

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

GUATEMALA

12 August 2002

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Appeal No. 01.20/2002

Appeal Target: CHF 923,090

Beneficiaries/target groups (if available): N/A

Programme Update No. 2; Period covered: 1 April - 30 June 2002; Last Programme Update (no. 1) issued 21 May 2002

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 91.1%

Related Appeals: 01.18/2002: Pan American Disaster Response Unit; 01.19/2002: Central America

Outstanding needs: CHF 96,925

Summary: Much has been achieved over the quarter in all areas despite an ongoing leadership crisis in the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC). A plan of action has been drawn up to facilitate continued progress until the forthcoming elections in October 2002. The food insecurity operation which will be completed in late August, has been given major coverage in the national press. A Federation training coordinator joined the delegation in June and will ensure strengthened volunteer management and the drawing up of a national training programme; a community health assistant was recruited in May who is working primarily in the integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI) initiative. The revised GRC 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.

Operational Developments w

In Guatemala, the media continues to focus on government corruption with emphasis on the national elections that are due in 2003. Security conditions have deteriorated slightly, especially in the north of the country where for a brief period the PAC (civil protection forces set up during the conflict) occupied the local airport thereby attracting international attention to their calls for compensation from the government. Land issues also remain a priority with a number of organized protests taking place during the quarter.

The leadership crisis in the Guatemalan Red Cross continues to affect the overall activities of the National Society and impacts on the delegation. A plan of action has been elaborated together with the board to facilitate the progress of activities until the proposed elections in October 2002. On a more positive note, the

GRC's national development plan and revised Statutes have been approved by the National Assembly. The Statutes now await final comments from the Secretariat before they can be registered with the government and come into effect.

During this quarter, response to the Federation's appeal increased with funds coming in from both the Norwegian Red Cross and the British Red Cross. With funding also pledged by the Swedish Red Cross and that already available through the Capacity Building Fund, the delegation is now in a much stronger financial position in all areas of its work.

In June, a new "staff on loan" arrived from the Mexican Red Cross to take up the position of Federation training coordinator. This opens up a PNS relationship with the Mexican Red Cross since the National Society will continue to cover her salary during the period that she is on mission. This will help the delegation to improve considerably support to volunteering and ensure the drawing up of a national training programme.

The drought operation is gradually consuming less of the capacity of the delegation with seed and fertiliser distributions almost completed and the final phase of training underway. It will therefore be possible to focus more on community health, on the promotion of national intervention teams and on the proposed regional training and response centres in strategic branches and at headquarters.

Disaster Response w

In the second quarter, the food insecurity operation continued to take much of the capacity of the delegation, in particular in disaster preparedness and health.

In April, 224 community health promoters in the 21 communities were trained in the detection of malnutrition by previously trained GRC volunteers. In addition, the first batch of 42 weighing scales, 170 measuring tapes and 200 bracelets (for measuring upper arm circumference) were distributed to those who took part and to local health authorities. At the same time, the GRC continued training in key health messages including the distribution of pamphlets and posters in local languages: chortí, achí and kaqchikel thereby improving access to a local population amongst whom the majority do not speak Spanish.

The purchase of seeds proved extremely difficult given a lack of availability in the market; as a result the process was delayed with distributions in Rabinal to over 1,000 families and in Chiquimula to over 640 families finally taking place at the beginning of June just in time for planting. The GRC and the Spanish Red Cross had already completed seed distributions to some 806 families in Jalapa in May.

Preparation for the distribution of fertiliser took place throughout June with distributions carried out in Chiquimula from 19 to 22 June and in Rabinal in early July. Training in agricultural techniques is now taking place and it is hoped to close the operation by the end of August



Administration prior to fertiliser distribution in Rabinal

Disaster Preparedness w

Objective 1: To strengthen the community based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programme increasing the capacity of communities to prepare for and respond to both natural and man made disasters.

The CBDP review process being implemented through the regional delegation continued and a new regional proposal is currently under finalization. In May, the country delegation held preliminary meeting with the senior management of the GRC who were positive to taking the activity forward. This will be followed up with a briefing for the board at the end of July. Other activities contributing to this objective are being supported by the American Red Cross (ARC) Central American Mitigation Initiative (CAMI) programme. Between January and February of this year, the ARC supported some 18 training courses in Escuintla, Jalapa and Chiquimula branches covering topics such as first aid, risk management, damage and needs assessments and managing an operations centre.

In May, various heads of relief departments within the national societies in Central America attended a regional meeting together with delegates, which reminded them of commitments made in the Inter American Regional Committee (CORI) plan of action and during the Presidents' meeting held in Honduras in September 2001. This enabled the GRC to involve further the head of relief in CBDP.

Priorities for the remainder of the year - to finalize with the regional delegation changes to training materials and ascertain whether or not funding is available. If so, the project should be continued. If no regional funds are available, the delegation will continue with the community-based mitigation projects to ensure that momentum is not lost.

Objective 2 : To strengthen the capacity of the Guatemalan Red Cross to respond quickly and effectively to local and national disasters.

A member of the GRC attended the regional intervention team (RIT) course which was held in Bolivia in April. Efforts were made over the reporting period to encourage and support the drawing up of the GRC response plan, but success has been limited. In May, the GRC began putting together a contingency plan for flooding in 2002 and has also drafted a number of procedures and protocols as part of its commitment as members of FOSIDERE, a project which aims to strengthen rescue systems and which involves a number of national organizations such as the fire brigade, the police and the Ministry of Health.

On 16 and 17 May, the relief director and an assistant visited El Salvador to participate in, and therefore learn from, the elaboration of the Salvadorean Red Cross national emergency plan.

With the support of the ARC, both the relief director and an assistant took part in a disaster management course organized by CONRED and UNDP. They also put together a rescue simulation on the active Pacaya volcano. Also with ARC support, a number of GRC volunteers received further training on mental health in disasters (known as TICs - Técnicos de Intervención en Crisis).

The GRC made an evaluation of its radio system in all branches. The National Society will present a proposal for some improvements which need to be made.

In April, the GRC response team rescued a number of children who were lost on the Agua volcano.

The shelter project being supported by "Design Without Borders", a Norwegian NGO, presented initial findings regarding possible shelter designs for response to disasters in Guatemala.

Priorities for the remainder of the year - in conjunction with the regional training centres, the intention is to set up regional response units. These will use trained national intervention team (NIT) members who will receive refresher training and thereafter be incorporated as instructors into the regional structure. NITs members will be included on the proposed volunteer database. The Federation will support the GRC action in first aid and family reunification during the Pope's visit to Guatemala in July. The country delegation will

continue to require support from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in view of GRC response and contingency planning.

Objective 3 : To strengthen the inter and intra-institutional coordination, networks and strategic alliances for disaster response and preparedness.

At the end of April, the Federation began attending meetings of the Emergency Committee made up of various foundations and the Rotary Club, with the objective of creating alliances with local businesses that could support the GRC in the long term.

The country agreement strategy (CAS) process has been moved forward through a series of meetings with PNS, and the drawing up of an agreed table of support in disaster preparedness which will be presented and discussed with the GRC.

The launch of the World Disaster Report which took place on 9 July provided a good opportunity to promote the Red Cross with a number of organizations including the national emergency committee, CONRED, UNICEF and UNDP. Both WFP and MINUGUA were consulted re proposed support from the GRC to a displaced community near Sacapulas; this is yet to be confirmed.

Priorities for the remainder of the year - to continue as above seeking to define a more formal relationship with the Emergency Committee; to maintain PNS commitment to the CAS process in order that the new GRC board can be involved as soon as possible after the proposed elections, and to maintain contacts with other humanitarian organizations.

Humanitarian Values w

Objective 1 : To assist the GRC in the internal promotion of peace culture and humanitarian values.

Funding is now available from the Norwegian Red Cross for this part of the appeal. A draft proposal for the multi-lingual first aid programme has been disseminated and the newly-arrived Federation training coordinator has incorporated this into her objectives.

In the next quarter, the GRC will hire a second trainer using the funds now available to boost capacity in dissemination of principles and values. Support from ICRC continues, for example in June the head of the training and dissemination department took part in a training course for disseminators given by the ICRC in Mexico. In May, the branches of Escuintla, Zacapa, Sacapulas and San Juan Cotzal took part in a basic dissemination course. In June, 11 branches received a course in governance and management, 3 branches were trained in the history and principles and values of the Red Cross Movement and members of the national police were trained in international human rights. Members of the armed forces received 8 hours of instruction on the history of the Movement.

Priorities for the remainder of the year - The head of delegation is discussing the possibility of separating the training and dissemination functions (which currently are the responsibility of one small department) to ensure more measurable progress in both areas. An additional position should be confirmed by the end of August giving the GRC extra capacity and the possibility to include dissemination in more training activities. At the end of August, a further 12 branches will take part in the three day governance and management training facilitated by the GRC, the ICRC and the Federation.

Health and Care w

Objective 1 : To assist the GRC through strengthening its organizational capacity and focusing on preventive activities in community health.

Much of the work in this area has continued to focus on the food insecurity operation with the training in detection of malnutrition. In April, a candidate for the GRC position of community health assistant was confirmed and the assistant took up his post in May. The community health assistant will focus 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.

A collaboration meeting was held between 10 and 12 April in Antigua Guatemala with 48 representatives of Red Cross Societies, including the Guatemalan Red Cross, Central American health authorities, the Federation and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Results focus on concrete actions to be undertaken to realize cooperation in the areas of disaster response and health, community health, HIV/AIDS and blood. A memorandum of understanding between the Federation and PAHO was signed on 15 May 2002.

On 8 May, international Red Cross day, the GRC launched a campaign against the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS. The youth department is organizing a nation wide painting and writing competition covering the themes of HIV/AIDS and hunger, the winners of which will be included in next year's GRC calendar as well as being exhibited in various public locations around the capital. External support for this competition has been received from a number of organizations in Guatemala as well as from the Federation and the ARC.

The youth team has worked hard on building strategic alliances with other organizations working in HIV/AIDS. The GRC is now a member of the ACSLCS (Asociación Coordinadora de Sectores de Lucha Contra el SIDA) and is also working on signing a cooperation agreement with "Gente Positiva" and the national HIV programme. The GRC programme proposal is still being finalized to reflect these alliances and ensure that duplication is minimized.

From 3-7 June, the Federation health assistant took part in a community IMCI workshop that was facilitated by the Ministry of Health and other partners. He will now be able to train others in the IMCI methodology. On 25 and 26 June, the Federation together with the GRC, visited the branches of Retalhuleu, Coatepeque, Tecun Uman and El Palmar to introduce the community IMCI initiative.

Priorities for the remainder of the year - In August the four branches targeted will take part in a community IMCI induction workshop following which their involvement will be prioritized according to capacity and interest (at branch level and at the level of the local health authorities). A preventive health campaign covering malaria and dengue will also be supported together with the American Red Cross. In HIV/AIDS, a national programme will be supported covering prevention, education, stigma and, later, care in affected households. The GRC intends to hire a programme coordinator with experience in this area of work: four good candidates have already been identified and selection should be finalized in August.

Objective 2: To assist the GRC to promote safe water use, community hygiene and preventive activities in the identified communities and to raise GRC water and sanitation capacity in disasters.

The GRC water unit compiled information from PNS re water and sanitation projects that have been completed in the past ensuring a timely transfer of institutional memory.

Between 23 and 26 May, the Guatemalan Red Cross water and sanitation technical unit (UTAS) coordinator and the Federation health assistant took part in a water and sanitation course in El Salvador. The course covered water and sanitation in emergencies including water storage, sanitation, distribution, treatment and quality. In June, water equipment from El Salvador was donated to Guatemala, this will be used in training and as emergency stock.

A six month course for water technicians supported by the ARC and the Federation began in June. One of the topics covered is Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) which included a three day practical session facilitated by the Federation health assistant. 18 candidates from different branches, including those branches that will be regional training / response centres, are taking part in the course. The PHAST methodology has now been well accepted and there is agreement from the GRC and ARC water and sanitation personnel that this can easily be adapted to Guatemala.

The water quality control project has been started, the initial diagnostic phase has looked at six water systems:

- A) making a physical check of the structures
- B) checking the quality of the water

C) making sure that the local water committees are still functioning.

This information will now be compiled and used to involve the local municipal and health authorities to ensure that any response is shared and is more sustainable.

Priorities for the remainder of the year - The success of UTAS depends upon the GRC's ability to elaborate proposals for activities and to find funding. In the second half of the year, the water unit will be promoted and funding opportunities examined, building up small activities around water quality control, latrine construction and the promotion of PHAST. The training of water technicians will continue until the end of the year and it will be important that they are able to begin activities as soon as the course is completed.

Organizational Development w

Objective 1 : To support the GRC in the strengthening of selected branches.

Activities in this area have been limited given the concentration of Federation efforts at headquarters level relating to revision of the Statutes, the drawing up of the national development plan and as a result of the instability of the National Society leadership. The American Red Cross continues to support the development of Jalapa, Escuintla and Retalhuleu branches, the Spanish RC concentrates mainly on branches in Izabal and also has a number of projects in Quetzaltenango and Tejutla, and the Netherlands Red Cross has concentrated on Cobán and other branches in the north. The Netherlands Red Cross is looking to extend further support to Cobán through a Regional Reconstruction Programme for Central America "Programa Regional de Reconstrucción de América Central" (PRRAC) application to the EU, but will no longer be present in the country from the end of August pending approval of the proposal submitted to PRRAC.

The Federation, the ARC and the Spanish Red Cross have provided support for training in branches on project management. At the end of May a workshop took place covering the identification and elaboration of projects including training on logframes: 30 participants from 17 branches and the headquarters took part. The training incorporates concepts and methodologies from the "Better Programming Initiative" (BPI).

Priorities for the remainder of the year - The above project for strengthening technical capacities in the branches will continue with further modules covering a) management and evaluation of projects and b) administration of human and financial resources. The Federation will continue to promote standardization of activities and national programmes in which branches participate, rather than individual PNS supported projects directed at specific branches or communities.

Objective 2 : To support the GRC in strengthening its governance and management bodies.

The Federation and the ICRC provided support to the GRC in the revision of its Statutes, both prior to and during the National Assembly, which took place on 26 and 27 April. Key revisions have been 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 national development plan, 2002-2006, was approved by branch presidents after it had been introduced during the National Assembly.

New key personnel have been incorporated into the GRC management team, including a community health specialist.

The head of delegation attended a number of board meetings, in addition to multiple meetings with individual members of the board and senior management, in an attempt to ensure that the GRC is prepared for elections that are proposed at the end of October. Current instability has threatened to damage this process, however on 15 June the board agreed to concentrate on the following between mid June and October :

a) external financial audit; b) management audit / revision of Price Waterhouse recommendations of the year 2000; c) drawing up of human resource procedures for salaried staff; d) revision of all staff contracts; e)

finalization of the organigram at headquarters; f) finalization of a budget for headquarters; g) putting together a fund raising plan specifically for covering headquarters' salaries; h) finalization of internal regulations stemming from the Statutes; i) recruitment of new members to the GRC.

Priorities for the remainder of the year - to confirm a director of the new volunteering department; to help establish an improved management structure with an organigram; to follow up on the election process helping with the required drawing up of regulations; to continue to accompany the board through a difficult period in the history of the National Society; to promote the NDP and PNS coordination. Together with the ICRC, to conduct a training on the Seville agreement for the GRC and PNS; to promote integration with PNS work in this area, in particular the American Red Cross, which has agreed to place all support specific to OD under Federation coordination as of next year.

Objective 3 : To assist the GRC in developing its fund-raising capacity

The proposed study with Aragon consultants has been further delayed whilst objectives are revised. Contacts have been made with Saatchi & Saatchi, United Way and Pollo Campero as well as the Emergency Committee (see above) with the aim of promoting the GRC, thereby helping the GRC to recognize the need for basic compliance with donor needs (e.g external audits). This also highlights the need for the GRC to promote national activities and its NDP, rather than using all capacity on time-limited and small scale projects at the local level. Auto-sustainability is included as the central goal of the GRC's NDP and this can only be achieved if the National Society becomes known as a professional provider of certain key services nation wide.

Priorities for the remainder of the year - We now hope to produce a specific marketing manual rather than a more general study of the Guatemalan situation. Once this is done, we hope to contract a professional individual who will work on mobilizing resources working together with the GRC press and information department. PNS are being consulted re the possibility of training the successful candidate through secondment to an established fundraising department within a National Society before taking up the position in Guatemala.

Objective 4 : To assist the GRC in improving volunteer management.

Using funds from the Capacity Building Fund, the delegation is working on a) establishing a volunteer department in the GRC; b) assisting the GRC in attracting new volunteers; c) improving volunteer management and retention and d) promoting diversification of the volunteer base.

The GRC has agreed to establishing the new department and also to 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 Federation delegation was boosted by the arrival of a "staff on loan" from the Mexican Red Cross in June; she will be responsible for support to volunteering and training and her activities have already included a preliminary evaluation of training capacity at headquarters and in the three regional centres: Cobán, Puerto Barrios and probably Coatepeque, that the Federation is proposing to support.

A proposal for first aid training in Mayan languages has been finalized and will be part of planned Federation support.

Priorities for the remainder of the year - to help the GRC select a candidate for the position of director of volunteering; and establish the department as a key pillar of the National Society; to help put together a proposal for training centres including rehabilitation of headquarters buildings; to support exchange visits to Honduras (and possibly Mexico) to learn from the experience of these National Societies; to support first aid training as a national initiative; to help establish a volunteer data base; to integrate the regional training centres with the proposed regional response centres / NITs.

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

- The Fundamental Principles- the delegation is working on separating dissemination from the training department (which would then be incorporated under volunteering) in order to increase the GRC's capacity to promote the principles. The proposed contracting of an additional dissemination instructor - supported by the Norwegian Red Cross - will be another step in this direction.
- HIV/AIDS - (see health section) the national programme will be led by youth in close coordination with the health department. The Spanish Red Cross has already started activities in Izabal and the American Red Cross and the Federation will support the programme in the rest of the country. The GRC and the PNS have agreed to use Federation guidelines (as outlined in the Federation HIV/AIDS programme manual 2002-2005) as the framework for all GRC activities in this sector.
- Diversity and gender - issues around these themes have been specifically promoted in the new Statutes and the NDP. The new volunteering programme supported by the Capacity Building Fund is also a key part of this redefining of priorities.

Regional Cooperation w

- The regional delegation has provided valuable support and guidance to the delegation and the GRC during the ongoing leadership / institutional crisis.
- The Mexican Red Cross is supporting the volunteering programme through the loan of a training coordinator.
- The revision of the Statutes incorporated a number of examples from around the region.
- The delegation will promote an exchange of experience with the Honduran Red Cross to learn from their new approach to volunteering.

Coordination and Management w

Objective 1 : To ensure efficient and effective use of resources made available through the Federation.

Budgets have been revised and control procedures for budget management have been updated according to new Federation procedures. The HoD meeting in Geneva at the end of June explained new appeal and report formats as well as improved tools for project planning and management.

External quarterly and internal monthly narrative reports were produced; the GRC was constantly informed re Federation plans for support.

Objective 2 : To support the GRC in promoting coordination between the Participating National Societies, the Federation Secretariat and the ICRC as well as with external partners.

Movement meetings have continued and there has been regular participation of the HoD in board meetings.

The CAS process remains a priority, although the production of a document will be delayed until next year when a new board is confirmed and bilateral PNSs are clearer about future presence and support. In May, the Federation organized another session with all PNS and the ICRC covering Strategy 2010, the Movement Strategy, the Seville Agreement and regional documents such as the CORI action plan, as well as the GRC development plan and the revised Statutes. Following this meeting, working groups covering the core areas of 2010 have been established and the health, organizational development and disaster response/disaster preparedness groups have met to move the process forward. The finalized NDP has made the process easier, however the lack of specific health, disaster response and contingency planning from the GRC is an ongoing obstacle. It is planned that the self-assessment process will be carried out in 2003, once the elections have been held and the new governing board is in place.

Advocacy/Public Information w

The drought operation continues to provide major publicity opportunities with newspaper coverage in particular showing significant results. This has been built on during the 8th of May celebrations when Guatemalan press, radio and television were present and again during the launch of the World Disasters Report in Guatemala.

The next major opportunity will be during the Pope's visit at the end of July; the Federation will continue to support the GRC's communication and press department including a second diploma for journalists on information in disasters: a three month course from September with support from the regional delegation, sponsoring of a part time assistant, two information workshops and possibly the secondment of student volunteers studying marketing to help with fundraising.



Press conference in Chiquimula branch fertiliser distribution

Outstanding needs *

The response to the appeal has been good and coverage is excellent for this time of year, although the Coordination and Management budget remains seriously under funded. As the regional delegation is set to move to Panama at the end of the year, and as PNS presence will probably downsize, the Federation delegation will take on further local staff covering organizational development and finance and administration at the end of this year or early next year.

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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>.

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Guatemala						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.20/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED				12.08.2002
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				923'090		TOTAL COVERAGE 91.1%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				172'653		
BRITISH - RC		11'236	USD	18'865	11.01.2002	WATSAN ACTIVITIES
BRITISH - RC		11'240	USD	18'116	29.05.2002	WATSAN
BRITISH - RC		28'091	USD	45'274	29.05.2002	HIV/AIDS
BRITISH - RC				33'857	23.07.2002	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'141'975	NOK	220'757	20.05.2002	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HUMANITARIAN VALUES, COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				129'440		PGT004
SWEDEN - RC		400'000	SEK	64'800	30.05.2002	HEALTH / OD
SWEDEN - GVT		200'000	SEK	32'400	30.05.2002	OD
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				736'162	CHF	79.7%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SPAIN	DELEGATE(S)			54'538		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			35'318		
MEXICAN - RC				15'000	08.08.2002	BILATERAL?
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				104'856	CHF	11.4%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	