

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

CENTRAL AMERICA

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Appeal No. 01.19/2002

Appeal Target CHF 3,890,674 Revised to CHF 2,816,156

Programme Update No. 2 ;

Period covered: 1 May - 31 August 2002

Last Programme Update (no. 1) issued 14 June 2002

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 84% (Revised budget)

Related Appeals: 01.18/2002: Pan American Disaster Response Unit;

Outstanding needs: CHF 439,232

Summary: While some regions in Central America remain affected by drought conditions, others suffered torrential rains and flooding in May. National intervention teams (NITs) formed an important part of the response to floods in the region. Effective response initiatives were also taken up by the Salvadorean, Honduran and Guatemalan Red Cross Societies following outbreaks of dengue fever. World Red Cross day was marked across the region through the launch of the campaign to fight HIV/AIDS related discrimination and stigma. A pilot project focusing on HIV/AIDS was initiated in Honduras, with encouraging results to date. An organization-wide change process within the Nicaraguan Red Cross was initiated in June and two workshops were held with the aim of defining the future orientation of the National Society. The process of supporting the board of directors of the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) to facilitate continued progress within the National Society despite the leadership crisis, is ongoing and elections are scheduled for October 2002. Following the holding of a summit with representatives of Red Cross Societies, Central American health authorities, the Federation and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in April, a memorandum of understanding between the Federation and PAHO was signed on 15 May 2002. Coordination with members of the Federation has yielded positive results in unifying objectives and in establishing consortia for proposal presentations to the European Union and to DIPECHO.

Given lack of funding for the appeal, the budget has been revised downwards. Funds are much needed in all programme areas, particularly the disaster preparedness, humanitarian values, health and coordination and management programmes.

Operational Developments w

Drought continues to pose problems in certain regions of Central America where successive crop failure is impacting on food security and exacerbating vulnerability. In May, drought and flooding occurred in parallel in the region and whilst severe drought conditions were prevalent in some areas, other regions in Costa Rica, Panama, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua experienced torrential rains and flooding. On 30 July, there was a minor earthquake in Chiriqui in Panama on the border with Costa Rica; electrical and telephone services were affected. In David, the provincial capital, the regional hospital was damaged and patients were evacuated. In early August, a series of earthquakes occurred in Nicaragua on the Pacific coast, measuring 2.9, 4.3 and 5.4 on the Richter scale and in mid August, a further quake on the Atlantic coast took place, measuring 5.3. No major damage was incurred.

Torrential rains hit Central Mexico in mid August and resulted in the bursting of the “Ventanillas” dam and subsequent flooding in the region of San Luis Potosi. A total of 13 people died and it is estimated that some 3,000 people were affected by the floods. In the municipality of Villa Garcia in Zacatecas, some 4,000 people were also affected by floods. In both areas, a state of emergency was declared.

As of late June, outbreaks of dengue fever occurred in Honduras. A state of emergency was declared on 22 July by the Honduran government, given that the number of cases of “classic” dengue fever in 2002 had more than tripled in relation to the previous year, and the number of cases of haemorrhagic dengue fever had increased dramatically. The last time such a high caseload of dengue fever was experienced was following the hurricane Mitch disaster in 1998/1999. In El Salvador cases of dengue more than doubled compared to those in 2001, resulting in a state of emergency in four departments: San Salvador, Santa Ana, La Libertad and Cabañas. In Guatemala, in late July, the Ministry of Health (MoH) reported the following number of dengue cases throughout the country: classic dengue: 1,863; haemorrhagic dengue: 179 with one fatality.

In Honduras, the fight against crime remains high on the political agenda whilst in Nicaragua, the popularity of the President has increased as he has achieved certain success in curbing corruption. In Guatemala, discontent with the government continues to result in increased social and political tension. During the reporting period, former paramilitaries in Guatemala held a number of tourists hostage and demanded compensation for their role in assisting the armed forces during the civil war; the government has promised payments. Low exports of coffee and poor prices continue to increase vulnerability and in Nicaragua have resulted in demonstrations held by unemployed plantation workers.

Disaster Response w

In response to flooding in May, members of the national intervention teams were mobilized in Costa Rica, Panama, El Salvador and Honduras, participating in damage and needs assessments, evacuation and assistance to affected communities. Implementation of the regional agreement for mutual support resulted in the donation of 1,000 blankets by the Nicaraguan Red Cross which were transported by truck to the Red Cross Society of Panama for distribution. In Costa Rica, a new section of the disaster preparedness department has been created with 15 volunteers who are professional psychologists in order to provide support to those affected by disasters. These volunteers took part in the operation to provide assistance to flood victims in the province of Limón. A DREF allocation of CHF 25,000 was released to support the operations in Costa Rica and Panama.

A plan of action for the drought operation was drawn up by the branch of Somoto of the Nicaraguan Red Cross to assist a community of 102 families (662 people) in the community of La Concepción, municipality of Palacaguina, in the department of Madriz. Food, agricultural support, together with technical assistance, are being provided together with silos for the storage of grain, and a health component of the activities includes use of medicinal plants. This project is funded by the Federation and the Netherlands Red Cross and concluded at the end of August.

In Guatemala, communities affected by drought and food insecurity were provided with training in ethnic languages in such issues as breast feeding, food and nutrition, hygiene, diarrhoea and acute infections. This took place in 21 communities in Rabinal, Jalapa, Baja Verapaz and Chiquimula.

In the context of the drought operation, in Honduras in May 2,250 vulnerable families in Valle, Choluteca and El Paraíso received seeds and fertilizer in order to assist with agricultural recovery. In addition, training was carried out in the use of silos and educational material provided: 120 silos were distributed in El Paraíso (70 of which in 2001), 68 in Valle, and 32 in Choluteca and Pespire. These were funded by the Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies and training and logistics were facilitated by an organization entitled Postcosecha, a cooperative of local artisans accredited by the Ministry of Agriculture. In El Paraíso, silos were distributed on a family basis, whilst in Valle and Choluteca, these were provided to groups of families. Five micro irrigation projects were identified and will be financed by the Spanish Red Cross; two have begun in Danlí through the Red Cross branch. Projects will also take place in Pespire, Nacaome and Choluteca.

In El Paraíso, crop production at the end of May proved excellent. However, in the south of the country, difficulties persist as a result of irregular rainfall and protracted spells of heat: crops of beans and sorghum were therefore lost. The Centre for the Investigation of Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) estimates that a maximum of 35-40% of the maize crop will be saved.

In El Salvador, the maize crop sown four months ago is currently being harvested by the 200 beneficiary families in the region of Morazán. A National Society technical team is introducing innovative methodologies such as use of organic fertilizer, introduction of fruit trees and micro irrigation. Agricultural tools and fertilizer, bean and corn seeds were distributed at the end of April.

For further details, please see operations update number 2 on the drought operation to be found on the Federation website.

Dengue Fever Outbreaks

The ***Honduran Red Cross*** is supporting the Ministry of Health in fumigation and clean-up activities; Red Cross youth brigades are participating in education and awareness sessions in schools. The Honduran Red Cross benefits from a community health network established together with the PNS present in the country, and is training its new category of “social” volunteers to carry out activities in dengue fever prevention. Home visits are being carried out in order to identify larval breeding grounds and to raise awareness of preventive measures, including cleaning of the immediate surroundings to eliminate stagnant water. The Canadian and American Red Cross Societies reproduced educational material for a total of 10,000 families.



In a three month operation, the ***Salvadorean Red Cross Society (SRC)*** has been carrying out awareness activities in the department of San Salvador, and is targeting three of the worst affected municipalities of Apopa,

Soyapango and San Marcos through a child to child initiative. 50 schools were identified with an average of 1,500 pupils. Since mid June, the National Society youth department trained 70 volunteers in dengue prevention who, with technical support from the community health office, in turn trained 10 students per school, together with three teachers and a group of parents in order to build a chain of awareness. Each pupil in the schools then received training with a view to ensuring that each student's family carried out cleaning and eradication of breeding sites for mosquitoes in the home environment. This operation is referred to as the "clean homes campaign". The initiative is closely coordinated with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the national emergency committee (COEN) and the Pan American Health Organization.

The *Guatemalan Red Cross* is ensuring coordination with the Ministry of Health and other organizations to support activities to promote dengue prevention. The National Society has adapted the leaflet on dengue prevention drawn up by the Salvadorean Red Cross Society to the Guatemalan context. With the support of the Federation and the American Red Cross, 10,000 leaflets are being distributed to affected communities. Red Cross youth volunteers are taking part in training activities organized by the MoH. The health department of the GRC is working with its branches in order to promote the organization of prevention campaigns in those regions most affected by the epidemic of dengue fever.

Disaster Preparedness w

Objective 1: To finalize and evaluate an integrated CBDP model; to implement and consolidate an integrated approach to community based disaster preparedness and risk management.

In the first week of May, CBDP coordinators from the Costa Rican and Guatemalan Red Cross Societies continued the development of the first new integrated CBDP model based on feedback received from National Societies on the revised methodology. In June, meetings were held with representatives of the American and Netherlands Red Cross Societies in order to review the new framework. Meetings were also held with the regional delegates in the areas of health, organizational development and youth to ensure appropriate integration in the revised methodology.

With the departure of the regional disaster preparedness delegate in late June, this initiative will be taken up in September once the new regional disaster preparedness and health delegates have been able to familiarize themselves with the work carried out to date.

In Nicaragua, an external audit of the OFDA-financed programme in temporary housing and community education in disaster preparedness was completed over the reporting period. Results of the audit were largely positive and the final report is to be issued shortly. The branches of Jinotega and Matagalpa continue to implement projects in community based disaster preparedness, with their own funding. In Honduras, the community education "familia prevenida" ("wise family") campaign was re-launched in 17 branches using revised training material, funded by the Federation and PNS.

The CIDA Canada project was finalized over the reporting period, with the issue of the final report on projects implemented in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala. This report points to the recommendation to consolidate an integrated approach to community based disaster preparedness and risk management including: vulnerability and capacity assessment in the community; the integration of community education in health, water and sanitation; the culture of peace; the environment; disaster preparedness and the creation of local volunteer programmes and response brigades to improve links with Red Cross branches and promote long-term follow with communities.

Objective 2: To strengthen disaster preparedness planning and the disaster response capacity of the national societies in the region.

In Costa Rica, a risk management workshop was held with financing from the American Geological Institute and an agreement was signed with the National University of Costa Rica to carry out assessments of the most vulnerable communities in the country. The disaster preparedness office was restructured and now includes sections for psychological support, health and community education, NITs, finance and administration, logistics

and damage and needs assessments. Evacuation plans for the National Society's regional committees were drawn up and 48 regional contingency plans were revised.

The Honduran Red Cross is currently drafting a revised policy for disaster preparedness, based on research relating to good practice in other National Societies/regions. In El Salvador, a workshop took place focusing on the analysis of previous experiences with a view to revising the national relief plan; 20 members of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society, two members of the Guatemalan Red Cross and two members of the Honduran Red Cross took part. In the same way, four preparatory workshops were held in order to revise the Honduran Red Cross national disaster plan, with the participation of branch presidents and volunteers.

Between 14 and 19 July, the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in coordination with the Regional Delegation staged a RIT refresher course. Three relief directors, 10 members of national societies in the Americas and one representative of the German Red Cross took part. The aim of the course was to ensure readiness of RITs members prior to the hurricane season, in the event of a large-scale emergency in the Americas.

Compilation of inventories of warehouses and relief supplies was carried out by the Salvadorean Red Cross Society and has begun in the Guatemalan and Honduran Red Cross Societies.

Objective 3: To contribute actively to the development and dissemination of new ideas and research in the field of disasters and in the development of strategic alliances.

In the context of the "design without borders" project, carried out through the Norwegian institute "Norsk Form" and the Rafael Landívar university in Guatemala, a visit took place to Honduras and El Salvador to areas where macro shelters were set up following hurricane Mitch and the earthquake. A presentation of the project was made on 14 August, attended by staff from the Guatemalan Red Cross, a representative of the national emergency committee, CONRED, and from the Rafael Landívar university. Alliances between the GRC, the regional delegation and CONRED continue to be strengthened, and representatives of the GRC and the regional delegation have attended regular meetings organized by CONRED, focusing on the planning of an international gathering on risk mitigation, to be held in October.

Humanitarian Values w

Objective 1: To support the promotion of the Red Cross principles internally and externally.

Under the Golfo de Fonseca project, in El Salvador two workshops on principles and values were held in the branches of Santa Rosa de Lima and Intipuka over the reporting period. A similar workshop was also scheduled in the La Unión branch, but had to be postponed. Facilitators will be trained within each branch in order that they can reproduce the workshop and act as a focal point for dissemination of Red Cross values. All youth brigades throughout the region include in their work a training component on Red Cross principles and values.

Further activities in the promotion of the Red Cross principles were not possible, given the lack of funding for this programme.

Objective 2: To develop and support Red Cross advocacy initiatives.

For the launch of World Red Cross Day on 8 May, focusing on the campaign against HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination, five national societies in the region organized a series of events. In El Salvador, the President of the National Society was featured on Salvadoran radio, explaining the commitment of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society to work in the area of HIV/AIDS. A press conference was held by the head of the medical department and the public relations and press department produced an anniversary magazine detailing Red Cross work since the earthquake of 2001. The magazine also includes information on the HIV/AIDS campaign and was distributed with one of the country's major newspapers. Some 350 National

Society youth volunteers led a street march with banners and pamphlets and set up information stands. In Panama, discussions were held in schools and colleges throughout the country on the theme of HIV/AIDS. In addition, the Red Cross Society of Panama launched its new web site on 8 May. In Costa Rica, the campaign received publicity from the media and on-going activities will be organized until the end of the year. At least 30 first aiders will run nine regional workshops for school and college pupils, including some 15 participants. Facilitators are entrusted with generating new ways of looking at and dealing with the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS.

A gathering in Guatemala brought together all volunteers who have participated in first aid, environmental and HIV/AIDS activities. The group marched in the city streets with banners on the HIV/AIDS campaign. The official launch of the campaign promoted the work to be done in this area and discussed cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations. In early July, the Guatemalan Red Cross also set up a competition in painting and literary composition entitled "More Humanitarian Youth", in which young people between 11 and 24 years old are participating, divided into three categories according to age. The themes of the competition are HIV/AIDS and famine, both were decided upon because of the possibility of conveying a concrete message which can easily reach young Guatemalans: HIV/AIDS, stigma and discrimination and perceptions of and solutions to famine. Award winning work will be exhibited in three major galleries in the capital and it is thus hoped to raise the awareness of youth on current issues.

The President of the Honduran Red Cross together with the mayor of the capital city, joined people living with HIV/AIDS to launch the anti-stigma campaign. In solidarity with people living with HIV/AIDS, officials and members of the public left their painted hand print on canvas that had been signed with messages by HIV/AIDS sufferers. The same canvas will tour Red Cross branches where more solidarity hand prints will be added. In addition, the Honduran Red Cross/Federation created a television spot focusing on HIV/AIDS and Red Cross work in this area, which was broadcast on CNN for several days. In Nicaragua, a speech was given by the President of the National Society focusing on HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination and attended by volunteers and the media.

The launch of the World Disaster Report 2002 by the regional delegation was held on 9 July 2002; the event took the form of a presentation by a group of panellists, followed by a question and answer session. Panellists included representatives of the national emergency body in Guatemala, CONRED, the national meteorological institute, INSIVIMEH and the German Cooperation agency, GTZ. The gathering was well attended and much interest was expressed on the part of participants. Some 20 journalists attended the event, together with representatives of international organizations, Embassies and government bodies. The National Society of Panama also organized a launch ceremony on 24 July attended by members of the international and national press and international organizations.

Youth brigades within the Costa Rican Red Cross provided sessions on HIV/AIDS awareness to a total of 700 young people and adults, and the Honduran Red Cross youth brigades are taking part in the National Society's campaign with 150 young people from 26 branches, facilitating discussions with institutes, youth groups and churches.

Objective 3: To support Red Cross school brigades and youth leadership training.

Given the continuing lack of funding for the youth programme, the National Societies of Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama are continuing the school brigades programme using their own funds.

In Nicaragua, Red Cross youth members are working on a campaign aimed at secondary school students with the aim of forming brigades in 13 schools in Managua. At present, there are some 300 secondary school students who are members of school brigades and receive training in such areas as youth leadership, communication skills, self esteem, gender, sexual and reproductive health, AIDS prevention, first aid and Red Cross principles and values. Together with a teacher who acts as coordinator, the brigades, each made up of some 25 young people aged between 15 and 18, implement campaigns focusing on such themes as: personal hygiene, vaccination, blood donation, accident prevention, garbage removal and planning of future projects and

events. In Costa Rica, 1,090 children are members of youth brigades in 50 schools in the provinces of San José, Alajuela, Cartago and Guanacaste. In El Salvador, the youth brigades project is implemented through ten Red Cross branches and is focused mainly on disaster preparedness., whilst in Honduras, the project is implemented through 14 branches and youth brigades have been formed in 30 schools with a total of 900 children taking part.

Objective 4: To promote initiatives in peace-building and non-violence.

During the last week of July, the Colón chapter of the Red Cross Society of Panama, held its provincial youth camp. The young people taking part received talks on such subjects as international humanitarian law, volunteerism, first aid and AIDS prevention. 30 volunteers also participated in cultural and recreational activities during the week of the camp. The aim of such events is to continue training young volunteers and promoting their interest in Red Cross values and Red Cross work.

In June, the Honduran Red Cross participated in a forum organized by Save the Children focusing on juvenile violence including rehabilitation of young people once members of “maras” or gangs, and the promotion of leisure time activities.

Health and Care w

Objective 1: To support and strengthen national society health departments across the region, focusing on their capacity to develop and deliver sustainable health programmes which are in line with Strategy 2010.

On 9 August 2002, the new regional health delegate for Central America and the Caribbean joined the regional delegation in Guatemala. One of her first priorities will be to support the National Societies in the drawing up of a health strategy for the Americas in preparation for the Inter-American conference in April 2003.

Since February, the health bulletin for the Americas has been published regularly, each two weeks. To date, 14 bulletins have been issued focusing on topics such as community health, HIV/AIDS, water and sanitation and first aid.

In Nicaragua, a health consortium has been formed, made up of the Spanish Red Cross which is taking the lead, and the Italian and Netherlands Red Cross Societies. The consortium, coordinated by the Federation, was set up with a view to presenting a joint proposal to the Regional Reconstruction Programme for Central America “Programa Regional de Reconstrucción de América Central” (PRRAC) of the European Union, to establish a health programme in two communities in Nueva Segovia: Jalapa and San Fernando benefiting a total of 606 and 665 families respectively. The programme aims to build capacity in health in the communities through education focusing on mother and child health and the setting up of health facilities. The programme would take place through the branches of Ocotal and Jalapa, with the full involvement of the Ministry of Health. A response to the proposal is expected for the end of September. In El Salvador, the National Society, with technical support from the Spanish Red Cross and funding from the European Union, is running an integrated community health project in two areas of the department of San Miguel. The project, under implementation until April 2003, assists 135 families in health education, water and sanitation, the environment and improvement of housing infrastructure. An application, drawn up by the National Society’s community health office in cooperation with the Spanish and Italian Red Cross Societies, was made to PRRAC for an extension of the integrated health project to two further areas.

Following the signature of a memorandum of understanding between the Federation and PAHO on 15 May 2002, there has been close liaison with PAHO in Central America. In El Salvador, the response to the dengue fever outbreak was partially financed by PAHO, with funding channelled through the Federation. In the four “Mitch” countries, tripartite agreements are under signature between governments, PAHO and the National Societies regarding roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the AIEPI or IMCI - integrated management of childhood illnesses - initiative. A conference focusing on recruitment of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors with the launch of the Federation’s manual, “Making a Difference” (MaD) was held in Honduras on 6 August with the attendance of representatives of PAHO, Ministries of Health and National Societies. The Spanish version of the MaD tool kit was prepared by PAHO.

In April, a candidate for the position of community health assistant in the Guatemalan Red Cross was confirmed and the assistant took up his post in May. The community health assistant is focusing primarily on the community integrated management of childhood illnesses initiative as part of the approach to continue the work carried out previously through the human development programme. In Honduras, the coordinator of the pilot project on HIV/AIDS was recruited in May, and work has continued on strengthening the structure of the health department.

Objective 2: To strengthen and increase HIV/AIDS programming.

This is a major priority for the region and the regional health delegate will be focusing on working with the National Societies and delegations in the region in order to draw up a strategy for the Federation's work in the area of HIV/AIDS.

In Nicaragua, over the reporting period, information sessions were held in the Nicaraguan Red Cross blood bank, facilitated by an NGO working with people living with AIDS, Nimehuatzin. A pilot project in HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination was initiated in Honduras on 16 June, focusing on branches in areas with the highest rates of HIV infection. The headquarters and 11 branches in the north west of the country and on the Atlantic coast were initially targeted, and by the end of August, a total of 13 branches had been involved. The project aims to boost awareness in issues relating to HIV/AIDS within the Honduran Red Cross membership, and four hour workshops have been held with each of the 13 branches. The session includes a knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) exercise through a questionnaire made up of 13 questions, five of which are directly concerned with stigma and discrimination. Part of the session looks to share experiences related to HIV/AIDS amongst those taking part who are Red Cross personnel, volunteers and members of the community. To date, a total of between 380 and 400 people have participated in the workshops. Results of the workshop, evidenced through the questionnaire which looks at knowledge prior to the workshop and following the discussions, are highly positive. Each branch has been requested to put together an action plan including four activities in the community which highlight the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS, and a small budget of some USD 125 has been made available per branch. The Omoa branch has submitted a proposal and others are currently awaited. These activities will culminate on 1 December with the re-launch of the hand-print campaign carried out on 8 May and which collected a total of 3,200 hand prints in solidarity with those living with HIV/AIDS.

As a result of the project, strategic alliances have been forged with PAHO and ONUSIDA, together with the national network of people living with AIDS in Honduras, Asonapvsidah. An strategic alliance agreement with this organization has been drafted and in Comayagua, a self-help group which forms part of Asonapvsidah, is receiving support from the Red Cross branch. Asonapvsidah is particularly interested in developing a Red Cross module for first aid tailored for people living with AIDS. Exchange of materials and promotion of information on the Honduran Red Cross's campaign with the 13 national organizations working in HIV/AIDS are taking place.

By the end of December, the Honduran Red Cross hopes to train 55 trainers of trainers in HIV/AIDS awareness-raising who will be selected from the body of youth volunteers.

A further initiative which is being studied, is the possibility of training 30 councillors who would work with the Honduran Red Cross blood banks located in Tegicigalpa, San Pedro Sula and La Ceiba, providing advice and support to persons tested HIV positive.

Based in Honduras, a regional volunteer chairman for HIV/AIDS initiatives was appointed for a one year period to give guidance and support for HIV/AIDS projects and activities in Central America. With funding from DFID, a further project is under formulation with the objective of increasing awareness amongst the Honduran public of the suffering caused by discrimination against HIV/AIDS infected persons, and in partnership with HIV/AIDS infected persons, to design a regional anti-stigma campaign for 2003. This project will be implemented between October and December 2002.

Objective 3: To promote integrated community development through the Golfo de Fonseca pilot project.

Following the external project evaluation which took place in April, an evaluation report has been compiled and, as a result of a participative process at branch level, a new logical framework was formulated by the project coordinator, together with a revised budget for the next two years. The new project design will focus on six areas of intervention, with the following objectives:

- The rural communities selected will strengthen their capacities to respond to disasters and prevent daily health problems, through the formation of a community volunteer structure linked to the Red Cross.
- The community, together with strategic partners, is able to identify community problems, formulate strategies, generate resources and implement solutions.
- The Red Cross branches selected have the capacity to work with rural communities, providing support in preventative health, disaster preparedness and the formation of community volunteer structures.
- The branches selected have the characteristics of a well functioning National Society at local level.
- The branches selected have the capacity to work with other organizations to identify vulnerable groups in or around their locality and are providing a long term commitment to improve the lives of the most vulnerable.
- At the branch and community level, there exists proactive collaboration and coordination with government ministries and other organisations in order to provide efficient and effective services.

In El Salvador, three additional areas of work are foreseen for the remainder of 2002: support to micro-projects; increased support to the Intipuka branch and coordination with the new departments of health and OD within the Salvadorean Red Cross Society. In addition, an exchange of experience with the branch in San Miguel which is part of the OD pilot project in El Salvador, will be a priority in the coming months. As a result of interest generated by first aid courses at the Intipuka branch, new Red Cross volunteers have been recruited who will form a youth department within the branch. In preparation for a nutritional baseline survey and the setting up of a child surveillance system at community level, communities have been given training on the measurement of children, the use of weight charts and the child vaccination schedule. In August, disaster preparedness workshops were begun at community level, focusing on shelter management, in order to build community capacity in the event of a disaster. The communities of La Galilea and Valle Afuera, in coordination with local branches and the health committees, are currently implementing micro projects: the setting up of a mill and a well respectively.

In Nicaragua, a new project coordinator has been recruited and several members of staff were replaced which caused a degree of instability, although the changes are expected to be beneficial to the project in the long term. The Spanish Red Cross donated cinema equipment to the Chinandega branch and a local NGO has assisted with the training of three teams (technical, advertising and administration). The Golfo de Fonseca project has assisted with small items of furniture. A new training coordinator has been selected by the branch and the formulation of a training plan is in process; the first priorities will be community health - IMCI - and training of trainers courses. During the reporting period, community volunteers assisted the Ministry of Health in vaccinating children in the rural communities under the project.

Organizational Development w

Objective 1: To support and strengthen national society governance and management.

Under the regional organizational development (OD) programme, two National Societies have been identified as priorities, together with the ICRC: the Guatemalan Red Cross and the Nicaraguan Red Cross.

The regional OD delegate and the Federation delegation in Guatemala supported the process towards the revision of the Statutes of the Guatemalan Red Cross. The revised Statutes and the national development plan were approved by the national assembly held on 26 and 27 April. Key revisions were made promoting impartiality, a new profile for the board, improved representation of volunteers and more detailed allocation of responsibilities between governance and management. In May the GRC national development plan, 2002-2006, was also approved by branch presidents.

In Honduras, workshops, co-financed by the Federation and the PNS, are being carried out in each of the branches at the level of governance focusing on Honduran Red Cross policies. The revised Honduran Red Cross Statutes, were reviewed by the joint Commission and will be presented for approval at the General Assembly to be held on 21 September. In June 2002, work began on the drafting of the regulations for the Statutes. The national development plan of the National Society is being actively disseminated in the branches by a network of 15 disseminators trained for this purpose.

Revision of the Statutes of the Nicaraguan Red Cross is expected to be completed in December. A financial and administrative audit is taking place in Nicaragua which is scheduled for completion in mid September. In cooperation with the Nicaraguan Development Center, a series of courses in management skills are being carried out funded by the Federation, the ICRC, the American, Canadian and Spanish Red Cross Societies. The course content includes induction to the Red Cross, strategic communication, volunteer management, strategic planning, fund-raising, service provision and the project planning process (PPP). The process was launched in early July with the design of the course materials and by the end of December, it is expected that all branches will be in a position to draw up plans of action and work plans. In early August, courses were held in the branches of Waspán, Siuna, Bluefields, Puerto Cabezas and El Rama, and at the end of August in Chinandega, Chichigalpa, Corinto, León, La Paz Centro and Nagarote.

Between 6 and 8 June, the regional organizational development delegate facilitated the first of a series of organization-wide change management workshops with representation of all components of the Nicaraguan Red Cross including 76 participants: 17 representatives of local branches; 15 representatives of departmental branches and 44 members of the National Council, the Executive Committee, and directors of programmes and sectors. In addition, representatives of five PNSs participated in the workshop: the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross. The purpose of the workshops is to assist the Nicaraguan Red Cross in analyzing its current situation, agreeing on a shared vision, and by November 2002, drawing up a strategic plan and a national development plan. The Federation will continue to offer facilitation of the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) process in Nicaragua.

It is anticipated that these workshops will result in profound change within the Nicaraguan Red Cross, eventually resulting in an organizational emphasis on provision of high quality services to Nicaragua's vulnerable communities. The first workshop provided a forum for an honest and open dialogue on several key issues, along with an emerging consensus on the direction of change.

The national board of the Nicaraguan Red Cross convened an extraordinary session following the first workshop and issued a unanimous resolution committing to the change process. The board assembled during the second workshop, which took place from 18 - 20 July in Managua, and the President of the National Society read the resolution to all present. Some 96 persons participated in the second workshop representing the national board, key personnel from the headquarters, representatives of each of the branches and of the following PNS: the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross Societies. A stakeholder analysis was carried out for the Nicaraguan Red Cross. A detailed matrix of vulnerable groups was produced, together with an analysis of current projects and financing in response to the needs of these groups, of which more than 40 were identified. Participants were also asked to prioritize the vulnerable groups which the NRC will target in the next few years. A third workshop is scheduled for 6 - 8 September in Managua, to which external organizations will be invited and during which the process of drawing up the NRC strategic plan will be initiated.

The process is funded by the Spanish Red Cross through the Federation and is being documented as a case study which will be available in early 2003.

During the reporting period, the self-assessment was completed by the Salvadorean Red Cross Society.

Objective 2: To promote the development of integrated programmes at branch level, addressing basic community needs.

The Golfo de Fonseca project is a pilot in the area of integrated programming which is considered vital in future work in the region. Lessons learned from the Golfo de Fonseca project are being taken into consideration in the drafting of the appeal 2003 - 2004 for the region.

With the aim of improving the contribution of the regional team in integrated programming, a regional OD team has been formed composed of the HoD in Nicaragua, the Federation representative in Mexico, the OD delegate in El Salvador, the HoD in El Salvador, the HoD in Guatemala and the regional OD delegate.

It was not possible to implement further activities as a result of a lack of funding.

Objective 3: To promote human resource development and effective volunteer management.

The Guatemalan Red Cross with the support of the Federation is working on establishing a volunteer department in the GRC, aiming to attract new volunteers, improve volunteer management and retaining and promoting diversification of the volunteer base. The GRC will promote integration of volunteering (as included and approved in the new version of the Statutes). In future, three members of the volunteer corps will become members of the national board. The GRC is now working on its internal volunteer regulations expanding on the rights and obligations included in the new Statutes.

The communications delegate in Mexico facilitated knowledge sharing in El Salvador, providing information on the work carried out in Honduras in order to draw up new regulations regarding volunteering and to revise appropriate clauses relating to volunteering in the National Society Statutes. Members of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society and the Guatemalan Red Cross visited the Honduran Red Cross during the reporting period with a view to exchanging information and experiences, particularly the introduction of a database for registration of volunteers established by the Honduran Red Cross.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross appointed a member of the governing board as focal point for volunteering in July. Following this nomination, a workshop was held in July in the north of the country launching a national survey to determine current numbers and profile of NRC volunteers. The Statutes of the NRC, under revision, will reinforce the concept of volunteering.

Other activities foreseen in the appeal were not undertaken, given a lack of funding in this area.

Objective 4: To strengthen national society capacity in communications and information and to support activities in communication and advocacy.

The communications forum held in Bolivia between 6 and 10 May 2002 with participation from the three regions of the Americas resulted in an effective exchange of information and dialogue between national society communicators, Federation information delegates and communications staff from the Secretariat. A number of conclusions were reached including the need to disseminate key policy documents more widely, including the Movement strategy and the Inter American Regional Committee (CORI) plan of action. A communications strategy will be developed by the members of the forum for the period 2003 - 2007 which will be presented to the CORI during the meeting scheduled for April 2003.

Under the capacity building programme in communications, three further branches have been incorporated in the project in Nicaragua: León, Granada and Tipitapa - therefore, eleven branches are now taking part, each of which has a dedicated communicator. Work carried out to date has been analyzed and a plan of action drawn up by each branch for activities in 2002.

In Panama, this year, the focus is at the level of the provinces through the participation of Provincial branches: Los Santos, including the branches of La Villa and Las Tablas are taking part; Herrera provincial branch

together with the Chitré chapter of the National Society is participating and in Panama, the headquarters, Las Cumbres branch and the youth group are now involved in the programme. A work plan is being drawn up with a plan of action for the months of August to December; this will include an analysis of needs and definition of priorities in communication.

In Costa Rica, the selection of new branches is currently taking place.

In Nicaragua, workshops have been carried out this year at the headquarters with the participation of all communicators who make up a national information network. Writing techniques have been a focus of attention, whereby communicators' skills in writing press notes have been improved. Simulations took place on 28 July and 18 August, focusing on the organization of a press conference and implementation of the contingency plan in information. A data base of media representatives in Nicaragua has been compiled; both the Costa Rican Red Cross and the Red Cross Society of Panama also have updated data bases for national and local media representatives.

In Nicaragua, fifty graduates from the long distance education programme (LDEP) last year are taking part in meetings in order to maintain momentum; there will be no courses for new students this year, given that there are currently sufficient numbers of information promoters. In Costa Rica, 24 new volunteers enrolled for the LDEP programme which was inaugurated on 20 July with a first teaching session. In Panama, on 25 May, 40 new volunteers began the next cycle of long distance education programme sessions.

In Santa Rosa de Pocosol, Costa Rica, based on one of LEDP modules, a fund-raising initiative has begun in order to involve local businesses in Red Cross activities in support of local communities. In Costa Rica, there has been a focus on improvement of internal communication through the improved use of the notice board and the allocation of e-mail accounts to communicators. In Panama, communication teams formed in the branches last year are assisting and guiding new participants. There are two coordinators of the programme per branch, one who was involved in the programme in 2001 and a volunteer representing the newly-formed group. Thus, important lessons learned are passed on.

In El Salvador, a workshop was organized for volunteers from the branches of Chalatenango and Aguilares who received training in the preparation of news articles and information materials, thus strengthening the network of Salvadorean Red Cross Society communicators.

An interesting development in Nicaragua is that five communicators took part in the NRC elections and were elected to the branch governing boards in León, Matagalpa, Tipitapa, Sébaco and El Rama. These communicators will be responsible for disseminating at branch level the strategic plans resulting from the change process, thus becoming agents of change within the National Society. In a strategic alliance with the University of Central America in Managua, a study of the image of the NRC will be undertaken involving the communicators trained under the capacity building programme.

The LDEP was not introduced in Guatemala and Honduras, given a current lack of capacity to absorb this complex activity.

Objective 5: To promote awareness of and provide technical training on disaster information issues and practices for National Societies and the mass media.

On 30 June, a workshop on disasters was successfully held in Nicaragua, in Estelí. This was attended by local journalists, representatives of local organizations and members of governing boards of associated branches. A further workshop was held on 4 August in Matagalpa focusing on information in disasters and attended by National Society communicators, local authorities, members of the fire brigade and the civil defence. Further workshops of this nature are planned for the period September to December by the three National Societies which are currently participating in the capacity building programme.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Fundamental Principles and Initiatives

Indicate here how this programme is generally further advancing or addressing the following:

- *The youth departments of the National Societies in the region promote training in the fundamental principles and humanitarian values.*
- *The regional delegation recognizes the need to ensure greater focus on the most vulnerable communities including ethnic minorities, and to take into account the large number of female-headed households in vulnerable rural areas; youth brigades in Nicaragua incorporated a gender component in their training work as of April 2002, using the manual developed by the regional delegation for South America.*
- *The launch of the campaign focusing on discrimination and stigma in relation to HIV/AIDS on 8 May was taken up throughout the region and a pilot project in HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination was launched in June in Honduras.*

Regional Cooperation w

Objective 1: To promote effective cooperation between the national societies of the region and Red Cross partners.

The cooperation agreement strategy process was initiated in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras during the reporting period. The change process currently taking place in Nicaragua will also lead to the drawing up of a CAS.

On 3 June 2002, the Federation Regional Communications Delegate took up his post in Mexico with a view to providing assistance to the Mexican Red Cross in the area of organizational development, promoting awareness of the Federation's key policies and of facilitating the harmonization project with the ICRC. In this respect, a work plan was drawn up for the pilot project and approved. The communications delegate participated in a regional dissemination and communication meeting organized by the ICRC in Mexico between 3 and 7 June, resulting in the definition of a new role for communicators in National Society organizational development processes and capacity building. He also took part in the international course for university professors in IHL which was held in Guadalajara between 7 and 17 June, in order to present the structure of the Movement and the mandate of the Federation. The communications delegate also worked with the ICRC regarding the strengthening of both dissemination and tracing in the Mexican Red Cross structure.

Objective 2: To promote the training and recruitment of delegates from the region.

Through the regional recruitment programme, the Federation delegation in Guatemala was boosted by a "staff on loan" from the Mexican Red Cross in June; she is responsible for support to volunteering and training and her activities have already included a preliminary evaluation of training capacity at headquarters and in three regional centres: Cobán, Puerto Barrios and possibly Coatepeque.

During the RITs refresher training course which took place in July, the regional administration coordinator, responsible for human resources, undertook an interview with each participant in order to review past experience, interest and availability for potential future missions. The regional delegation together with PADRU worked with the National Societies in the region in order to begin the selection process of candidates for the FACT course to take place in Panama in September. A section on courses and events has been included in the regional web site in order to facilitate and promote participation in the different training courses available in the region.

The basic training course (BTC) in Spanish scheduled for the second half of the year has been postponed until 2003.

Objective 3: To promote effective cooperation, partnerships and alliances with non Red Cross partners.

Visits were undertaken by the HoRD to the Swedish Cooperation Agency, the Spanish Cooperation Agency and GTZ with a view to promoting the Federation and encouraging strategic alliances. Marketing initiatives were also undertaken during the reporting period with several foundations in Guatemala in the hope of financial support for the Guatemalan Red Cross or for activities in the region. The major newspaper in Guatemala, Prensa Libre, promoted the launch of the World Disaster Report with the publication of a special report on this event.

Following discussions in Nicaragua with the regional headquarters of the World Food Programme (WFP), a draft agreement for regional cooperation between the WFP and the Federation has been put forward for approval.

Following the signature of a memorandum of understanding between the Federation and PAHO on 15 May 2002, a meeting of health experts will take place in Panama in late September, focusing on the Caribbean, but with participation from representatives from Central America.

Coordination and Management w

Objective 1: To manage and coordinate Federation support to national society programmes in the region effectively and efficiently.

As of August, a full team of regional delegates is once again in place with the arrival of the regional disaster preparedness delegate and the regional health delegate for Central America and the Caribbean in early August. The HoRD, together with the administration coordinator, continue to work on the transition plan for the move of the delegation to Panama, scheduled for the end of the year 2002, where the new Secretariat structure will be set up to provide support to Central American and Caribbean National Societies, together with overseas branches.

During the reporting period, the country delegation in Honduras reduced staff and moved offices, sharing office space with the PNSs, in order to cut costs. The Nicaragua delegation, already reduced to a minimum, continued to seek cost-cutting solutions, for example, the sharing of the services of a driver with a PNS delegation.

Objective 2: To support the financial management of Federation regional and country delegations in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

The regional finance unit (RFU) is moving from support of basic finance functions, to a more advanced level of support. To date, the RFU has focused on accounting issues, documentation of expenses and other necessary day-to-day functions. However, during the reporting period, the RFU began a detailed review of each delegation. As of the end of August, the financial management of the El Salvador and Buenos Aires delegations has been analyzed. It is expected to have issued a detailed report for each delegation by the end of October. Follow up on these reports will continue with missions and exchange of information into 2003. The RFU continues to develop its contingency plan for disaster response together with PADRU.

During the reporting period, the RFU ensured that negative balances are not incurred in the Americas, through training of the finance officers and constant monitoring activities. Continued support was ensured to the El Salvador delegation where visits were made in May, July and August. More, pertinent financial information is available through the use of various programmes in business objects, the BuSy system, the FMR and CODA. By June 2002, the new version of the BuSy software was introduced in all delegations with the exception of Honduras where there were technical problems.

Objective 3: To set up a pan regional reporting unit in order to ensure effective support to the regional and country delegations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean in reporting issues and to build capacity for reporting in the Americas.

The regional reporting unit ensured compliance with the Federation minimum reporting standards between January and June. Monitoring of compliance for the second half of the year is ongoing. Training in Federation reporting is now included in the curriculum of NITs and RITs training courses. The regional reporting delegate provided facilitation for a session on reporting during the RITs refresher course held in Panama in mid July. A training session in reporting, including a practical exercise, also formed part of the leadership course held in Antigua Guatemala in early June. Lack of funding continues to prevent the development of a wider role for the reporting unit including capacity building functions.

Advocacy/Public Information w

The regional web site for Latin America is constantly updated with news from the three regions of the Americas. A separate web site for the Caribbean region was launched on 8 May. During the reporting period, the major initiative in advocacy was the launch of the campaign to reduce HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination. Other activities include the launch of the World Disaster Report in early July and on-going contacts with the University of San Carlos, Guatemala, in the context of the programme to strengthen National Society capacity in communications.

Outstanding needs

Lack of funding in Central America remains a serious setback to programme implementation. As a result of lack of income for the appeal, the appeal budget was revised in July and a review took place in order to ensure focus on the most essential priority areas.

For further details please contact: Olaug Bergseth, Phone : 41 22 730 45 35; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: bergseth@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>.

John Horekens
Director
External Relations

Santiago Gil
Head
Americas Department

Central America regional							
APPEAL No. 01.19/2002 - Revised budget							CHF
PROGRAMME	Disaster Prep	Health & Care	Human Values	OD	Reg. Co-operation	Co-ord. & Mgmt	TOTAL
Shelter & Construction		26'906					26'906
Clothing & Textiles							
Food & Seeds							
Water and sanitation							
Medical & 1st Aid		2'154					2'154
Teaching Materials	10'000	22'500				1'000	33'500
Ustensils & Tools	1'000						1'000
Other Relief Supplies	5'000	28'000					33'000
Subtotal Supplies	16'000	79'560				1'000	96'560
Land & Buildings							
Vehicles							
Computer & Telecom	8'000	10'000	5'000	8'000	500	5'603	37'103
Medical Equipment							
Other Capital Equipment	7'000	6'750	8'000	15'000	500	300	37'550
Subtotal Capital	15'000	16'750	13'000	23'000	1'000	5'903	74'653
Programme Management	24'803	46'336	9'149	44'322	4'197	66'499	195'305
Technical Services	7'425	13'870	2'739	13'268	1'256	19'906	58'464
Professional Fees	8'234	15'382	3'037	14'714	1'393	22'076	64'836
Subtotal Programme Support	40'462	75'588	14'924	72'304	6'847	108'481	318'606
Subtotal Transport & Storage		43'830		1'418		10'458	55'705
Delegates & Expatriates	120'000	120'000	10'000	304'196	10'000	391'177	955'372
Local Staff	44'459	171'454	30'000	80'336	8'500	261'763	596'512
Subtotal Personnel	164'459	291'454	40'000	384'532	18'500	652'939	1'551'884
Travel & Related Expenses	25'618	42'141	18'000	21'762	10'000	68'334	185'856
Information	10'000	6'159	12'000	3'559	1'000	6'066	38'784
Professional Fees (Expert)	30'000	19'491	3'000	20'732	500	37'386	111'109
General Expenses	16'294	42'195	7'750	30'000	4'400	75'619	176'258
Training Workshops & Seminars	50'000	70'000	27'000	100'000	20'000		267'000
Security						20'000	20'000
Subtotal Travel & General Expenses	131'912	179'985	67'750	176'053	35'900	207'406	799'007
TOTAL BUDGET	367'833	687'168	135'674	657'307	62'247	986'187	2'896'416

NAME:	Central America regional							ANNEX 1
	APPEAL No. 01.19/2002	PLEDGES RECEIVED					27.09.2002	
DO	DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
CASH								
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					2'896'416		TOTAL COVERAGE 84.8%	
CFCASH	CASH CARRIED FORWARD				1'131'054			
ot	Programme support				416'500			
ot	Programme support RFU				141'700			
GB	BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				195'000	19.02.2002	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS/RESPONSE, COMMUNITY HEALTH, REPORTING	
GB	BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				175'000	07.08.2002	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS/RESPONSE, COMMUNITY HEALTH, HUMANITARIAN VALUES, COSTA RICA	
NOR	NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		600'000	NOK	120'180	19.07.2002	HEALTH, ORGANISATION DEV., HUMANITARIAN VALUES, CBH, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS	
SWE	SWEDISH - GOVT		500'000	SEK	80'500	30.05.2002	COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT	
SWE	SWEDISH - GOVT		185'000	SEK	29'970	30.05.2002	OD / HEALTH IN BRANCHES	
UAE	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		30'000	AED	13'164	15.05.2002	COMMUNITY HEALTH & IMCI, REPORTING	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH					2'303'068	CHF	79.5%	
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)								
DO	DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
CAN	CANADA	DELEGATE(S)			30'882			
GER	GERMANY	DELEGATE(S)			24'148			
GB	GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			36'468			
NET	NETHERLANDS	DELEGATE(S)			2'628			
NOR	NORWAY	DELEGATE(S)			60'000		HEAD RFU GUATEMALA	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES					154'126	CHF	5.3%	