

PROGRAMME UPDATE



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

SOUTH ASIA

19 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. 01.24/2002

Appeal Target: CHF 2,948,770; Budget revised to CHF 2,964,976

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: 1 January- 30 June 2002

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 75.8% (against the indicative revised budget)

Related Appeals: Annual Appeal 2002 as follows: 01.25/02 for Afghanistan, 01.26/02 for Bangladesh, 01.27 for Nepal, 01.28/02 for Pakistan and 01.29/02 for Sri Lanka

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,264,395

Summary: Significant progress has been made in strengthening the national societies in South Asia during this period, including: a secretaries general meeting and a regional partnership meeting, the development of a Regional Co-operation Strategy (RCAS), a regional change management workshop, a new HIV/AIDS network, workshops on ReachOut; how to work with refugees/Internally displaced and on the Better Programme Initiative (BPI) as well as continuing constitutional review.

Introducing the Strategy for the Movement as a co-ordination tool with the national societies and ICRC will enhance better co-ordination of resources. The strategy for the Movement is the framework for the RCAS and has wide ownership by all national society in South Asia and major stakeholders.

Operational Development w

Overall objective for the operation:

The mission of the Federation's South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD) is 'to work as a co-ordinated Federation team with all members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and external stakeholders to facilitate better use of regional resources, mutual learning and support between national societies and other partners to deliver self-sufficient, relevant programmes in disaster preparedness and response, health care in the community, and the promotion of humanitarian values'.

Priority programmes for Federation assistance (as per the South Asia appeal for 2002:

Deciding on priority programmes that reflect the priorities emanating from the Hanoi declaration and adherence to the four core areas of Strategy 2010 is no easy task when the region's massive population and overwhelming humanitarian needs are taken into consideration. Identified regional priorities for 2002-2003 are:

- Disaster preparedness and response.

- Health capacity strengthening (including scaling up of HIV/AIDS).
- Organisational, finance and resource development.
- Information and advocacy strengthening and the promotion of humanitarian values.

General overview of the context and operational developments:

Significant progress has been made in strengthening the national societies in South Asia during this period, including: a secretary generals meeting, a regional partnership meeting, the development of a RCAS and a regional change management workshop, establishment of a new HIV/AIDS network, ReachOut, a new initiative designed to increase knowledge and sensitises people to improve working practices with refugees/IDPs, Better Programme Initiative (BPI), and continuing constitutional review.

Introducing the Strategy for the Movement as a co-ordination tool with the national society and ICRC, will enhance better co-ordination of resources. The strategy for the Movement is the framework for the regional CAS and has wide ownership by all national society in South Asia and major stakeholders.

The National Societies are providing a steadily improving service delivery to the most vulnerable populations while building stronger relationships with existing partners and cultivating new partners.

The regional programmes are generally operating within the planned time frames. Due to increasing tensions in the region and likely emergency needs, and noting the large numbers of refugees and IDP's in the region and the likelihood of further movements, greater emphasis is being placed on improving the regional Red Cross and Red Crescent disaster response capabilities. During this period this was done through adding a ReachOut training for the Indian Red Cross and NGOs in India as well as adding a regional BPI and disaster relief training in Sri Lanka.

The heightening of tension between Pakistan and India in May/June and the deteriorating situation in Nepal in terms of insurgency in opposition to the Government, meant that some delegates were redeployed in Sri Lanka for two weeks in early June, and country programmes in Nepal have been hampered.

The flare up in border tensions between Pakistan and India during the past seven months is worrying and the national society are acknowledging they need to increase their response capacity in the border states, with the support of ICRC.

The positive exception has been Sri Lanka. As the cease fire continue to hold and peace prevails, new opportunities are arising for the Federation and ICRC to further strengthen the capacity of the SLRCS in hitherto remote, and difficult to reach, branches.

The changes in government is bringing hope of a new beginning for *Afghanistan*. However, the reconstruction of the infrastructure, following the devastation over the past two decades, will be a lengthy and expensive process. The prolonged war has put a terrible strain on the most vulnerable and their resources Afghanistan has gone through 23 years of war and internal strife, causing an ever growing deterioration of its socioeconomic situation. In most development rankings, the country belongs to the lowest group. Afghans are the largest refugee group in the world for the 20th consecutive year. Many Afghans have fled the country and are only slowly beginning to return, with the hope of a new beginning in the country. A 3rd revision of the previously named Humanitarian Crisis appeal was issued on 14 May (Appeal 32/01) to assist 2,133,500 beneficiaries for 16 months.

At the same time, Afghanistan is entering its fourth year of drought. The snow and rainfall have in the early months of the year has not been enough to counteract the effect of the drought or to ensure sufficient water in the rivers for the coming year. Afghanistan is also extremely vulnerable to natural disasters. The seismic fault that bisects the country is the site of frequent earthquakes, while snow-melt from the mountains and spring rains combine to trigger landslides and floods.

A strong earthquake, 6.2 on the Richter scale, occurred in Baghlan province in northern Afghanistan's Hindu Kush mountains on 25 March. Aftershocks continued and brought further damage. The epicentre of the earthquakes was southeast of Nahrin in Baghlan province, northern Afghanistan, 160 km east of

Mazar-i-Sharif. The affected area extends to 12 to 15 km around Nahrin, comprising 40 villages with an estimated affected population of 80,000. The death toll is estimated at 800, and 10,000 people were left homeless. Access to the affected area has been difficult because of bad roads, and is hampered by mines laid during several battles over recent years.

Another earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale occurred on 12 April and an appeal (no 10/2002) to meet the needs for 80,000 beneficiaries for 9 months in relation to the recent earthquakes was issued on 12 April.

While the progress on the country operation will be reported on separately, the regional delegation has been able to provide vital training to members of the Afghan Red Crescent Society at regional training courses on disaster response and change management which has served to increase their knowledge and reintegrate ARCS staff back in a region they have been isolated from for a long time. The chance for ARCS leadership to share ideas and learn from other national society leaders in Sri Lanka at the change management workshop was an important step for the reintegration of the society into the movement.

In *Pakistan* the needs of our traditional beneficiaries remain much the same. The situation continues to be prevailed by instability in the region. Consequences of ongoing political, social and economic uncertainty affects millions of people in this country and translates into increased vulnerability to all forms of hazard. Pakistan is one of the disaster prone countries in the region and is threatened by a variety of natural and man-made disasters. Natural hazards include earthquakes, drought, landslides, mud flows, avalanches and floods. A significant threat has also been the continuing conflict over territorial claims between Pakistan and neighboring India (see below). The recent dramatic developments in Afghanistan has only coupled the challenges faced by the country - today there are over two million Afghan refugees in Pakistan with many of them residing here for 20 years now. Their needs also give cause for concern.

Considering that prior to September 11 Pakistan had only one outposted regional health delegate, in the past the past nine months the support for the most vulnerable population has increased dramatically through the formation of a country delegation and establishment of sub delegations in Quetta and Peshawar. One example is the expanded water programme to support 140,000 refugees in different refugee camps in the Baluchistan province.

After last years attack on the Indian Parliament, for which India blamed Pakistan and spared no time to move troops to the border, tensions between *Pakistan and India* increased. The 14 May attacks in the Kashmir valley killing 30 people and the killing of Abdul Ghani Lone, considered the tallest of moderate Kashmiri politicians, added to the instability.

The numbers of troops swelled to a million men on both sides of the international border. During a period, India also moved its battle ships from its eastern fleet into the Arabian Sea. Pakistan, on the other hand tested short-range missiles.

Indian and Pakistani forces have been trading artillery and mortar fire across the Line of Control (or ceasefire line) in disputed Kashmir creating a serious concern within and outside the countries of war between the nuclear neighbours. In Pakistan, a couple of attacks on civilian targets where foreign civilians were killed added on to the serious picture.

At its peak end of May and beginning of June, many embassies urged their citizens to depart, pulled out nonessential staff and authorized compulsory evacuation of dependents.

For the Red Cross/Red Crescent these developments lead to continued inability of direct travel between the two countries and significant difficulties for delegates and national society personnel to travel around the region. Co-ordination increased between the Federation delegations and the ICRC as well as with other interlocutors. The reallocation/evacuation plans were reassessed and updated.

IOC Delegates close to the conflict border were reallocated to Delhi which has disrupted the progress of the earthquake recovery and some SARD delegates were reallocated two weeks to Sri Lanka. Fortunately, the

situation improved and the planned redeployment of IOC to Chennai did not have to take place. At the time of producing this report the situation has somewhat improved, however the risk for terrorist attacks remains to be a concern.

Further instability in India, but at least from a security point treated as separate from the a.m. events, are the events in India's western state of **Gujarat**. Since 27 February the state has been subjected to serious communal unrest and violence after an attack on an Ahmedabad bound passenger train at Godhra railway station. The communal riots, which claimed about 1,000 lives and homes to 100,000 people, came as Gujarat was recovering from a prolonged drought and a devastating earthquake in January 2001 which killed more than 20,000. Earthquake recovery and rehabilitation efforts have been substantially hampered.

Ahmedabad, the worst riot hit city, at one time had 60 makeshift camps where 80,000 people took shelter. Since early days of the communal unrest, the India Red Cross Society (IRCS) was quickly into action to provide support to 8,000 victims in 11 selected camps in the city with the assistance of CHF 56,180 released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The relief operation which received further support of 10 million rupees (CHF 370,000) from the prime minister's office extended until 19 April. Around 10,000 families have benefited from the relief distribution. Now, four months since the communal riots began, tensions continue to simmer with sporadic reports of rioting across Gujarat. The Society has started the second phase of relief operation on 1 May with additional 20 million rupees sanctioned by the government, aimed to assist 8,000 families who are still seeking refuge in 56 relief camps in seven other districts in Gujarat to resettle their lives and to earn their livelihood.

This year, the southwest monsoon arrived on 14 May over the north Andaman Sea around its normal date whereas early monsoon rains in mid June have flooded India's remote northeast state, Assam, affecting 30,000 people. More than 20,000 families of 30 villages have already taken shelter in schools and platforms raised in the hardest-hit Dhemaji district. Some of the Red Cross disaster preparedness projects have also been disrupted. The weather office has warned that the situation could worsen in the region. Earlier climate forecast also expected 'weak to moderate' El Niño conditions with a possible adverse impact on the monsoon which need to be closely monitored. In water-starved western states of India, however, a good monsoon is prayed for and predicted this year. The IRCS headquarters is maintaining close contact with the branches and government authorities to prepare for the monsoon season. The Federation continues to liaise on support to the Society.

During the first quarter of the year in **Bangladesh**, political unrest and a deteriorating law and order situation continued in the country. The opposition party Awami League are still boycotting participation in the national parliament. The first *Hartals* (national strike) of the season started and will certainly continue over the coming months. Federation security regulations are still strictly enforced in Dhaka.

The situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts remains the same. International donors still have security concerns before committing any further funding. Close contact is maintained with several major international countries relating to financial support for the Federations/BDRCS's health and WATSAN programmes.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) anticipated that the GDP growth rate in Bangladesh in the year 2002 is likely to decline to 4-4.5 per cent from 5.2 per cent last year due to unfavorable external environment, the economic fallout from the September 11th last year and relatively weak domestic demand.

In early March 2002, BDRCS hosted the South Asia Partnership meeting attended by representatives from 20 countries. Following the partnership meeting, a two-day Co-operation Agreement Strategy workshop was held to finalize a BDRCS second generation three-year CAS document. External donors WFP, ECHO, DFID EC and AusAID also participated and gave valuable feedback to this document.

The BDRCS continues to provide vital services through a series of community-based programmes and at branch level with volunteers responding quickly to the plethora of disasters, either localised or divisional.

As one of the strongest national society in South Asia, the NRCS in **Nepal** is facing challenges and constraints of magnitude hitherto known, with the antigovernment insurgency groups, spreading their control across large parts of Nepal. In some respects. NRCS programmes have been restricted in some areas but with its nationwide network of branches, most still operate ICRC, SARNA .

Finally in *Sri Lanka* the Norwegian facilitating team continued to conduct meetings with the Government and the LTTE in order to finalise a document that would secure a truce which would create a conducive environment for further discussions. In February, the work resulted in a cease fire agreement which at the end of June was still holding.

The drought that has gripped specific areas of Southern Sri Lanka's Hambantota District for the past two and a half years continues unabated. More than 400,000 people, some 80% of Hambantota's population, have been affected by the long term effects of the drought. In August 2001 an appeal was launched to support the Sri Lanka Red Cross. The 2001 appeal, which reached 21,000 was completed during the time of a reassessment mission in February 2002. The conclusion of the programme was designed to coincide with the arrival of the southwest monsoon (April/May). However, in accordance with the weather patterns of the past two and a half years, the rains failed to reach the most severely affected areas ensuring a continuation in the already serious drought situation. Two Red Cross assessments during the spring have confirmed the need and a new appeal (18./2002) to support 18,000 beneficiaries for 9 months was launched on 1 July.

Disaster Response w

Goal: Rapid and effective disaster response by South Asia national societies, co-ordinated by SARD, with minimal adverse impact on ongoing regional programmes.

Objective 1: To increase Federation capacity to assist South Asia National Societies to respond effectively and rapidly to disasters.

The Regional Disaster Response Delegate (RDRD) has been involved in both closing and settling outstanding issues from old Emergency Appeals, and conducting assessments regarding new disasters. In relation to the closure of ongoing programmes, this has been done in close co-operation with the Indian Red Cross HQ, the Federations' India Operations centre (IOC), from which the RDRD took over some of the responsibilities from the parting relief delegate. Assessments were made in Orissa, Assam and Andhra Pradesh for that purpose.

In connection with the drought operation in southern Sri Lanka, the DRDR has carried out assessments, advised the SLRCS on disaster response procedures and prepared a new appeal in relation to the continuation of the drought. A food basket assessment was introduced as an assessment and monitoring tool to be used in relation with slow onset disasters. In the North of Sri Lanka the RDRD participated in an assessment team with representatives also from the SLRCS and the ICRC. The objective of this assessment was to determine the capacities of the branches and identify possible programmes in relation to the ongoing peace negotiations and resulting people movements. Recommendations were made to the SLRCS governance to support the ongoing process of institutional change. From the DR point of view, the most interesting outcome was the joint agreement to develop a single curriculum for training in disaster response for all components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the co-ordination of activities in this regard.

Due to uncertainty about the budget and with a coverage of less than 10% during the first half of 2002, the RDRD co-operated with the India Red Cross and IOC in the development of a IRCS disaster operation room and in establishing a emergency response kit. Field testing and lessons learned in this process will facilitate quick implementation of this activity once funding becomes available. The RDRD will further co-operate with key persons in the IRCS and IOC for further development of operational procedures for deployment of this Emergency Response Kit (ERkit) in emergency situations.

The RDRD has been responsible for regular upgrading to the Federations DMIS site of information on South Asia disasters and emergencies.

Objective 2: To establish a regional FACT team of competent, trained, experienced national society personnel capable of rapid deployment within the region to assess and co-ordinate immediate Red Cross Red Crescent response to major disasters.

In April a Regional Disaster Response Training (RDRT) was held in India in close co-operation with the Federation Secretariat, with 30 participants from all 6 National Societies in the region. The course took place over 6.5 days facilitated with short presentations followed by group work in teams aided by mentors. The topics covered the full Disaster Management cycle from risk analysis and disaster preparedness to the tools available for disaster response implementation. The following two days focused on putting into practice the skills discussed during the workshop.

A number of participants have been identified to respond on a regional level, as trainers at national and regional level and for future FACT training. A database is under development to facilitate mutual assistance between the national societies in the region as part of the development of a map of the Human and Material resources of all components of the Movement in the region.

A second training with more emphasis on better gender balanced participation, is planned for the end of this year, and a refresher training is under development. The development of an Internet based training and a disaster management game is under consideration as a possible cost effective option and to promote regional networking. In view of the capacities in IT available in India, a pilot in this region seems logical.

The RDRD was also involved in the introduction of BPI through a training in Sri Lanka in March 2002. A training of trainers in August 2002 will provide each national society with one national trainer, and they will be requested to assist in disaster response training in their own and other societies in order to facilitate the integration of BPI as a tool for disaster response. There are interesting opportunities to combine BPI, SPHERE and outreach and cooperation between all components of the Movement in this respect. In India and Pakistan, visible initiatives to use BPI in Disaster Response are already in place while all countries identified it as a useful tool for project development and monitoring.

Insufficient funding has been received for the Disaster Response programme. The initial budget will however remain as the priorities set in the appeal remain valid.

Disaster Preparedness w

Goal: Improved response by regional Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation, to the needs of disaster-prone populations, before, during and following disasters.

Objective 1: To develop and implement common standards and guidelines and a regional Disaster Preparedness / Disaster Response policy and plan of action.

Recommendations to standardise Red Cross/Red Crescent training materials which had been made during the regional DP workshop held in October 2001 were, in the first half of 2002, followed up with the first working group meeting. The working group (one representative from each National Society plus the SARD disaster management team) met in New Delhi during the last week of April. The discussions resulted in an agreement that all national societies in South Asia will work towards achieving a set of recommended minimum standards in their disaster management training.

The participants agreed on four categories of training that each national society should hold for its staff and volunteers at various levels including in communities:

- Basic Disaster Management (5 days),
- Disaster Response (7 days)
- Community Based Disaster Preparedness Training in Communities (7 days)
- Community Based Disaster Preparedness Trainers of Training for staff and volunteers (9 days).

The meeting also recommended a basic outline of topics to be included in all the four courses. The next step agreed is to develop the first complete set of training materials for the Basic Disaster Management Course by the end of 2002. The responsibility for this development will be with the SARD disaster preparedness unit in New Delhi. The remaining courses will then be developed during 2003. During the meeting, various training materials collected from national societies in the region were compiled and a selection made of those that will

become part of the standardised regional materials. Translation of these materials where required will commence during the second half of the year

The regional policy priorities for disaster preparedness, also agreed at the last regional DP workshop, were circulated to all stakeholders in February 2002. This document, which is pending approval from the next Regional Secretaries' General Meeting, will now form the basis for all future Red Cross and Red Crescent efforts in disaster preparedness in South Asia. SARD will take the initiative to encourage national societies in the region to work towards these agreed priorities.

To reflect the strong recommendations by national societies at the October 2001 workshop, this objective has been afforded more emphasis during this year. As some of the activities required to implement these new initiatives were not included in the original Appeal, the budget has been revised accordingly to allow for the development of standardised training materials.

Objective 2: To assist South Asia National Societies to develop their own operational and strategic DP plans, based upon the regional DP policy.

In Pakistan a nation-wide Disaster Management Capacity Assessment of Pakistan Red Crescent is in progress. During the reporting period the regional delegation has assisted PRCS in developing the ToR for this assessment, and in developing assessment tools with the external consultants as well as monitoring the progress of this activity. The assessment when complete will assist the PRCS to formulate its national disaster management policy and subsequent plans during 2003.

In Sri Lanka, India and Nepal, the regional delegation is working with various interested stakeholders to harmonise capacity building efforts for more productive results. In Sri Lanka the SARD DP programme will fund a senior disaster management position within the National Headquarters. This support will compliment the bilateral efforts of Spanish Red Cross in developing the disaster preparedness capacity of eight flood prone branches. Federation support (training resources, meetings to help understand context, and technical support in disaster preparedness) has been made available to both Sri Lanka Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross in implementing their bilateral project. In India, the regional delegation has agreed to provide increased assistance to the country delegation in monitoring its project in Assam. At the invitation of German Red Cross the regional delegation has also participated in a planning meeting to discuss the exit strategy for the German Red Cross bilateral Orissa Disaster Mitigation Programme.

The Nepal Red Cross and regional delegation had a series of meetings in the first week of April to discuss future strategies on their DP Programmes. The Regional DP Manager also held discussions with Belgian Red Cross on the future of the NRCS community based disaster preparedness programme and the need for sustained support. The April discussions with NRCS have resulted in three main outputs:

- It has been agreed that NRCS will conduct an external evaluation of its CDBP programme.
- NRCS will strengthen its traditional disaster preparedness programme and focus on some new initiatives (e.g. earthquake preparedness in Kathmandu valley and use of new technology to manage its disaster response mechanisms).
- The Federation will actively promote and resource NRCS CDBP programme after its evaluation and redesign.

In July 2002, when the regional DP planning workshop for 2003 takes place in Sri Lanka, the Federation will also invite one government counterpart from each South Asia country to participate. Discussions will take place on how to improve dialogue between Red Cross and Red Crescent and local government counterparts and the interrelationship between government and national society DP plans.

Progress on the development of DP plans has not progressed as quickly as had been hoped and more emphasis on this will be required during the second part of the year and particularly during 2003. The limited progress has been due to the need to strengthen national societies disaster management departments to enable this process to gain momentum. The issue will be discussed during the forthcoming regional DP Planning workshop in July.

Objective 3: *To develop the human resources of South Asia National Societies to ensure sufficient trained, competent staff, male and female, to implement country based DP programmes, and who have an understanding of regional DP strategies and priorities and a commitment to each other in maintaining excellence in DP programme delivery at all levels.*

The first technical training workshop for national society DP/DR practitioners in 2002, as prioritised by national societies, was conducted on disaster response. The course, carried out by the Disaster Response dept., with support from the regional DP programme, lasted nine days, was targeted at experienced disaster managers from national societies and aimed at building upon their skills through practical and theoretical sessions. One of the outcomes has been identification of skilled individuals who can play a role in future regional disaster assessment missions.

The second technical training workshop scheduled for the end of the third quarter will focus on the subject of Vulnerability Capacity Assessment and will be facilitated by two SA participants who will attend the Global VCA ToT workshop in Italy in July.

During this reporting period, four staff members of Pakistan Red Crescent Society involved with disaster management at provincial level, went on a study visit (10 days) to Nepal. The purpose of the visit was to gain understanding of the community based programme of Nepal Red Cross. Participants came from 2 provinces where a new community disaster preparedness pilot project is currently under way. Participants spent most of their time in remote communities of Nepal and interacted with field officers of NRCS in implementation of their programmes.

One staff on loan from Bangladesh Red Crescent joined the Federation Regional Delegation for one month in April. This programme allowed the BDRCS staff member to understand the role and service delivery of the Federation at a regional level and also assisted the Federation in compiling DP/DR training material from National Societies in the region.

A further visit to Bangladesh Red Crescent by the PRCS programme staff from the cyclone prone Province of Sindh, will be made in June and July to enable them to learn about the BDRCS cyclone preparedness programme early warning dissemination. The above three programme components have been supported by German Red Cross.

The Regional Delegation continues to provide opportunities to various national society staff and volunteers to attend relevant training courses (e.g. Sphere, Better Programming Initiative, Reach Out etc.) run either by the Federation Secretariat or by other stakeholders in South Asia.

Encouragement has been given to national societies to involve more women in disaster management at all levels but overall progress has been slow. In Sri Lanka in the drought relief operation, volunteers recruited for assessments and distribution included a large percentage of women. The issue of how to involve more women will be a discussion topic at the regional DP Policy workshop in July.

Objective 4: *To improve the compilation and sharing of knowledge, case studies and skills within the region and internationally.*

A case study with lessons learned from small disaster response operations (2001) in South Asia was published in January. The case study which documents lessons learned from these operations was then distributed to primary stakeholders and partners in South Asia. Copies were also shared with other regional delegations in Asia Pacific and the Geneva Secretariat for global knowledge sharing. During the first six months of 2002, no further lessons learned exercises were carried out as no such disasters occurred during this period. However, plans are for at least 3 more cases to be documented by end of the year.

In Nepal, The regional delegation is promoting the development of a case study on aspects of the Nepalese Red Cross CBBDP programme. The case study, which is currently in its third draft, will document the process of CBBDP as implemented in NRCS. The regional delegation is also promoting formal evaluations of some other programmes in the region to document lessons learned and thereby improve programme design through mutual

learning. The two CBDP programme evaluations taking place in Bangladesh & Nepal, plus the NRCS CBDP case study will provide further material for both internal & external knowledge sharing.

The regional delegation is also committed to increase the utilisation of tools like Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) by national societies in the region. In the last six months the regional disaster management team has continued to participate in the process of developing DMIS further.

Objective 5: To advocate for recognition of the Red Cross Red Crescent role in disaster management and for the involvement and participation of Red Cross Red Crescent partners in disaster management policy-making forums at regional and national levels.

During this reporting period, activities for promoting the role of Red Cross and Red Crescent in disaster management have been limited. The Regional Delegation took opportunities during various meetings to raise the profile of Red Cross and Red Crescent in disaster management. In February the Regional Delegation met a team from the World Bank to discuss the issue of diversified risk management in South Asia. Meetings were also held with UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, ECHO, DFID, CARE, and OXFAM to increase interagency communication and exchange programme information.

A DP Newsletter has been published and distributed amongst various Red Cross and Red Crescent partners and, in addition to distribution of the published “lessons learned” case study also serves the purpose of dissemination of Red Cross and Red Crescent roles. Impacts of these actions need to be assessed and followed up during coming months but further attention is required to address this objective in a systematic way and this will be discussed also at the DP planning workshop in July.

Invitations to Government Disaster Managers to take part in this workshop is an effort to assist government counterparts to enhance their understanding of the complexity and extent of the Red Cross and Red Crescent role in disaster management in a regional and international context. It also aims to strengthen personal relationships between national society disaster managers and their counterparts and to provide senior government disaster managers with an opportunity to meet each other. The issue of Red Cross and Red Crescent involvement in co-ordination and planning forums will also be discussed.

The budget for the Disaster Preparedness programme has been slightly revised upwards to reflect and accommodate the priorities as described in the activities under objective 1.

Humanitarian Values w

Goal: To implement a range of communications and advocacy initiatives that achieve a greater degree of visibility, credibility, co-operation and support for Red Cross and Red Crescent activities in South Asia and a better understanding of the Movement’s Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values among internal and external stakeholders.

Objective 1: To expand strategic links with local and international media in order to promote and advocate for the strategic priorities of the Federation.

The SARD information department now has a comprehensive database of all key international and local media organisations and individual correspondents based in India and is readily expanding the database to incorporate other media contacts from neighboring countries. The media increasingly see the Federation as a credible and reliable source of information on humanitarian issues in the region. This recognition has in part been derived from the consistent networking with the media carried out by the regional information team. A good indication of this recognition was the level of interview requests made to the Federation following the outbreak of communal violence in Gujarat. Regular informal briefings on operational/ advocacy issues have been given to the international media and the regional information delegate has attended various events hosted by the Foreign Correspondents Club, particularly those that relate to the arrival of new correspondents in Delhi.

Much of January was devoted to supporting the IOC information delegate with the implementation of the media campaign to mark the first anniversary of the Gujarat earthquake. The regional information officer was largely responsible for overseeing the production and distribution of the ‘Insight’ publication which was

printed in English, French, Spanish, Hindi and Gujarati. The regional information delegate produced a four minute video news release which was distributed to local and international news agencies and which was widely broadcast locally. Other materials included a series of news stories which were featured on ifrc.org as well as in selected local newspapers. The regional information officer spent 10 days in Gujarat, liaising with local media based in Kutch and organising a press conference on the day of the anniversary.

The regional information department has actively contributed to some of the global advocacy initiatives carried out by the Federation and has maintained a consistent flow of information materials to key media representatives. A number of News stories were produced from the region which were used on the special web page on ifrc.org set up for the World Assembly on Aging in Barcelona. A number of stories were also produced in the region to support the launch of the global HIV AIDS anti discrimination campaign on May 8th. One story was written by a freelance journalist who was commissioned by the regional information department to write a feature based around the Indian Red Cross HIV AIDS hospice in the State of Maharashtra. The regional information department liaised closely with national society information officers to ensure that they planned appropriate and well coordinated campaign launch events based around May 8th. Resulting press coverage from these launches was encouraging. The regional information department has also been developing a strategy to support national society advocacy and communication strategies in support of the Global First Aid Project. It is planned that each national society will establish national 'First Aid days' on September 8th and a common strategy will be developed at the regional communications meeting in July.

In May the regional information officer accompanied a joint Federation / Sri Lanka Red Cross drought assessment team to the southern district of Hambantota. His role was to prepare appropriate information materials (including video footage, photographs and news stories) and liaise with national and international media in Sri Lanka in advance of a press conference which is planned to accompany the launch of an emergency appeal linked to the drought.

Objective 2: *To achieve a greater degree of co-operation and support amongst key external stakeholders through more effective marketing of the Federation*

The Asia Pacific communications strategy has been fully incorporated into the sub regional communications objectives of SARD and in February the regional information delegate traveled to Bangkok for meetings with the regional information delegate for south Asia. The purpose of the meeting was to review the strategy prior to a meeting in the Secretariat with representatives of the Asia Pacific desk and media service. The meeting in Geneva was called primarily to review in detail the relevance of the current strategy document and to review the progress of its implementation. The meeting also provided the opportunity to review linkages within and between the Geneva Secretariat and the regional information functions. It was agreed that various measures would be put into place to improve communication between the field one of which has been the initiation of a monthly teleconference between a representative of the Asia Pacific desk, the media service and the two regional info. delegates.

In preparation for the Asia Pacific conference in Manila the SARD information team have been coordinating closely with the regional information unit in Bangkok on preparing communications materials in advance of the conference. A video highlighting discrimination and stigma issues in the region linked to the Federations global HIV AIDS campaign is already in production and will include material focused on Nepal Red Cross and Indian Red Cross HIV AIDS programmes.

The regional information department continues to provide a regular flow of stories from the region for use on the news section of ifrc.org and in the Asia Pacific FOCUS Magazine. Contributions of stories from national societies in the region have increased and there has been approximately a fifteen per cent increase in South Asian News stories featured on the web site. Consistent coverage has been given to major programmes undertaken by national societies in the region particularly in relation to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, the communal violence in Gujarat and the Gujarat earthquake rehabilitation programme. The distribution of FOCUS Magazine continues to expand and now approximately two hundred stakeholders in India alone receive the publication.

The 2002-2003 South Asia Emergency Appeal has been proactively marketed with key stakeholders across the region. In order to broaden potential interest in the Appeal, Arabic versions have also been distributed.

The 2002 World Disasters Report was launched by national societies in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh, all of whom organised media events and attracted considerable media exposure. The WDR has been distributed to key stakeholders in Govt., the media, peer organisations and academic institutions and contacts have been taken up with the local distributor of the Report to market the Report with a wider audience, particularly in India

The assignment of regional journalists to cover RC/ RC activities is under review as are the two media workshops on humanitarian reporting to undergraduates at colleges of journalism. The viability of a regional 'Red Cross Red Crescent journalism fellowship' is being explored whereby regional media will be supported under the programme to produce feature articles on core area themes.

Objective 3: *To promote an understanding and application of the 'Fundamental principles' and 'Humanitarian values within national societies in the region.*

An orientation into the 'Principles in Action' CD has been provided to each national society information department and in some national societies these training materials are being used to complement existing orientation / induction programmes for new staff and volunteers. As yet no appropriate examples of 'best practice' in the application of Humanitarian Values has been identified as the regional priority to date has been to orientate national society managers in the BPI framework.

Objective 4: *To localise the post of the SARD regional information delegate*

At the end of September the regional information officer will assume the responsibilities of the regional information delegate. A structured induction / orientation programme has been prepared which has entailed the regional information officer undertaking a month long secondment to the Secretariat media service where he will assume specific responsibilities as well as receiving some technical training. In addition he will be undergoing the 'new delegates training course'. Further training is also being organised to improve his skills in financial management.

The budget for Humanitarian Values has been revised and reduced by 54.8% to 39,662 CHF. Due to the minimal contributions to the programme various expenditures have been reduced to more realistic levels (reductions include; travel costs, support for national society emblem campaigns, journalist assignments). In addition, thanks to a contribution from the regional DP programme some activity costs have been taken out of the budget altogether (printing SARD brochure, national society WDR launches).

Health and Care w

Following the year-end review of the programme, some minor modifications have been made to the programme for 2002. These include the establishment of a broader-based Regional Health team and a down-scaling of attempts to hold Regional-level training, given the diversity of training needs within the Region. Instead, more effort will be made to identify relevant in-country training opportunities and to develop more National Society needs-specific training.

With the development of the Pakistan country delegation to support the National Society, more time has become available for the Regional Health team to focus on the Regional and country level health programmes. The Regional programme has therefore got off to a good start this year, and the team is confident that the programme should be achieved in full, provided adequate funds are made available.

During the second quarter, there has been a change of personnel with a new Regional Health Delegate coming into post. The previous delegate remains in Pakistan as Health Coordinator and has been able to ensure a good hand-over to her successor with no loss of continuity and programme institutional memory. The new Regional Health Delegate is relocated to Delhi and will be able to work full-time on the programme.

Goal: *The overall goal of the programme for the next three to five years is to strengthen National Societies' capacity to plan, implement and manage quality health programmes and emergency health responses which*

make a positive difference to the health of vulnerable people, with the active participation of national societies in the region in this process.

Objective 1: To provide technical and financial support for strategic health capacity strengthening, including the management of emergency health situations

The development of the Regional Health Resource Centre was started. This will be a collection of books, journals, videos, CDs etc., on aspects of health and health programme management which should be useful for National Societies. These include Federation publications as well as those from many other sources. This year it is also intended to collect health monitoring tools from the different National Societies. The overall aim is to have a “toolbox” from existing resources can be utilised to strengthen health programme management and capacity. All documents and resources are being put onto a special library database. The next meeting of the National Society Health Managers (Health Forum) will be held in the third quarter of the year and at this meeting the monitoring tools which are currently available will be reviewed. It is anticipated that all health management tools will be converted into an electronic version and which will be distributed to the respective national societies.)

A new activity for 2002 within this objective in the development of a Regional strategy for better response to and management of emergency health situations. Both the Health Forum meeting and the newly-formed Regional health team will start to address this issue shortly. The latter initiative is described in more detail under Objective Three below.

Objective 2: To provide technical and financial support through the Appeal for National Society health programmes, especially in health prevention/ promotion/ education and basic curative care; reproductive/child health (including HIV/AIDS); appropriate First Aid; and safe blood donor recruitment and retention.

The Regional Health Delegate worked briefly with the National Societies of Sri Lanka and Nepal to develop priorities for 2002. In particular Sri Lanka will, through their community health programme, be focusing on first aid, HIV/AIDS and safe blood donor recruitment and retention. It is hoped to have the next meeting of the Regional Safe Blood Working Group in Sri Lanka in the third quarter of the year. Nepal Red Cross had particularly asked for support for its community based first aid and community development activities, within its overall health and care programme.

Technical support to Pakistan Red Crescent is ongoing and more intensive, as the Regional Health Delegate is based there and is also the Federation’s country Health Coordinator. Support within the current Humanitarian Crisis operation for Afghan refugees is being closely linked to the ongoing health activities and capacity development of the National Society.

The country-specific funds within DFID’s support to the Regional Health Programme for 2002 will be utilised to support these activities in Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and will be reported in more detail in the regular half-yearly report.

One other key activity which has been greatly increased during this quarter is the advocacy role. The Regional programme aims to act as an advocate for National Society programmes through active promotion and awareness-raising of programmes and activities, especially in the area of HIV/AIDS. A co-ordinated effort has been carried out with all National Societies to establish a Regional HIV/AIDS network.

The first priority for the South Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA, formerly SART, see also objective three) will be on Peer Education for Youth. With a large majority of people living with HIV and AIDS between the ages of 15-40, strengthening Red Cross Red Crescent Youth programmes to prevent HIV infection is vital to the future of every country in the region. In India alone there will be more than 1 million new HIV AIDS infections this year.

There is already a greatly increased awareness of HIV/AIDS issues within the National Societies and a clear commitment to scale up activities, including those which relate to the Federation's current global anti-stigma and discrimination campaign.

Objective 3: *To develop a learning environment and facilitate the better utilisation of existing intra- and inter-Regional resources*

The 1st South Asia Regional HIV/AIDS meeting was held in May in Nepal. It was in effect part of a broader inter-regional HIV/AIDS programme involving the 14th meeting of Asia Red Cross/Red Crescent Task Force for HIV/AIDS (ART). The two regional meetings culminated in a joint inter-regional workshop on Advocacy and Discrimination with special emphasis on the involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS in Red Cross HIV programmes. The spirit of co-operation and solidarity between the two regions culminated in the creation of the South Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA).

The focus for SARNHA will be Peer Education for Youth, further it will scale up HIV/AIDS awareness programme and the involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS as well as targeted programmes towards mobile population groups. The Nepal Red Cross Society will serve as the first convener of SARNHA and it will rotate through each national society every six months. Ultimately, HIV/AIDS prevention and control efforts within the South Asia Region will have sustainable development after a certain period of time.

As indicated above, plans are under way to hold the next meeting of the Regional Safe Blood Working Group in the third quarter in Sri Lanka. There is a real commitment to scaling up safe blood donor recruitment and retention activities, and this will be the main focus for the meeting. The agenda was drafted during the first quarter and will also include sessions on working in partnerships with Government and others in blood programmes, and maximising capacity development of the National Society through donor recruitment and retention programmes. The newly-published Federation manual will be a key tool for developing donor programmes.

One modification to this objective for 2002 is the establishment of a broader-based Regional Health team, to make better use of health resources within the Region. This team will consist of the Regional Health Delegate and the country-level Health Coordinators in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The intention is to meet six-monthly to discuss common issues and to provide greater and more co-ordinated support to the National Societies. In 2002, more effort will be made to facilitate the increased publication and dissemination of each National Society's health programmes and activities. To date a piece on the mobile health programme in Baluchistan Province, Pakistan, has appeared in the Federation's Asia Pacific Focus publication.

The SARNHA project was not budgeted for in this appeal. It has been possible to establish this project thanks to un-earmarked funding from the Japanese and Swedish Red Cross and DFID. As the regional delegation still makes priority to this programme and aims to continue with it throughout the whole appeal period, the budget has been increased to reflect this.

Organisational Development (Institutional and Resource Development) w

Goal: *To establish further measurable progress towards well-functioning National Societies in the region, and thereby greater capacity to respond effectively to the needs of the most vulnerable, by establishing consistency in governance and management standards in all national societies.*

Institutional Development

Objective 1: *To develop and implement common standards regarding measurable progress towards the "Characteristics of well-functioning societies" by supporting the revision of the statutes of 5 national societies.*

Following the regional Constitution Review workshop held in June 2001, a regional Change Management workshop for senior governance and management members from all 6 national societies was held in Sri Lanka in March 2002. The workshop aimed to support the national societies to manage complex strategic change

processes more coherently. At the workshop the Bangladesh and Pakistan Red Crescent Societies re-affirmed their commitment to manage and complete the Constitution revision processes by the end of 2002.

The regional OD delegate has co-ordinated technical and legal support with the regional ICRC Delegation to enable Nepal Red Cross to complete their Constitutional revision process to include the vast majority of the Federation's "Guidance for national society Statutes" guidelines. Comments were also integrated from the Federation Secretariat's Legal Department in Geneva, and the revised Constitution was presented to and passed by NRCS's General Assembly in early May 2002. This makes it the second of the six national societies (after the Sri Lanka Red Crescent) in South Asia to have completed the revision process to Federation global standards.

The new Constitutions in NRCS and SLRCS have had an important impact within the national societies, helping them to clarify the differences between governance and management, and restructure management organigrams according to new responsibilities at NHQ level to improve the effectiveness of planning and monitoring systems. Similarly, the Policy Committee structures in both societies have been revised to ensure greater effectiveness and devolved responsibilities to management.

The regional OD delegate is actively supporting further Constitutional revision processes in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. The new Constitutions of Sri Lanka and Nepal are now serving as catalysts and examples of "excellence" within the region to inspire the other Boards of Governance. An evaluation of PRCS's Branch and NHQ structures in May 2002 also resulted in a presentation with recommendations to the Managing Board to be made in June 2002 for the Federation and ICRC to support the PRCS Constitutional revision in a co-ordinated way.

In Bangladesh the national society has been conducting Constitution Revision Committee meetings facilitated by the Federation, which will be followed by internal participatory processes to consult the Branches and membership on proposed changes using the Federation's minimum standards guidelines.

Objective 2: To build strategic management capacity in all societies by implementing a regional approach to management development programmes to strengthen further the strategic change management skills needed to deliver the change objectives of "Strategy 2010".

The regional Change Management held in March 2002 (*as mentioned under objective 1*) was conducted for 20 participants of all 6 national societies from senior governance and management levels, including members of Managing Boards, Secretary Generals, and Director Generals/Directors. The objectives of the workshop were to refresh their knowledge of strategic management skills in managing complex organisational strengthening and change processes. Each national society exchanged experiences on successful models of managing change from within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the region, learned of new techniques and change management models from case studies from external organisations, and looked at the links between successful change management and strong human resource development and internal and external communications strategies.

The modules focussed on topics such as "Understanding change processes", "Analysing organisational culture", "Initiating change", "Mobilising commitment of the critical mass", "Characteristics of successful change managers", Linking Human Resource Development strategies to change management", "Understanding and managing resistance", "Strategies for building resilience and momentum", "Managing transition", "Roles of leaders and managers", and "Identifying and providing resources for change".

The decisions of the workshop were to ask the regional OD delegate to draft a "South Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' Change Management Manual" in the form of a series of guidelines under the topics listed above; to include in these guidelines examples of successful change management models as shared by the Ns during the workshop itself to act as knowledge sharing material; and to undertake a structured management development "training of trainers" programme in each national society, facilitated by a regional "personnel-on-loan" from Nepal Red Cross HRD Division as the core trainer during 2002. Through this last initiative, the national society hoped to achieve a regional standard for management development training, and a follow-up management training and development curriculum and courses for managers at all levels within each national society at country level.

The Terms of reference and schedule for Training of Trainers (TOT) in Management Development courses in four national societies was finalised in June 2002, and the draft curriculum for the five day TOT was also finalised in discussion with the regional trainer identified from Nepal Red Cross.

It was also agreed that each national society would nominate after the workshop a senior OD counterpart who would join similar counterparts from the other 5 national societies and receive regular annual regional OD training in order to continue to build and share culturally appropriate and successful change management skills and competencies needed for strategic change between all 6 national societies.

Objective 3: To build a regional approach to human resource development and maximise internal training capacities in all national societies.

There has been significant impact on regional HRD work to aim at more common standards within all national societies since the regional HRD workshop was held in December 2001 in Nepal. The finalised "South Asia Regional HRD Manual" which was drafted and agreed in a highly participatory manner by all 6 national societies has been circulated to all, and it has been warmly welcomed as a strategic tool to help improve standards in volunteer and staff recruitment, development, appraisal, grievance, recognition and reward systems.

In response to the Manual's recommendations, the national societies in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India and Nepal have agreed to set up a NHQ level unit with managers/focal points to improve volunteer management standards across all levels. Sri Lanka RCS has begun the process of adapting the regional HRD Manual local employment legislation standards and will then recommend its adoption to the Central Governing Board.

In Nepal a new Volunteering Unit will follow a similar process, and in Pakistan a new HR department has been recommended. In India a strengthened and more consolidated HR department at NHQ is being envisaged, with discussions taking place in the Indian Red Cross internal "Organisational Development Group" at NHQ on how to enable this new HR department to play a role in advocating stronger HR practices and systems in all the 650 Branches over a phased programme of orientation and training.

The next annual regional forum for HRD managers to enable all national societies to share existing HR strategies and good practice, draw on global good practice guidelines, and develop a country based action plan for the implementation of common regional standards, is being planned for November 2002. This will enable the new HR appointees in the national societies to also plan sessions on "Voluntarism and improved volunteering management" as part of a wider regional workshop on "Branch development models" planned for late 2002. It is planned to launch a regional "Volunteer Expert Network" as one of the outcomes of this regional workshop, to specifically focus on knowledge sharing to improve volunteering environments and support systems in all national societies. It is hoped that another key output will be to create a resource pool of active HRD trainers within the region to share effective HRD strategies across national societies, train each other, and reduce reliance on external trainers.

To ensure gender awareness perspectives are integrated and actively implemented in all HRD activities across the region, a "regional trainer-on-loan" has been agreed with Nepal Red Cross to enable the Head of the NRCS Women's Development section to set up "training of trainers" programmes on gender sensitisation in all 5 other national societies during 2002 and early 2003. The terms of reference have been finalised and dates for initial visits are being agreed with all national societies.

The draft curriculum for the gender sensitisation TOT work was completed in June 2002, and this will be further negotiated and adapted to the needs of each national society in the preparatory visit. The curriculum includes an orientation into the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's perspective on gender and the importance of women's representation at all levels of policy, management and programme planning and evaluation; clarifying the concepts of "Women in Development", "Women and Development", and "Gender and Development"; understanding and developing gender analysis tools and participatory processes to address gender issues in national societies; and developing a Plan of Action to further gender perspectives within all the structures and programmes of each national society.

The expected outcomes of the gender sensitisation programme at regional level are to have a cadre of trainers on gender issues in each national society who run regular quality training programmes for all staff and volunteers; an environment which recognises the importance of women's involvement in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its work; institutional arrangements on Women's Development in each national society to strengthen the gender perspective; a Gender Policy in each national society (adopting the framework of the Federation's Gender Policy agreed at the General Assembly in 1999); and a plan of action in each national society to undertake phased internal gender sensitisation training.

An approach has also been initiated by the regional OD delegate to strengthen the knowledge sharing possibilities between the Red Cross and Red Crescent Youth and Junior Red Cross and Red Crescent wings in each society across the region. Discussions have been held within Indian Red Cross, Sri Lanka Red Cross, and Pakistan Red Crescent Societies who have all appointed a NHQ level national youth co-ordinator position to strengthen youth wing development programmes. Later in 2002 it is envisaged that as part of a wider regional workshop on "Branch Development models" a regional meeting of these focal points will be held, inviting a Federation Youth Delegate from another region, to form a regional Red Cross and Red Crescent Youth forum. It is hoped that this will lead to mutual discussions between national societies which would lead to the adoption of new or revised Youth Policies, and create opportunities for staff on loan programmes between national societies in which their in-region experienced youth training resource people train others in techniques to enhance participation of youth in all programmes at all levels.

Plans are being initiated to conduct practical discussions and action planning within the regional workshop on "Branch Development models" in late 2002 on the Federation's Volunteering Policy in keeping with the "Volunteer 2005" Strategy. The plan is to use the regional workshop to set up a regional annual meeting of a Volunteer Expert Network to enable national societies to share resource persons experienced in implementing effective volunteer recruitment and development strategies. These draft plans will be shared for further discussion and participatory decision making at the next regional Secretary Generals' meeting to be held later in 2002.

Regional Finance Development programme

Goal: To assist the regional national societies to build up and develop their financial management capacities and to enable them to have transparent systems of accounting, with appropriate internal controls, able to produce timely, accurate and transparent financial reporting for external donors and internal management purposes.

Objective 1: To ensure that regional national societies benefit from the experience of regional sister societies in developing common standards in finance development plans.

In last years Regional Finance Director's Meeting all national societies participated in a regional mapping exercise which highlighted existing activities, issues of concern and identified strategies on how Finance Development work can be introduced at a Branch level. The excursus aimed at improving overall programme reporting and ensuring effective monitoring systems. During 2002 a pleasing level of progress and improvement has been made as the national society directors are committed to these objectives.

A regional workshop is being planned for the last quarter of this year for national society staff who are involved in finance development work. This workshop will be held jointly with the Regional Reporting Delegate and Sub Regional Reporting Delegate which will enable the workshop to emphasise the importance of Finance Development as an integrated part of Institutional/ Organisational Development of a national society. It will also help participants to understand the role of finance development, the importance of meeting Donor's requirements on overall reporting, and will help in the development of more effective monitoring systems.

A Regional national society Finance Directors Meeting will be held at the end of this year to evaluate progress made on last years meeting objectives. It is hoped that by sharing this learning more Regional consistency in Finance Development programmes will be achieved. The objective is also to have a technically trained cadre of staff at NHQ and Branch levels across the Region. These staff members should have sound computer skills

and be able to train other national societies, or to support specific emergency relief programmes with accountancy skills.

Objective 2: *To improve national societies' financial systems and procedures taking into consideration existing capacities, within a regional framework for planned capacity building plans.*

The Regional Finance Development Manager visited the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in March and June to provide support with familiarization of its new financial system and procedures. Training was provided on sound and transparent financial and accounting procedures manuals to ensure effective basic accounting standards and reporting frameworks to donors.

The Nepal Red Cross Society has finalised an Internal Audit manual and shared this with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society. The Nepal Red Cross is also revising its financial procedure manual. The draft has already been shared with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, the Indian Red Cross Society and Pakistan Red Crescent Society. Once this is finalised it will be used as a model for further development in the region.

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society and Pakistan Red Crescent Society have finalised their financial software, it will be installed this year. The Indian Red Cross Society is also in the process of finalising the software for computerised accounting. The Regional Finance Development Manager visited the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in June to follow up the process of finalising the Financial software and its design to meet Federation requirements.

Objective 3: *To strengthen the capacity of national society staff and arrange appropriate training when required.*

The Treasurer of Nepal Red Cross Society visited the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in March 2002 to study and discuss the Internal Audit Manual and Financial Procedure Manual of Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in order to help both national societies to establish effective internal audit departments and mechanisms.

In June the Federation's standard BuSY Budgeting Software was installed in the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society and 3 staff members were trained in order to make them familiar with the Federation's standard budgeting software. This will help them to prepare the budgets in the right format as per Federation's requirement.

A country level workshop for the finance staff of Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has been planned in the third quarter of this year. Staff from NHQ and selected branches will take part in this training workshop to improve the overall Management Information Systems (MIS) and achieving better uniformity in basic accounting standards and reporting frameworks to donors.

Regional Information Development Programme

Goal: *To enable National Societies in the region to attain a greater degree of visibility and support among key stakeholders by promoting their activities and the Fundamental Principles through effective and professional advocacy and communications strategies.*

Objective 1 : *To support the development of well functioning communications capacity within each of the national societies in the region through technical support, mutual learning and training initiatives.*

Since January 2002, the regional information dept. has been actively engaged in a variety of training initiatives in the region. In February the 2 information officers of the Nepal Red Cross spent a one week internship at SARD. With the assistance of external facilitators they received specific training in various aspects of communications including advocacy, video techniques, web site editing and strategic planning. As well as improving their technical skills, this was an opportunity to familiarise them with the role of the Movement in the region and they met with all SARD delegates and relevant counterparts within IOC as well as the Indian RC and the ICRC. The visit was also an opportunity to further develop the NRCS communications strategy for the Society. As well as providing a valuable knowledge sharing opportunity, the internship gave the participants a much greater understanding of the communications priorities of the Federation and provided them with technical skills that they are now utilising on a regular basis.

The exchange visits of national society information officers in the region has begun with preparations currently underway for the two Nepal Red Cross information staff to spend a week visiting the information dept. of the Thai Red Cross and the Federation's regional information unit in Bangkok. This represents a valuable opportunity to share expertise and knowledge with another national societies who have a more developed information department.

The regional information team has also supported two communications training workshops organised by the Sri Lanka Red Crescent and the Nepal Red Cross which were held in April. The three day Sri Lanka workshop was attended by dissemination/information officers from district branches together with some branch secretaries and/or chairmen. The regional information team acted as facilitators together with the information officer of the Pakistan Red Crescent. This was an excellent opportunity both to review progress following a previous workshop held in Sept. 2000 but also to actively seek ways in which to improve information sharing between district branches and the NHQ. It was encouraging to note the greatly increased media relations activities carried out in some of the districts and the involvement of the PRCS information officer highlighted some common problems that the two societies share and also provided a valuable insight into the communications activities of the PRCS.

The communications training workshop held by the Nepal Red Cross involved the participation of branch officers/secretaries from 23 district chapters. This was the first communications workshop coordinated solely by the NRCS information section and was supported by the regional information officer from SARD and the communications delegate from the ICRC's delegation in Kathmandu. The workshop was an opportunity to introduce to participants various concepts such as media relations, advocacy and internal communications. The regional info. officer also facilitated a workshop on feature writing for the information contact persons from the different programme sections of the NRCS headquarters. By improving basic writing skills, journalistic contributions submitted from different programmes to the NRCS information dept., are now rapidly increasing.

In April a 9 day regional disaster management training course was held for DP managers of South Asian national societies. During the workshop the regional information officer gave a presentation on 'Building partnerships with the media' which provided an opportunity to reinforce the message with DP practitioners, that the media were important partners in advocating for DP at a national level.

In May the regional information delegate attended the joint meeting of the ART and the newly established SARNHA network. During the meeting a half day training session was given to ART members on how to write for and produce their quarterly newsletter. A presentation was also given to the SARNHA members on the global HIV AIDS anti stigma and discrimination campaign.

SARD has provided financial support to the national society information departments of India and Pakistan which has enabled two staff from each national society to undergo technical training in web site design, editing and management. This training is being undertaken through local external consultancies. Support has also been provided for English language training courses for the information staff of the Nepal Red Cross and the Bangladesh Red Crescent.

Salary support to the information officers of the Sri Lanka Red Crescent and the Nepal Red Cross continues to be provided and some technical hardware has been purchased for the information departments of each national society (including stills cameras for Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh) A contribution was also made towards the establishment of a LAN network in both the headquarters of the Nepal Red Cross and the Sri Lanka Red Crescent which has greatly enhanced information sharing between NHQ departments.

All national society information staff have access to the recently completed online Movement 'Communications Guide' and the Nepal Red Cross have already begun to translate the guide into Nepali for distribution to programme staff. Other national societies are expected to follow suit in the coming year.

The Budget for the Regional Information Development programme has been revised and reduced by 18.9% to 169,382 CHF. These revisions were partially based on the funding available to implement the programme, but also some of the costs for the reg. info delegate (MSA, Salary, contributions to office rental) had originally

been budgeted for 12 months instead of 7 (the reg. info delegate ends his mission in September). Another factor behind the revision has been coverage of various costs (reg. info officer's salary, travel costs and accommodation) from a contribution from the regional DP programme.

Regional Resource Development Programme

Goal: To support the regional National Societies in developing effective financial resource mobilisation strategies.

Objective 1 To promote effective local resource mobilisation and income diversification strategies in all 6 national societies by facilitating mutual capacity building and sharing of successfully documented case studies and developing a regional resource group of fund raising personnel.

The regional "Local Resource Mobilisation" training module has now been successfully conducted in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Indian Red Cross Societies, with plans to conduct it in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan by the end of 2002. The Indian Red Cross Society will be conducting a total of four regional workshops, having completed the first one in the Western region in May, due to the large number of Branches.

The regional OD delegate has been asked to document successful Resource Mobilisation case studies in the form of "Fact Sheets" for regional distribution under different specific topics (e.g. corporate sector fundraising, youth wing fundraising etc.). These case studies will be initiated during the second half of 2002, with discussions having taken place with national societies on mapping existing good practice in a number of areas.

As a result of the Local Resource Mobilisation training, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has decided to appoint a Director and Assistant Director of Fundraising and Communications to strengthen its capacity at NHQ and Branch levels and develop appropriate coherent policies and training at all levels. In addition it has increased sustainability plans into its existing programmes (e.g. including a new objective to make its national First Aid training programme and services self-sustaining within 3 years through local income from commercial FA training).

The Indian Red Cross Society has also decided to appoint a new Head of Fundraising at NHQ level to begin to consolidate the successful local fundraising experiences across all its Branches and begin a mapping and knowledge sharing process. Its national Branch mapping exercise has created a valuable data bank of information showing that Branches already have many diversified sources of income, but that there remains a lack of professional skills at many levels to capitalise further on these opportunities.

Following the completion of the Local Resource Mobilisation training in the remaining three national societies which is planned for later in 2002, it is envisaged to hold an annual regional forum for fund raising managers to share experience and successful strategies, and to draw on the experience and competencies of other key regional institutions promoting local resource mobilisation (e.g. the South Asia Fund Raising Group resource agency who have conducted the regional trainings so far) by the end of 2002. This will enable the societies to regularly exchange successful resource mobilisation techniques and resource persons to develop common regional learning on culturally appropriate fund raising techniques. It will also enable national societies to support each other in designing and implementing follow-up country-specific training programmes using experienced fund raising staff from one society to facilitate learning and planning in other societies, in an effort to help national societies to develop new approaches to sustainable resource development.

It is envisaged that the regional Fundraising managers forum will then plan a full regional resource mobilisation workshop for all 6 national societies for experience sharing, learning, and common strengthening of techniques to raise diversified funds to be held in early 2003, using the successful documented case studies on sustainable models of funding core costs as well as locally generated income programmes.

Regional Reporting Development

Up to now Reporting has been reported and budgeted under the Management and Co-operation section. However with the view of reflecting the development initiatives of the programme, it will from now on be presented under the Organisational Development section. Regional Reporting Development will also be included in next years appeal, again as a part of OD.

Timely, regular and accurate reporting is one of the most important tools to ensure good management support and sufficient funding for an emergency operation or a longer term programme. In view of this, the Regional Reporting Delegate based in Delhi and the Sub Regional Reporting Delegate based in Dhaka have started a regional narrative reporting development initiative to support the national societies in the region. This in close co-operation with Federation delegates in all programme support areas (i.e. DR, DP, Finance Development, Information Development and Organisational Development).

In February, a questionnaire was sent to all six national societies, with the aim of national societies reflecting on their needs including human resources. According to the information received, only Nepal Red Cross has clearly identified staff designated to work with reporting issues. In Sri Lanka and India, the OD delegates are addressing this issue as a part of overall organisational restructuring and strengthening initiatives and efforts will be made to define and obtain clear counterparts within all national societies.

The Regional Reporting Delegate has supported the information officers in Nepal and India with specific advice on how to prepare an Annual Report (content and layout), using the previous Annual Report for Nepal as an example.

Specific tools and case studies have been developed to make reporting training and capacity building an active learning experience at all levels of national societies, but particularly initially at NHQ departmental levels. These tools have been developed in co-ordination with the External Relations Division (former Relationship Management Department) at the Federation Secretariat.

In April a regional level presentation on narrative reporting was made as a part of a 9 day RDRT (Regional Disaster Response Team) workshop in Delhi. 35 managers within different areas from all 6 national societies participated. As not all national societies and staff have access to the internet, a kit was distributed to all national societies including Federation style sheets, Federation minimum reporting standards, Pledge Management Note (PMN) format and a Federation English Style guide.

In June, a training in reporting was held at the SLRCS headquarters for the SLRCS Chairman and Directors and 20 NHQ departmental executives in Colombo. As a result of its new Constitution, the SLRCS is in the midst of structural changes where new reporting formats are to be developed. Links were therefore made between external and internal reporting needs and the close relation between planning and reporting. Finally two short case studies were made and a “good case” emergency appeal shared. The evaluation of the workshop showed that the participants found the session and the kits distributed very useful.

Also in June a session within a wider 3 day “Branch Development” workshop in Sri Lanka Red Cross targeted 20 NHQ executives, and the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of 17 Branches. In the second workshop around 50 people participated, including all 11 branch development officers (BDO) of the national societies.

The objectives of these trainings were to provide a general introduction to and understanding of the importance of reporting, the end use of reports and how national society input can improve Federation and other external reporting. Based on feedback from this initial trial, the modules have been further improved for use in other national societies.

Also as part of the regional reporting development initiative, a two-weeks visit to the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has been conducted in the second half of June. During the visit, series of meetings were organised with senior management staff from the NRCS in order to ensure full support to the senior officer who will be the focal point for NRCS with respect to reporting. As the person has been only recently appointed, the Federation was requested to support the focal person with PC, printer and participation in a English language course. Initial assistance to NRCS for the establishment of the reporting office has been provided in form of advise for establishment of NRCS data base, NRCS reporting control sheet, as well as PC training. A request for the approval of NRCS’ to access to the DMIS web site as well as CAS quickplace web site as useful tools has also been made.

At the end of the visit a one day reporting session is being organised for the NRCS national head quarter staff as per request of the National Society. The session will be focused mostly on day-to-day issues and challenges

regarding reporting (at various levels), understanding of various reporting requirements and others. The next visit will focus on further improving the focal persons' skills and understanding of the Federation's reporting system.

In July, a two-day reporting workshop will be organised in Dhaka for headquarters staff and some representatives from district branches of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. This workshop will be the follow up on the last years workshop. As BDRCS has been going through significant staff changes this workshop would serve as guide for newly appointed senior staff and refresher to last years participants.

Plans are also underway for a combined regional workshop on narrative and financial reporting to be held jointly by the Regional Finance Unit and the a.m. Reporting Delegates. The workshop is scheduled for October.

The Regional Reporting budget is slightly revised upwards to include sub regional reporting delegates travels in the region in connection with training efforts as well as in country efforts such as English courses, computers etc. to support for reporting designated officers.

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

Working closely with the ICRC and the national societies in the region, every effort has been made to ensure that every training programme, every seminar run at national and regional level, and meetings with existing and new partners and with the media, *the Fundamental principles and the emblem issues* are addressed and reinforced.

Regular use of the media has raised awareness considerably. The communal violence in Gujarat was an ideal opportunity for the IRCS to walk the tightrope of tension in using its reputation from the recent earthquake and training in ReachOut and BPI to reinforce its neutrality.

In a region where there is frequently *gender* imbalances in courses and seminars, a concerted effort is being made at all fora to train and sensitise national society leaders, staff and volunteers to be more aware of gender issues and gender imbalances throughout the national societies in the region. This was discussed at the change management workshop. An important tool has been the completion of the first draft curriculum of the gender sensitisation for TOT, which will be adapted for differing needs in each country.

As mentioned under the DP section, encouragement has been given to national societies to involve more women in disaster management at all levels but overall progress has been slow. In Sri Lanka in the drought relief operation, volunteers recruited for assessments and distribution included a large percentage of women. The issue of how to involve more women will be a discussion topic at the regional DP Policy workshop in July.

Further gender activities have been mentioned under the OD section, such as the efforts to ensure that gender awareness perspectives are integrated and actively implemented in all HRD activities across the region. A "regional trainer-on-loan" has been agreed with Nepal Red Cross to enable the Head of the NRCS Women's Development section to set up "training of trainers" programmes on gender sensitisation in all 5 other national societies during 2002 and early 2003. The terms of reference have been finalised and dates for initial visits are being agreed with all national societies.

The expected outcomes of the gender sensitisation programme at regional level are to have a cadre of trainers on gender issues in each national society who run regular quality training programmes for all staff and volunteers; an environment which recognises the importance of women's involvement in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its work; institutional arrangements on Women's Development in each national society to strengthen the gender perspective; a Gender Policy in each national society (adopting the framework of the Federation's Gender Policy agreed at the General Assembly in 1999); and a plan of action in each national society to undertake phased internal gender sensitisation training.

Through concerted efforts during the past year and in particular the global **HIV/AIDS** anti stigma and discrimination campaign, and using the media, including the production of a video for the Manilla conference; steady progress is being made.

The underlying focus of **Humanitarian Values** is influencing behaviours and through BPI, Reach Out, promotion of fundamental principles Humanitarian values, practical examples of taking principles and values into action are evident in most countries in the region.

While attending the HoD meeting in Geneva in late June, the Federation HoRD and Senior desk officer for South Asia met with the ICRC Desk Officers to discuss Nepal and South Asia. This to ensure we continue to co-ordinate at country, regional and head quarter level. It is essential the organisations co-ordinate in principles and values with all components of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, especially in a region where support to national societies and conflict and post conflict situations, needs to be clearly defined, co-ordinated, understood by all and frequently reviewed.

Regional Co-operation w

Goal: The overall goal of this programme is to build national societies' confidence in working as a Federation and establishing strong networks between all Movement stakeholders in South Asia.

Objective 1: To provide a regional forum for strengthened relationships between Movement stakeholders (national societies, Federation and ICRC regional and country delegations) and promote specific Federation-facilitated co-operation activities to increase programme co-ordination between all Movement actors in the region.

At the end of January the Indian Red Cross Society hosted a Regional Cooperation Agreement Strategy and Secretary Generals Meeting in New Delhi. Secretary Generals from India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended as did the Federation Senior Desk officer, the Heads of Delegations from SARD, India Operation Centre, Pakistan and Bangladesh, the Deputy HoD for the Regional ICRC Delegation and a number of delegates.

It was agreed that meetings in future should focus more on contributing to regional strategies and reviewing and monitoring the objectives stated therein. It was discussed how the fora, with future agendas set by the SGs, could contribute to development not only downwards in the organisation but also feed into Movement Policy Structure. It was suggested that a ToR should be written for future SG meetings.

The new Movement Strategy was well received and used in the meeting on the RCAS working session. It was also felt that up to now, not enough collective (national societies, ICRC, Fed.) effort had been done within the three stated strategic objective areas stated in the strategy. However this new tool would help our collective efforts. Some of the activities stated in the Movement Strategy are already ongoing in current programmes. Some activities which the SG working group suggested during this meeting can be started at a time yet to be defined, planned, and budgeted for.

It was decided that the gaps between ongoing activities and the selected activities for regional priority were to be included into the draft RCAS and into current or future appeals.

The SGs requested more information from the Secretariat. There are technical limitations that sometimes hamper communication. However the SGs felt that there is also hesitation from the Federation's side to share enough. Following this meeting, the Regional Information and Reporting Team has distributed three issues (April, May and June) of the "South Asia Regional Movement Newsletter" towards the components of the Movement, which has also been distributed to PNS.

In early March 2002, BDRCS hosted the South Asia Partnership meeting attended by representatives from 20 countries. Following the partnership meeting, a two-day Cooperation Agreement Strategy workshop was held to finalize a BDRCS second generation three-year CAS document. External donors WFP, ECHO, DFID EC and AusAID also participated and gave valuable feedback to this document.

In late March (the first ever) Change Management workshop was held in Bentota, Sri Lanka. It was a very successful workshop where national society participants participated with a strong sense of commitment and willingness to share examples of successful changes in national societies. The workshop took participants through the following modules:

- understanding change
- initiating change
- linking HR to change
- strategies for building resilience and momentum

The outcome is that we now have 25 people from national societies in South Asia trained in change management who will share their knowledge with their respective national societies and hopefully, will contribute significantly to the various changes occurring processes in the region.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society presented their long-term plan to improve the recruitment of women volunteers, Bangladesh Red Crescent shared plans for changing their Constitutions, India Red Cross shared process plans for revising and updating their and Rules and Procedures, the Pakistan and Sri Lanka national societies drafted plans for introducing a comprehensive and participatory 5 Year Development Plan for the national societies, and Nepal shared their plans for developing a knowledge sharing strategy to improve internal and external information flow.

On 18-19 June, the HoRD went to Kathmandu to discuss the current situation in Nepal with NRCS, ICRC and held an information sharing meeting with diplomatic missions, International organisations. Over 60 people attended and a high level of interest was shown by participants and this meeting will do a lot do build up new partners.

A planning meeting in Pakistan is scheduled to be held in Pakistan in early September to be followed by a Secretary Generals Meeting in Afghanistan. This meeting will be an opportunity for the Federation and national societies from South Asia to finalise the draft appeals for 2003/4. .

Objective 2: *To continue to increase the pool of talented potential delegates in South Asia and to increase regional exchanges of qualified human resources between regional national societies.*

It is pleasing to see delegates/SOL from the region, especially an OD delegate from Bangladesh working in Pakistan and the former SG of the Bangladesh Red Crescent being assigned as the HoD in Afghanistan and a Nepal Red Cross staff member posted as the regional OD delegate in Southeast Asia RD, and two other staff from Nepal working as Regional Finance Development Manager at SARD, New Delhi and another as Finance delegate in Pakistan.

The intensive seven day regional disaster response training course clearly trained and identified many talented disaster response officers who can first work in the region and can later move on to being delegates.

Co-ordination and Management w

Goal: *The overall goal of this programme is to co-ordinate Federation activities in the region.*

Objective 1: *To act as the focal point for National Societies in the region and to help to develop sustainable processes of mutual capacity building and common programming, by continuing to support jointly with ICRC the regional secretary generals meeting.*

The regional delegation, including the out-posted regional delegates and country delegations continues to be seen and used by the national society, as the knowledge centre of the region for programme support and development, advice, technical and training assistance and an essential resource centre.

Building on the strong traditions of Regional Secretary Generals' meetings, ICRC co-operation, and strategic planning between SARD and all the national societies in the Region, the participatory process of drafting a

Regional Co-ordination Assistance Strategy (RCAS) is well underway with the fourth draft in circulation.. The RCAS will be the strategic work plan for all the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement components from within and outside the Region and currently we are seeking further feedback through a questionnaire. We are posing the question “ Should the RCAS document be more of a strategic document (e.g. Covering the wider issues needing collective Movement agreement such as planning, partnership development strategies, complimentary programme support guaranteeing country and regional level funding support in a balanced framework that sees the added strategic values of regional programme delivery better country impact), or should it be expressed more clearly as an “ Agreement”, which contains clear guidelines for partnership activities, co-ordination mechanisms etc.

As part of the RCAS process the region delegation is developing a mapping tool which shows graphically which national society and regional programmes are currently supported and by whom and over which period of time. This mapping tool will identify the gaps which need to be advocated for.

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

Representation is given a very high priority in South Asia and SARD and country delegations regularly meet senior government Ministers and officials, members of the diplomatic communities, UN agencies, IHGO's and other key players. The visit of the secretary general to Bangladesh and India in March was used to meet the President of Bangladesh and key ministers and when he came to Delhi, the Minister of Health and the Minister, DFID.

In addition more international organisations, diplomatic missions and governments are acknowledging the information, experience and information resources we have. WDR launches and the distribution of the WDR have done a lot to promote national societies in the region and the Federation's delegations.

The A & P communications strategy is used in a focussed to build good relations with the aforementioned but also a strategic approach to building strong day to day relationships with the media to a stage where the Federation is seen as a reliable source of information provided in an impartial manner.

Relationships with ICRC have generally strengthened. During the India/Pakistan border tensions and again with the deterioration of security in Nepal, the ICRC, Federation and national societies have been drawn closer together. Regular meeting are held along with annual planning meetings and the ICRC co-fund with us, a number of regional meetings. In Sri Lanka, the ICRC, SLRCS and Federation did a joint survey mission of branches in the former conflict area.

An emerging priority is to work more strategically with locally raised funding to further support the national societies resource development initiatives in the region as well as ensuring a more broad funding base for the Federation programmes. There is a plan therefore to include this effort in the coming appeal and to budget for one or two national staff to carry out these activities.

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

All programmes, projects and activities and respective budgets have been implemented in a co-ordinated manner and in line with strategy 2010, the annual Appeal, and in line with draft 4 of the RCAS. Programme managers have regularly monitored programmes together with national society counterparts and evaluations have been done in CDBP Nepal , the DCU in Pakistan and SART is currently being reviewed by an independent consultant. Simple peer and team reviews are used regularly to ensure implementation is well co-ordinated, integrated and on track. For the next six months Project Planning Process will be introduced for next year's appeal process and some of the monitoring tools will be used for the remainder of the year to improve qualitative and quantitative service delivery.

Interviews for the Federation representative in Sri Lanka took place at the end of June and hopefully the representative will be in place soon which will increase our ability to support the SLRCS.

With the new change strategy approved by the Governing Board in June, we will have to modify the way we work and this will mean the Regional Delegation taking on more regional responsibility. To achieve this, there will be a need to free up the HoRD for strategic work and representation and relationship building inside and outside the Federation, by employing a Programme Co-ordinator. This position could be utilised within areas such as:

- Ensuring that changing priorities are integrated in to regional programmes
- Co-ordination of the RCAS and CAS
- Ensuring and strengthening marketing/communication strategy
- Ensuring that regional/country programme links are maintained
- Maintaining presence at external relations (inter-agency forums)
- Developing a Regional Strategy
- Monitoring and evaluation framework
- Coordinating (reporting deadlines, appeal process, monitoring programme implementation, financial + narrative reporting)
- Providing financial and monitoring overview

***Objective 4:** To undertake joint missions with ICRC to facilitate the emergence of a national society in the Maldives, and to review opportunities to achieve the same objectives in Bhutan.*

This has not been a high priority in the first six months but telephone contact has been maintained with the core Red Cross interest group in the Maldives and a joint ICRC/Federation visit is planned later in the year. Hopefully, the secretary general of the Nepal Red Cross who initiated this core Red Cross group in the Maldives, will be part of the team.

Advocacy/Public Information w

Support provided to national society information departments by the SARD Information Development Programme has contributed towards improving the levels of visibility for the Red Cross and red Crescent Movement in the region.

Recognition of the Federation and national societies continues to grow amongst key stakeholders particularly the media. Advocacy efforts by the Sri Lanka Red Cross and the Federation have helped to ensure that the drought in southern Sri Lanka remains firmly in the public eye and that good co-ordination is maintained between peer organisations working in the drought affected areas. Regular interaction is maintained with the international press corps based in New Delhi who receive a regular flow of publicity materials such as press releases relating to Global issues and the role and activities of the Federation and national societies across the region.

Sustained efforts have been made to generate media interest in rehabilitation efforts in Gujarat and an extensive media campaign was initiated in January to mark the one year anniversary of the earthquake. The communal violence in Gujarat which began in February, was an opportunity to highlight the impartial role played by the Indian Red Cross as it responded to the humanitarian crisis. The role of the Indian Red Cross attracted broad recognition amongst the media, the diplomatic community and also the Government which has channeled considerable financial support towards the Indian Red Cross relief and rehabilitation programme. In the run up to May 8th, emphasis was placed on encouraging national societies in the region to support the global anti stigma and discrimination campaign against HIV AIDS. Although a significant number of stories were produced from the region and used prominently on the Federations' web site, most national societies with the exception of Nepal have had difficulty in implementing the campaign due to the fact that their HIV/AIDS programmes remain in their infancy.

With support from the Regional Delegation successful launches of the World Disasters Report were carried out in Sri Lanka and Nepal. These launch events and the ensuing media coverage have served to further position the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as leading advocates in the field of Disaster management.

Outstanding needs

Thanks to support from donors such as DfID and the Swedish Red Cross plus reallocations from old emergency appeals (CHF 395,000) and carry over balances from 2001 (CHF 473,794), the South Asia Regional Delegation is in a reasonable funding position. However, funding concerns remain within the following areas: humanitarian values, disaster relief, HIV/AIDS, regional resource development and co-ordination and management.

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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>.

John Horekens
Director
Division of External Relations

Simon Missiri
Head
Asia & Pacific Department

South Asia regional							ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.24/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED					19.08.2002
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
CASH							
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'964'976		TOTAL COVERAGE 57.4%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				446'397			
Programme support				361'180			
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				187'500	19.02.2002	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE DEV., NS DEV. COOPERATION, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH,	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				187'500	07.08.2002	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE DEV., NS DEV. COOPERATION, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH,	
SWEDISH - GOVT		2'200'000	SEK	347'820	30.05.2002	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION, FINANCE & REPORTING DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, COOPERATION, COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'530'397	CHF	51.6%	
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)							
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			59'959			
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			65'379			
NETHERLANDS	DELEGATE(S)			44'846			
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				170'184	CHF	5.7%	
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET							
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF		

South Asia regional								
APPEAL No. 01.24/2002 - Revised budget								
PROGRAMME	Disaster Prep	Disaster Resp	Health & Care	Human. Values	IDRD	Reg. Co-operation	Co-ord. & Mgmt	TOTAL
Shelter & Construction		24'000					30'000	54'000
Clothing & Textiles		2'800						2'800
Food & Seeds		1'000						1'000
Water		200						200
Medical & 1st Aid		1'000						1'000
Teaching Materials		2'000						2'000
Ustensils & Tools		1'400						1'400
Other Relief Supplies		4'000						4'000
Subtotal Supplies		36'400					30'000	66'400
Land & Buildings								
Vehicles								
Computer & Telecom	5'900	42'700	5'000		5'000		10'425	69'025
Medical Equipment								
Other Capital Equipment		12'500	12'000		2'000		18'000	44'500
Subtotal Capital	5'900	55'200	17'000		7'000		28'425	113'525
Programme Management	29'563	27'372	27'909	3'129	55'401	5'197	51'309	199'881
Technical Services	8'850	8'194	8'355	937	16'584	1'556	15'359	59'834
Professional Services	9'814	9'087	9'265	1'039	18'392	1'725	17'033	66'355
Subtotal Programme Support	48'227	44'653	45'529	5'104	90'378	8'479	83'701	326'070
Warehousing/Inspection	2'000						2'168	4'168
Transport & Vehicles	3'000	5'600					34'876	43'476
Subtotal Transport & Storage	5'000	5'600					37'044	47'644
Delegates & Expatriates	104'050	108'550	132'500	2'500	325'450		219'310	892'360
National Societies and Local Staff	95'154	42'330	73'250	3'000	132'207	15'600	105'795	467'336
Subtotal Personnel	199'204	150'880	205'750	5'500	457'657	15'600	325'105	1'359'696
Travel & Related Expenses	36'700	26'200	21'500	4'750	40'500		27'850	157'500
Information	37'800	5'000	2'200	24'600			2'720	72'320
Consultants	12'000		5'920	5'250	5'000		19'900	48'070
General Expenses	13'600	22'000	17'000	1'200	24'580		206'171	284'551
Training Workshops & Seminars	80'000	60'000	99'000		196'500	53'000		488'500
Security								
Subtotal Training, Information & General	180'100	113'200	145'620	35'800	266'580	53'000	256'641	1'050'941
TOTAL BUDGET	438'431	405'933	413'899	46'404	821'615	77'079	760'916	2'964'276