present partnerships with some participating National Societies (PNS), and to explore new ones.

A full partnership meeting for South Asia NS will be held in early April 2002, in Bangladesh. The purpose of the meeting will be to further strengthen the strategic relationships and harmonisation of the Movement's components in programme planning, to agree on a final version of the South Asia Regional Co-ordination Assistance Strategy (see objective 3 below for further details), and to agree long term co-ordinated plans to increase the impact of the Movement on the most vulnerable people in the Region.

Objective 2 : To widen the pool of talented potential delegates in South Asia and to increase regional exchanges of qualified human resources between the National Societies of the region.

With the regional delegation now having one national staff member who is giving 50% of her time to co-ordinating regional human resources, there has been a marked improvement in the co-ordination of human resources. The following are examples of achievements:

- A Regional Basic Training Course (BTC) for South Asia was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh during the first week of July. This was the first Regional BTC since the launch of the Regional Delegate Recruitment & Training Programme (RDRTP). The course was successful with all 16 participants from South Asia. In November one candidate from the Nepal Red Cross attended a BTC in Denmark.
- A FACT Training Workshop was conducted in Singapore in September with four participants from South Asia.
- Staff exchanges, staff on loan (SoL) and the utilisation of delegates from the region has occurred more regularly during this reporting period. During the Humanitarian Crises in Afghanistan two relief delegates were sent from Bangladesh Red Crescent Societies (BDRCS - one of whom was a participant in the Regional BTC in July). In addition the Finance Manager of Bangladesh Delegation went as SOL to Islamabad, Pakistan to assist in the day to day operations. Two delegates from Bangladesh and one from Nepal are currently working in the humanitarian crisis operation in Pakistan. Information Officers from SLRCS and IRCS attended a two week exchange visit at SARD during November and a Accounts Officer from NRCS is currently working as Staff on Loan at the India Operations Center. Finally, staff from Sri Lanka went to Bangladesh for a study visit in Disaster Preparedness at the end of the year.
- One of the goals for the past 18 months, is to provide opportunities to improve human resource management. In December 2000, the first regional human resource workshop was held. This was built upon in December 2001 by another Regional Human Resource development workshop. In the latter one five participants from five countries participated. They represented both governance and management with responsibilities to manage HR systems and policy development. The workshop's objectives were to use and evaluate new Regionally proposed HRD tools and to finalise a draft Regional HRD manual to introduce common minimum standards of human resource management into all NS. The objectives also included to

recommend mechanisms for adopting and implementing the Federation's Volunteering and Gender Policies respectively; and to agree further Regional HRD activities for 2002/2003 which would continue to build on knowledge sharing and good practice development between all NS in the Region.

- The Regional Delegation is in the process of setting up a Database (Personnel Roster) which would try and contain the information on all technically trained staff across the NSs and also a comprehensive list of potential delegates in the region.

Co-ordination and Management

Objective 1 : *To act as the regional focal point of National Societies in the region and to help build sustainable processes of mutual capacity building and common programming*

The regional delegation, including the out-posted regional delegates and the country delegations in the region, are clearly seen as the knowledge centre of the region for programme support and development, advice, technical and training assistance and an essential resource centre.

The broad regional health, disaster response, disaster preparedness and humanitarian values programmes are broken down into targeted projects aimed at building consistent and sustainable capacities.

Building on the strong traditions of Regional Secretary Generals' meetings, ICRC co-operation, and strategic planning between SARD and all the NSs in the Region, SARD has begun the process of facilitating a draft Regional Co-ordination Assistance Strategy (RCAS). The RCAS aims to become the strategic work plan for all the RC/RC Movement components from within and outside the Region. In a participatory approach, beginning with a mapping of progress in Regional programming between all National Societies in following up the Hanoi sub-regional agenda for South Asia, a meeting has been planned for late January 2002. This meeting will involve all senior RC/RC Movement stakeholders from within and outside the region.

The aim of the participatory approach is for all Movement stakeholders to develop a common vision and mission for the Movement in South Asia. It is also to clearly define what roles they will play in achieving clear and measurable outcomes. The RCAS document will thus encapsulate the common strategic directions, and the key change goals and programmes for the Region in a clear long-term strategy. A transparent mechanism will also be agreed by which stakeholders can measure progress against the change goals and objectives and the Regional Secretary Generals' meetings will be the most likely mechanism to monitor progress regularly.

Due to the postponement of the Secretary- General's meeting in Kabul planned for October, a curtailed meeting was held in Geneva where burning issues were discussed. The proposed agenda for the Regional Partnership meeting in March 2002 was discussed, as were the process for developing a RCAS in a participatory manner.

Objective 2 : *To represent the Federation and build good relations with the national authorities, international and national organisations, donor Government, international and national media, and the ICRC.*

Meetings took place with Minister of External Affairs. The Honourable Jaswant Singh, together with the new Vice President of the Federation, (Vice Chairman Indian RCS), Secretary General and Director of Asia and Pacific to discuss progress of our Legal Status Agreement application. The Minister was positive that once all formalities are complete, it should be approved. In Pakistan and Sri Lanka efforts are being made to get legal status agreements approved.

Efforts continued to strengthen our partnership with DFID by visits at country level and responding positively to recommendations of various DFID evaluation and review teams.

Likewise, regular contacts have been maintained with European Union Ambassadors and the ECHO representatives having responsibilities for Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan; and Afghanistan. Key diplomatic missions in each country have been visited in a systematic manner and publications, situation reports, updates and appeals sent on a regular basis.

Our strong partnership with ICRC throughout the region continues with a number of joint workshops, seminars and co-funded training courses and joint planning meetings. The ICRC HoRD, Co-operation and Tracing delegate came to the SARD 2002-03 planning meeting and gave valuable input.

The Federation's Regional OD Delegate based in Sri Lanka and the ICRC Regional Co-operation Delegate based in New Delhi are engaged in several joint strategic pieces of work. Examples are offering joint technical support to the Indian, Nepal and Bangladesh National Societies on revision of their constitutions; co-facilitating a regional Constitution revision workshop attended by the Chairpersons, Secretary Generals and senior legal advisors of NS Boards across the Region. Another example is joint work to support stronger local resource mobilisation capacities in the NSs of the Region. Another common issue has been joint support at seminars in several of the NSs on the need to revise, and introduce, legislation to protect the emblem.

Similarly, the Regional Information Delegate has worked closely with the regional and country based ICRC Co-operation Delegates to improve each NS's ability to undertake strong information, publicity and overall dissemination work in an integrated manner. A Regional Information and Dissemination Officers' workshop, jointly funded and facilitated by the Regional Information Delegate and ICRC Regional Co-operation Delegate was a key part of supporting the Regional NS to achieve mutual supporting work in these areas. Personnel exchanges between NS (e.g. The Sri Lankan and Indian RC Information workers being inducted together for two weeks in New Delhi) have further built on this mutual capacity building role played by SARD.

Enquiries from diplomatic missions, NGOs, UN and the media as SARD, including our out-posted offices and the Indian operations centre continues to increase as we are seen as a dependable source of information.

Our relationship with the national, regional and international media continues to go from strength to strength as the regional delegation and Indian Operation centre has capitalised on the enormous amount of publicity generated by the Federation and IRCS's fast response in the relief phase of the Gujarat earthquake.

With events in Afghanistan and the humanitarian crisis which emerged in Pakistan and other neighbouring countries, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) increased its profile as it became a member of the exclusive Government task force for an anticipated refugee operation along with the Government and UN organisation. Through pro-active publicity by the PRCS and Federation information officers, the PRCS, supported by the Federation, was perceived as a leading player in the possible response to the refugee influx from Afghanistan.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross and the Federation gained significant publicity and considerable respect through playing a lead role in exposing a hidden drought in Sri Lanka in July and August, and through all the operations up till the end of December. The drought which resulted from little rain for almost three years in Hambantota district, was spotted by the local branch though the Government and other leading international organisations initially refuted claims of its seriousness. After persistent advocacy, the government and the UN agencies changed their minds and agreed with the SLRCS perspective. This advocacy action is being written up as a case study and a model for good advocacy practices for sharing with other NS in the future.

Objective 3 : To ensure the implementation of Federation activities in the region, according to approved plans and budgets.

Appeal coverage has been good, compared with the 27 % coverage in 2000. Country level coverage has also been encouraging.

The second generation of CAS's in Nepal, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are underway building on the standardised approach to the first generation CAS in 1999-2000. This common framework has provide NS a much stronger strategic directions to all national societies and there appears to be greater clarity.

The out-posting of regional OD and health delegates to Sri Lanka and Pakistan respectively, is, according to feedback from the two respective NS, progressing very well. It also ensures more exacting implementation, monitoring and reporting of Federation-supported programmes in these countries. The out-posted regional delegate model is currently being evaluated and will be discussed at a meeting of all regional delegates and the

senior desk officer from Geneva to be held in Delhi late January 2002. Contact has been maintained with the Red Crescent working group in the Maldives Islands and a follow-up strategy, in consultation with the ICRC, put in place to ensure the momentum is maintained.

A Regional Reporting Delegate was appointed from 16 September 2001. This has improved the co-ordination management and timeliness of SARD reporting. The delegate, in liaison with organisational development and finance colleagues, will during 2002 increase focus on building reporting capacity within the National Societies in the region. This attempt will include contributing to training tools and modules for improved reporting. Discussions regarding reporting training have so far been initiated with the Nepal Red Cross.

Outstanding needs

There are no outstanding needs at this point. Due to the Gujarat Earthquake in the beginning of the year and the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and Pakistan during the latter half of the year, the appeal programmes generally have not been fully utilised. The Swedish Red Cross has kindly agreed to reallocate funds from the areas of Health and Regional Co-operation into other programmes and distributed from Regional OD to country OD projects. The DFID similarly has been flexible in agreeing to forward funds within the Organisational Development programme to 2002. The DFID funds be utilised during first quarter of 2002.

There is no Annual Appeal 2002 for India, the objectives will be reflected in the Earthquake Rehabilitation Appeal.

Outstanding needs

For further details please contact: Ewa Eriksson, Phone : 41 22 7304252; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: eriksson@ifrc.org

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

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Hiroshi Higashiura
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South Asia Regional Programmes						ANNEX 1	
APPEAL No. 01.33/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			03.01.2002		
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'414'190		76.2%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD							
SECRETARIAT PROG SUPPORT				341'632			
BRITISH - GOVT (DFID GRANT)				795'000	03.02.01	PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2001	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				237'160	30.04.2001	DPP	
NETHERLANDS - RC				44'944	04.04.01	REGIONAL BTC JULY 2001	
SWEDISH - RC				375'000	SEK	28.02.2001	ID, INFORMATION, HEALTH, COOPERATION
SWEDISH - GOVT				1'125'000	SEK	21.05.2001	ID, INFORMATION, HEALTH, COOPERATION
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'673'062	CHF	69.3%	
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)							
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
New Zealand	Delegate(s)			29'732			
Great Britain	Delegate(s)			119'917			
Sweden	Delegate(s)			17'413			
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				167'062	CHF	6.9%	