

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

BANGLADESH

25 April 2002

Appeal No. 01.26/2002

Appeal Target CHF 4,490,527 (USD 2.7m / EUR 3m)

Programme Update No. 1 Period covered: January 1 - April 2002

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 28.6%

Related Appeals: South Asia regional programmes (01.24/2002)

Outstanding needs: CHF 3,205,499 (USD 2m / EUR 2.2m)

Update: The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society hosted two key Federation meetings the first week of March 2002 - the South Asia Partnership meeting 2002 and the Bangladesh Cooperation Strategy Meeting. Despite early year uncertainty over donor support, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the Federation continue to make progress in their work with those in need. Any decline in backing will have major implications for the support of vulnerable people in Bangladesh. The cyclone preparedness and community based disaster preparedness programmes are two crucial interventions that would be affected. It should be noted that the cyclone season has started and an Information Bulletin 1 Bangladesh Tropical Storms was issued on 24 April 2002.

Operational Developments:

During the first quarter of the year, 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 Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's (BDRCS) health and water and sanitation (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 unfavourable external environment, the economic fallout from the September 11 attacks 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 Cooperation Agreement Strategy workshop was held to finalise 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.

Federation/BDRCS are currently drawing up an MOU with WFP on emergency food stocks. This will enable Federation/BDRCS to have access of up to 1,000 mt of grain for emergency relief operations. Norwegian Red Cross has donated 40+ mt of high protein biscuits. These will add to the National Society's emergency buffer stocks.

The following six months is always critical period for Bangladesh with commencement of cyclone season immediately followed by monsoon season, which each year relates in heavy flooding nationwide. Coordination is currently underway with the BDRCS's disaster management department including relief, transport, logistics and health.

Disaster Response

Objective 1: *To distribute food rations and basic non-food relief items among the refugees.*

BDRCS continued to distribute a daily food ration provided by WFP, equivalent to 2100 k per person and non-food items on a weekly, biweekly and monthly basis. The food items included rice, dal, cooking oil, salt, sugar and baby food and non-food items: soap, rice husk, spices and kerosene. In an average, 381 mt of food items and 243 mt of non-food items (in addition to 115,000 Pcs of soap and 3,400 litres of kerosene) were distributed per month to total of 22,138 beneficiaries.

Objective 2: *To maintain a reduced complement of 20 staff and 29 volunteers, to manage and implement BDRCS operation in Cox's Bazar District.*

As the BDRCS operation was constrained by lack of adequate funding throughout the last year, it reflected in inability to pay salaries and allowances to program and volunteers for a period of the last quarter of the last year. The situation was eased down by the year's end, when WFP and UNHCR agreed to fund aspects of BDRCS distribution costs. As a consequence of these interventions BDRCS was a requirement to reduce the number of BDRCS staff working in the camp from 20 to 17 and the number of volunteers from 29 to eight. Consequently, refugees from both camps started to be involved in distribution of relief items. Funding has now been secured by the federation for 2002 from local sources.

Objective 3: *To identify an appropriate exit strategy.*

The UNHCR and the government of Bangladesh are working closely with Myanmar authorities in order to expedite the repatriation process by simplifying the clearance procedures for the beneficiaries willing to be repatriated. The process is ongoing.

Disaster Preparedness

Program 1 *Disaster Management Development*

Objective 1.1 *To improve the performance of the Disaster Management Division, by enhancing the operational capacity of Departments responsible for the implementation of disaster preparedness and response programs.*

To date, no funding specific to this program has been received from (or pledged by) any National Society in response to the Bangladesh Appeal 2002-03. Accordingly, progress in implementing proposed activities (particularly with regard to the strengthening of human, material and financial capacity) has been limited during this reporting period. The situation was exacerbated by the National Society's inability to arrange a planned organisation-wide external review of its human resource requirements.

The Division co-ordinated and supported the production and publication of several documents, including: 'CBDP at a Glance'; guidelines relating (variously) to disaster emergency fund (DEF)

policy, CBDP Squad and Community Volunteer Group management; a guidebook for communities engaged in cyclone shelter management and maintenance and a variety of leaflets and stickers carrying DP messages.

Objective 1.2 *To promote volunteerism, by integrating dissemination of the Movement's principles and humanitarian values within all disaster preparedness activities.*

These generic activities have been incorporated within the action plans of DMD Departments and are reported in such contexts, below.

Objective 1.3 *To develop and strengthen disaster management linkages within the BDRCS and with local, regional and international agencies engaged with disaster preparedness and management.*

Of particular note, was a very successful experience-sharing visit by five DP colleagues from the Vietnam Red Cross Society in February. It is intended to organise a reciprocal exchange visit to Vietnam later in the year.

The DMD Division regularly participated in meetings of the Disaster Emergency Response (DER) Co-ordination Group, co-ordinated by WFP and including the Disaster Management Bureau, key donor agencies, and international NGOs.

Program 2 *Community Based Disaster Preparedness*

Objective 2.1: *To establish and develop organisational capacity for effective disaster preparedness and response interventions in seven additional BDRCS Branches.*

Institutional constraints prevented the planned introduction of the CBDP program in seven additional Districts. Related activities have been rescheduled to commence during the next reporting period.

Objective 2.2: *To reduce the vulnerability of selected communities, by strengthening their local capacity to prepare for and withstand the impact of natural disasters.*

DP accessories, rescue and First Aid Kits were provided to each of the CBDP Squads and Community Volunteer Groups in each of 10 Districts. A total of 75 communities have now developed disaster contingency plans (CDCP) and almost all have established a community disaster preparedness fund. Materials for the construction of 1,100 slab latrines for selected communities in 11 Districts were procured and their installation is ongoing. Technical experts from the Department of Public Health Engineering assisted the local facilitation of 3-day skill development workshops related to the construction and installation of slab latrines in each of the Districts of Pabna, Bhola and Noakhali. Participants consisted of two male and two female volunteers from one community in each District.

With the active participation of community residents, volunteers, CBDP Squad and RCY members, dry run rehearsals, dramas and documentary video shows on RC principles, humanitarian values and DP issues were organised in one community in each of ten Districts.

On the initiative of the CBDP Squad and Branch Executive Committee, a dry run rehearsal arranged in Sunamganj was relayed to other communities in the District via the local cable network. By such means, around 15,000 people were able to witness the event. This particularly successful intervention prompted the Deputy District Commissioner to request local NGOs to emulate the BDRCS example by disseminating DP messages as a component of their development programs. Following this, CBDP Squad and RCY members of Sunamganj (supported by the BDRCS District Liaison Officer) assisted one such organisation, *Jana Kallyan Sanshta*, to organise a dry run rehearsal in the locality of its activities.

Program staff organised CBFA and RC/RC training for RCY members in local schools and colleges in Gopalganj District, while the Executive Committee of Lakshmipur Branch independently organised similar training in schools of its District.

Objective 2.3: *To ensure and maintain access to safe refuge for communities vulnerable to cyclonic events.*

Regular, monthly meetings of volunteer committees elected to manage, maintain and develop the cyclone shelter in each of six communities of Bashkhali (Chittagong District) were held.

In Noakhali District, similar committees collected a total of nearly CHF5,000 from income generation activities intended to provide funds for shelter repair and maintenance.

Four 3-day CBFA training courses were arranged in Borguna District, in each of which 41 volunteers (of whom 16 were women) participated.

Program 3 Cyclone Preparedness Program

Objective 3.1: *To develop and strengthen the disaster preparedness and response capacity of coastal communities vulnerable to cyclonic activity.*

So far this year, the CPP program has received only limited funding commitments from other National Societies. Given this, program priorities for this reporting period focused on the need to ensure that CPP volunteers and their equipment were properly prepared and in good order prior to the first cyclone season anticipated to commence towards the end of April.

While it was not possible to undertake any large-scale (and relatively expensive to produce) mass awareness exercises, CPP volunteers acting on their own initiative conducted small awareness raising campaigns, public meetings and rallies in their village communities.

Complementary, social welfare activities engaged in by program volunteers during this reporting period included:

- provision of emergency First Aid for 5,389 people (including 304 victims of road accidents),
- provision of relief support for eight families affected by a 'Norwester' in Char Gajaria - an island offshore of Ramgati in Lakshmipur District,
- assisting the rescue of 118 fishermen in peril when their boats capsized,
- assisting the dismantling and removal to safe ground of the houses of 1,428 victims of river erosion,
- provision of basic treatment for a total of 2,314 people afflicted by diarrhoea,
- help for 850 pregnant women in need of TBA services,

Additionally:

- 3,032 CPP volunteers assisted the repair of embankments, bridges, culverts and roads in their respective sub-Districts,
- 5,746 volunteers participated in EPI campaigns organised by their local Health Departments,
- 4,102 took part in safe sanitation motivational events,
- 2,892 volunteers participated in 'Total Literacy Movement' campaigns organised within their respective sub-Districts by the Local Administration and benefiting 24,412 people,
- the families of 6,466 volunteers helped to plant a total of 82,067 saplings for windbreaks alongside roads and on 'killas' and embankments.

Objective 3.2: *To increase the efficiency of volunteers and CPP Officers.*

No First Aid training courses were conducted during this reporting period.

Union Committee meetings, attended by 2,160 Team Leaders and other volunteers were held in 230 Unions and 245 Union and Unit Team Leaders participated in similar meetings arranged at the higher sub-District level.

Pre-monsoon preparatory meetings included the organisation of 15,889 volunteers in 1,714 CPP Units of 30 sub-Districts within the program's Command Area in the coastal region.

Funding constraints prevented the organisation of any 'Training of Trainers' courses but 30 of the 157 volunteers who received such training last year conducted short, technical training sessions for a total of 1,500 colleagues in their village communities.

The development of eight CPP Units created during a process of program extension last year

continued and initial steps were taken to create an additional six new CPP Units on Boyar Char - a recently accreted and inhabited island south of Sudharam and Ramgati sub-Districts of Noakhali and Lakshmipur Districts, respectively.

Objective 3.3: *To maintain and strengthen the CPP warning system and ensure effective response in the event of cyclone.*

Of 27 ex-ICRC HF radio transceivers supplied via the Federation and cleared by Customs in January, seven were subsequently successfully installed in sub-District CPP radio stations. As part of a process of renovation of the CPP radio network, the remainder will be commissioned on a phased basis later this year.

An additional mobile field team of radio technicians to undertake the maintenance, repair and installation of radio equipment was created.

Repair and maintenance work carried out at the program's principal workshops in Dhaka, Chittagong and Barisal included: 36 radio sets (HF and VHF), 8 solar panels and controllers, 74 hand sirens and 17 megaphones.

CPP staff and volunteers regularly collaborated with colleagues of BDRCS Branches and the CBDP cyclone shelter management project.

Program 4: CHTs Projects on Development and Disaster Preparedness

Objective 1: *To assist target communities to empower themselves collectively address their problems, basic needs and to disseminate RC/RC mandates to the communities.*

Unit Level Officers in regular meetings with the Field Assistants (FA) and volunteer workers tried to find means as to how peoples empowerment in the community be achieved. As a result, through regular health and WATSAN sessions, volunteers have been advised to motivate people to collectively address common problems with the available resources. For dissemination of Red Cross/Red Crescent principles among the school children and teachers, local Units have completed the process of selection of 2 Dissemination Workers from among RC volunteer workers in each Upazila. The program is planning immediate training for 12 Dissemination workers on RC/RC Principles, Movements and International Humanitarian Law.

Objective 2: *To help communities to organise village or local level community organisation/institutions.*

The Field Assistants have been assigned to arrange meeting in every villages having more than 40 families to encourage the community to form Village Development Committee (VDC). By now, about 20% villages have organised such meeting and under process of forming VDCs. The Village Development Committee shall comprise seven members and at least two of them are women. At the sub-district level, meetings are continuing in villages to form the VDC. Once formed, VDCs will be the main platform to participate in the development activities of the BDRCS.

Objective 3: *To help community organisations to access information and help them to develop linkages with local government institutions and NGOs.*

As noted, formation of VDC is underway. However, linkages between the beneficiaries and various extension services like, agriculture, education, health and water sanitation issues, RC volunteer workers with the help of Field Assistants are keeping liaison with related government and non-government offices. Volunteer health workers are keeping track on Red Crescent trained TBAs and encouraging them to refer complicated delivery cases to the nearest Government Maternity Clinics. It is expected that once VDCs are formed at the village level, beneficiaries will avail more supports from the linkages with various organisations through Red Crescent volunteers at the grass root level.

Objective 4: *To improve health care of women and children including management of target*

communities through awareness and motivation and supply of basic health care medicines in needs.

The BDRCS has introduced HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other communicable diseases in the health training curriculum in the CHTs. Arrangements are made to regularly distribute essential drugs among the vulnerable people suffering from diseases like malaria, diarrhoea etc. Purchase of 100 TBA kits for distribution among the trained TBAs is done during this quarter. The local Units will distribute the kits among TBAs very soon.

Objective 5: *To help communities for safe drinking water sources (ring-wells, tube-wells, rain-harvest reservoirs, and/or other suitable means). To raise awareness and motivate communities on the need and importance of improved water and sanitation (WATSAN) and to support communities on low cost and locally made semi-sanitary latrines.*

BDRCS WATSAN workers regular sessions in the community continued to motivate people to use safe water from the water wells and use sanitary latrines that are being provided by BDRCS. For minor repair and maintenance of water wells, BDRCS has purchased 12 sets of WATSAN kits and sent them to the Field Assistants Office at sub-district level. Once VDCs are formed, more water wells and latrines will be provided according to the needs of the community under direct supervision of the respective VDCs.

Objective 6 : *To help communities particularly women through the community organisations to improve the traditional skills on alternative livelihoods and to facilitate communities for sustainable management and marketing of hill farming and livelihood systems through participatory and community approaches.*

Nothing so far has been achieved in terms of objective six. In selecting vulnerable women for entrepreneurship training, the role of VDC is inevitable. Under the circumstances, BDRCS still wait until VDCs are formed in villages for nominating candidates for CEFE training.

Objective 7: *To help the communities of the project site through organisation, mobilisation of local resources and improved capacity to cope with natural disasters.*

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (MEO) has finally been transferred to the field office at Rangamati in January 2002. It is expected that better monitoring and regular reports will be available from the field. Unit Level Officers will have continued support from the MEO now based in the field. A full time Director based at NHQ is more independent to plan program activities to help community people. Meanwhile, Dfid funded Disaster Preparedness program in the CHT has been incorporated since June last year. Through ToT, local trainers are capable to train DP volunteers. Total 300 DP volunteers received training in DP and CBFA, who are currently conducting Forums in the 12 DP Communities. It is expected that vulnerable people of this area will have improved capacity to cope with natural disasters.

Humanitarian Values

Objective 1: *To make the BDRCS better known and respected as an independent, impartial and neutral humanitarian organisation in the country.*

Objective 2: *To promote humanitarian values among young people and encourage them to become members of Red Crescent Youth.*

Objective 3: *To promote humanitarian values through the dissemination of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and International Humanitarian Law (IHL).*

During the reporting period BDRCS was not in position to implement activities as per proposed plan of action. The main constrain is related to funding of its programs and the Finish RC announcement of EUR 16'949 contribution to the humanitarian values is highly appreciated. Since the last year, BDRCS information department is manly supported by ICRC and the late arrival of the funds for this year has somehow caused small delays in the implementation of planned activities for the first quarter of this year.

However, some initial preparations have taken place:

- Meetings organised with the RCY leaders and discussed and analysed the impact assessment of the emblem campaign 2001.
- Preparation of a questionnaire to be used in the impact assessment process.
- Preparation of a draft of quarterly news bulletin "The Message".

At the beginning of March 2002, in Rajendrapur, BDRCS engaged in the organisation of the South Asia partnership meeting attended by more than 60 participants from 20 countries including ICRC and IFRC which was immediately followed by the Country Assistance Strategy meeting organised in the BDRCS national headquarters compound.

On 31st March, BDRCS celebrated its 29th anniversary and marked the National Disaster Preparedness Day. A grand rally led by the BDRCS chairman and secretary general. Including several hundreds of members and volunteers marched through the streets of Dhaka carrying banners and flags with the BDRCS emblem. In addition to the rally, BDRCS organised several more activities: a flag hosting, blood donations, broadcast of Movements Fundamental principles over Cyclone Preparedness Radio Network to 33,000 CPP volunteers in the eleven coastal districts, distribution of food and gifts among sick children and disabled persons in the hospitals, cultural shows, seminar on RC/RC movement and dissemination of RC/RC principles. The anniversary and the National Disaster Preparedness day were observed in all 68 Units/Branches.

Health and Care

Objective 1: *Maternal and child health care services developed and the health status of the community improved in line with Essential Service Package of the government.*

After the election of October 2001 many of the established Centre Management Committees (CMC) were displaced and work disrupted on the local level due to political interference by political factions. These disagreements were finally resolved in early March 2002 and the CMCs resumed their work.

By the end of the first quarter, all nine of Dhaka Project CMCs completed a three day course on People's Participatory management facilitated by project Field Officers, and prepared a plan of action for renovating the facilities during the next year. The training course is designed to help the CMC members develop the skills necessary to achieve as great a degree of self-reliance in MCH Centre affairs management as possible. MCH center renovation is scheduled to commence in April 2002 with contributions either monetary or in kind from the community. Additional financial support shall be provided by the federation project. Each center will be renovated to include an examination area, delivery room and patient waiting area designed to insure maximum privacy and confidentiality. Toilet and water facilities will also be upgraded with particular emphasis placed upon medical waste disposal and infection control. The renovations were delayed due to internal BDRCS factors including bureaucracy and disagreements between the Chief of the Health Division and the BDRCS secretary General that required much effort to resolve.

New equipment and furniture will be provided to the MCH centres upon completion of renovation work. The equipment and furniture will be procured based upon recommendations made by the BDRCS, JRCS, GRC, MOHFW, IO and NGO colleagues and delivered to the MCH center. The equipment and furniture will be selected in order to enable the Midwives and CHWs to provide improved quality of Reproductive Health and child health services to the community through the practice of the skills acquired during training. The CMCs at each center will be directly involved in this process as they are charged with the management of the MCH center including assets such as equipment.

The Community Health Workers at each MCH center conduct regular Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) sessions on selected topics at the household level, through Mother's Forums and Village Health Committees.

Training consultants from OGSB made follow up visits to two of the ORH training course participants and two Child Survival Intervention (CSI) course participants within three months of course completion in order to evaluate the Midwives retention of skills learned. The evaluators found

that the Midwives skill retention to be in the 65% range on average. Lessons learned from the evaluation include the need to renovate the centres as planned, equip the centres with the instruments and furniture needed to work according to protocols learned during training and arrange the provision of regular clinical supervision for the Midwives. The BDRCS PHC Advisor and Health Delegates are jointly exploring ways to provide this supervision.

All nine MCH centres were resupplied with medicine in the first quarter. The medicine list is under review and will be revised as required later in the year, furthermore consideration will be given to providing training in rational drug use to the project Midwives.

The final Dhaka Project Pre-intervention survey report was accepted by the BDRCS in March 2002. Key findings include:

- 1.) Continue to provide skill based training for Midwives with emphasis on Safe Delivery training.
- 2.) Training on Rational Drug Use and Infection Control is urgently required for MCH Centre staff and the Centre management Committees.
- 3.) A strategy for including males in reproductive health, particularly in order to have an effect on Safe Motherhood and Child Health is urgently needed.
- 4.) Continue to strengthen the development of local MCH center management self-reliance by supporting the Centre Management Committees through training and regular supervision.

The BDRCS PHC Advisor and Health Delegate are assessing various training resource providers and will shortly select a provider for Infection Control and Rational Drug Use training courses.

Objective 2: *To raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD), and promote prevention and care in the community.*

The Government of Bangladesh invited the BDRCS to participate in the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) for the new Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Blood Program Manager was named to represent the BDRCS. The society is regarded as a leader in the provision of safe blood and the key partners look at the BDRCS as an essential partner in the development of a system for Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) for HIV.

In February 2002 the Federation South Asia HIV/AIDS Project Officer completed an assessment mission to Bangladesh assisted by the Health Delegate and the BDRCS Blood Program Manager.

The first step for the BDRCS in preparation for engaging in HIV/AIDS programming is to deliver a series of Society wide workshops aimed at breaking down taboos and barriers to discussing sensitive topics as sexual behaviour and drug abuse. In order to implement this important first step the Society will require technical assistance and funding to plan and facilitate this critical training; the necessary step to preventing and reducing the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS. This is in keeping with accepted best practices and endorsed by the Federation's own guidelines.

The BDRCS plans to send two participants to the South Asia Regional HIV/AIDS workshop planned for late May 2002. These are the programmatic and governance focal points for the Society.

Objective 3: *To build awareness of and promote the campaign for the eradication of polio, with particular emphasis on urban, hard to reach populations, encourage social mobilisation and interpersonal communication for the control of measles and neonatal tetanus, and the prevention of dengue fever and other vector borne diseases, through RCY and community volunteer participation.*

A core cadre of 1150 Red Crescent Youth representing 27 Units including Dhaka City, successfully participated in both the first and second rounds of the 10th National Immunization Days against Polio. The RCY completed their training as specified in the Plan of Action both in Dhaka and at the Unit level. The BDRCS authorities decided to reduce the number of Units participating and increase the number of volunteers at the 30 Units that participated just prior to the start of the January round. The BDRCS believed that the 16 Units dropped out of the program were unable to fully participate as planned due to internal Unit factors that could not be satisfactorily resolved in time for either round of the NIDs.

Both rounds of this NID were well planned and managed by the BDRCS, but the second round implementation revealed how much the RCY has learned about the micro planning process, working effectively in partnership. Effectively deploying and managing volunteers, vaccine cold chain logistics, transport management and reporting. Their performance in both rounds has been hailed by all of the Polio Partners, but particularly by the IOCH. At the conclusion of the second round in March IOCH requested that the RCY assist them in a survey of the Hard to Reach Population in certain areas of Dhaka City in order to measure actual NID coverage for this population. The RCY assisted in the survey and a report from IOCH is pending completion of analysis. Once again the RCY were the only volunteers prepared to take on the challenge of conducting night search and confirmed their niche as specialists in reaching Hard to Reach Populations.

In Dhaka City special Night Search Teams targeting Floating Children and other Hard to reach Populations were deployed at 120 spots during the first round and 180 spots during the second round. The Teams searched slums, bazaars, airport, train station, bus station, ferry launch station, parks, graveyards, high-rise buildings and kindergartens looking for children left out of the NID day.

During the first round of the NIDs in January, the Government decided, as a matter of policy, to continue routine EPI activities during the NID. At the review meeting held after the first round, this decision was reversed due to the perceived adverse impact on NID coverage. No blame was attached to the actions of any voluntary organisation, and the BDRCS received hearty congratulations on its performance overall.

Nevertheless, the BDRCS need to improve the speed and efficiency of both their narrative and financial reporting to their own NHQ. In the field they filed immediate reports with their Government and IOCH partners, so the quality of national NID reporting was not affected, but in terms of reporting back to NHQ it is unacceptably slow.

During the 10th Round of NIDs held in the remote and rugged Chittagong Hill Tracts, a total of 588 volunteers per round participated out of a target figure of 600 volunteers per round. The BDRCS volunteers were trained under the Federation's *Better Programs Initiative* (BPI) and represent a number of the ethnic groups living in the Hill Tracts. The volunteers worked side by side to immunise all children age 0 - 5 years of age in order to "*Keep Future Generations Polio Free*" as the slogan on their NID tee shirts boldly and proudly proclaimed.

Although it is not possible to determine the exact number of children personally immunised against Polio by BDRCS volunteers, local authorities and MOHFW civil Surgeons asserted that the results of the 10th NIDs in the Hill Tracts would have not been successful were it not for the participation of the BDRCS volunteers. As is the case with the Red Crescent Youth both the BDRCS and the Hill Tracts Program volunteers would benefit from report preparation and writing training. It is not possible to determine at this time whether the BDRCS's inability to record the number of children receiving OPV/BDRCS teams is due to faulty internal record keeping, or if it is due to a decision made by the local authorities to merge the data into one consolidated report for the Hill Tracts.

Objective 4: *To impart first aid training program to RCY and community volunteers and establish first aid posts on the highways to combat emergencies and accidents.*

Due to lack of funding there is no progress to report.

Institutional and Resource Development

Objective 1: *To complete the process of reviewing the National Society's constitution.*

BDRCS organised four constitution review sub-committee meetings on 8th, 13th, 20th and 28th January 2002. In addition to this, a consultative workshop for officers was held on 20th February and the sixth draft of the revised constitution was completed.

Objective 2: *To continue the work of the reconstituted organisational development (OD) task force, with the active support and assistance of the management OD subcommittee.*

Planning and Development Department organised Task force meeting on 21st February 2002 to evaluate the recommendation of ID, CBDP and DP and revised set of priorities objectives of Organisational Development Plan of Action for 2002. The Task Force has already prioritised some activities and will proceed with implementation during the second quarter of the year.

The BDRCS Managing Board approved the Terms of Reference of the external consultant and entrusts the Federation Head of Delegation to make a short list of prospective consultants, either through public advertisement or from the list of available consultants.

The Plan of action for Fundraising activities for 2001-2003 has been finalised and partly implemented. The rest of plan will be implemented as per Plan of Action.

Objective 3: *To modernise the governance and management functions of the BDRCS.*

The Society organised Cooperation Agreement Strategy Review Workshop with a view to getting feed back for the second generation CAS. The CAS workshop was held on 6-7 March 2002. The BDRCS, with technical assistance of the federation delegation, is working on final draft of the CAS.

The Society's Governance Handbook is ready for publication but waiting for the finalization of revised constitution which is related to the handbook.

The Managing Board agreed to engage a professional HR planning consultant (possible from within the region) to recommend and implement scheme to attract suitably qualified staff into key post (from within or externally) and terminate contracts of any redundant staff approved by the Board and action dependent upon availability of funding. The Terms of Reference for the Human Resources planning Consultant, prepared in consultation with the BRCS was considered and approved by the BDRCS Managing Board.

Objective 4: *To establish computer networking and management information systems at national headquarters.*

A preliminary discussion was held with the relevant software Development Company within the country for establishing computer networking and web site in the national Headquarters.

Objective 5: *To improve support to the BDRCS Governing Board, to enable the delegation of more authority to key management staff, to empower managers to fulfill allotted tasks and to develop closer links with donor agencies.*

The Standing Order has been revised, delegating more authority to senior management and increasing the Financial Powers of the Senior Officers.

Steps have been taken to implement the recommendations of DP review and CBDP Mid- term review.

Objective 6: *To provide material support to 12 National Society branches, selected on the basis of established criteria for organisational development.*

Managing board approved inclusion of 12 units under the organisational program. Accordingly the Planning and Development department took initiative to prepare the profile of the selected units and also arrange holding of Orientation Workshop to be attended by the unit Vice-chairman, Secretary and unit level officers of the respective Units. The workshop will be held in the NHQ tentatively in April 2002.

On 15 January 2002, The Federation Secretariat approved funding for BDRCS Youth and volunteers development program under its capacity building fund (CBF). Accordingly, RCY department produced revised Plan of Action, with a goal to develop sustainable activities that will encourage commitment of the members of the Red Crescent Youth and volunteers to the National Society. The objectives to achieve this goal are:

- To upgrade and reframe the BDRCS Youth and volunteer policies
- To strengthen the potential of current RCY members and volunteers
- To disseminate the Movement's Fundamental Principles and International Humanitarian Law and to ensure the proper use of the emblem.

Due to the RCY and volunteers involvement in the NID and Polio campaigns, SA Partnership

meetings and Bangladesh CAS meeting, the actual implementation of the program was slightly delayed. The implementation plan is now fully on schedule.

Coordination and Management

Objective 1: *To assist BDRCS to build its capacity for effective internal governance and management of its affairs.*

Objective 2: *To represent the Secretariat in Bangladesh and assist BDRCS to build good relations with national authorities, international and national organisations, donor governments, international and national media and the ICRC.*

Objective 3: *To enhance the profile and reputation of BDRCS with international donors, sister national societies and the Bangladesh government and people.*

Federation Secretary General attended the South-Asia partnership meeting in Dhaka organised in early March. The delegation took this opportunity to visit the President of Republic of Bangladesh (also President of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society). Meetings were also held with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs where the main discussion was the current position of our status agreement with the GoB. In addition, official visit were also made with the Minister of Health. The BDRCS Chairman and Federation Head of Delegation also attended these meetings.

The Federation/BDRCS continue to take part at regular coordination meetings organised by various UN and government agencies. The delegation maintains close relationship with all our international donors including ECHO and DFID.

Increased support and daily meetings are held with the BDRCS chairman and board members in order to provide necessary guidance to the newly appointed board of management. Main areas include changes to the BDRCS constitution and the National Society's change management process.

BDRCS Chairman headed the Bangladesh delegation to the recently held South-Asia change management workshop in Sri Lanka organised by the Regional Delegation in Delhi.

Outstanding needs

Indications of decreased donor support for BDRCS major programs such as cyclone preparedness (CPP), community based disaster preparedness (CBDP) and Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) programs are causing serious concerns to BDRCS's 2002-2003 appeal. During the last four months the federations country delegation's personnel has been greatly reduced. It should be noted that the previous bilateral Japanese support to BDRCS has come to an end after 15 years with Japanese health delegate finishing her mission in march. The German Red Cross bilateral DP program is currently being phased out end of 2002. The Current German bilateral health program will continue with reduced funding for 2002-2003. The British Red Cross three-year National Lottery Funding support to BDRCS's CBDP program also comes to an end in June this year. There is an urgent need for a finance and administration delegate for two years to be based in Dhaka.

For further details please contact: Ewa Eriksson, Phone : 41 22 7304252; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email:

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
Head
Relationship Management Department

Simon Missiri
Head ai
Asia Pacific Department

Bangladesh						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.26/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			25.04.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				4'490'527		28.6%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				995789		
BRITISH - GOVT		21'338	GBP	51'211	30.01.2002	CBDP
BRITISH - PRIVATE/RC		25'151	GBP	60'362	30.01.2002	CBDP
JAPANESE - RC		6'100'000	JPY	78'068	12.03.2002	CBDP
UNHCR		549'380	BDT	16'340	06.03.2002	MYANMAR REFUGEE RELIEF OPERATION
WFP		12'660	USD	21'000	18.01.2002	MYANMAR REFUGEE RELIEF OPERATION
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'222'770	CHF	27.2%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			53'552		
USA	DELEGATE(S)			8'706		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				62'258	CHF	1.4%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		108'696	USD	185'087	28.02.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				185'087	CHF	