

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 October 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. 01.26/2002

Appeal Target: CHF 2,304,164 (USD 1.53m/ EUR 1.57m)

Revised from CHF 4,490,527 (USD 2.7m / EUR 3m)

Period covered: May 1 - September 30, 2002;

Last Programme Update (no. 1) issued on 25 April

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 88.7%

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

Outstanding needs: CHF 261,272

Summary: The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society continues to deliver effective support to vulnerable people in the country. The National Society has revised its plan of action and budget to reflect operational realities. It is looking for continued donor support, particularly in the area of promoting humanitarian values.

Operational Developments

During the reporting period political unrest and a deteriorating law and order situation continued in the country.

In late July, the opposition party Awami League stopped boycotting participation in the national parliament and joined the budget session. The *Hartals* (national strike) have continued over the reporting period. Federation security regulations are still strictly enforced in Dhaka.

The security situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) improved significantly. International donors, in particular the Danish government whose citizens were among the kidnapped in an incident last year, have decided to



ease their position concerning their involvement in development programs in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

On 14th July, the Federation and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) signed an MOU with WFP, witnessed by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief on emergency food stocks enabling Federation/BDRCS access of up to 1,000 metric tonnes (MT) of grain for emergency relief operations.

Heavy monsoon rain and onrushes of water from neighboring India causing repeated flash floods and wide scale river erosions. From late June till end of July, BDRCS distributed 2,100 family kits, 5 mt of Chira (flatten rice), 1 mt of Gur, 757 cartons of high protein biscuits, 150 sarees and 350 relief packages to a total of 7,100 most affected families by this year's monsoon season in 16 districts in the north, northeastern, southeastern, eastern and central parts of Bangladesh. The distributions were carried out by BDRCS Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) squads and RCY volunteers.

As the needs of the affected population grew, on August 7th, an Emergency Appeal was launched for provision of emergency relief and medical assistance for the most vulnerable families affected by this year's monsoon. BDRCS mobile medical teams were immediately deployed (August 8th-14th) in the six most affected districts by this year's monsoon and since have been providing medical services to more than 200 women and children in each district per day. The distribution of food and non-food relief is planned to commence during the first week of September.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society appointed a new Secretary General during the month of May 2002. Having rapidly mapped out a vision for the National Society's future, the Secretary General has initiated a challenging programme of structural and organizational reform intended to take forward the BDRCS ambition to acquire the characteristics of a well functioning and well prepared National Society.

The 17th Draw of the Red Crescent Lottery, the single largest source of revenue for the Society, was held on 19 August. This year's lottery generated a net revenue of BDT 17.2 million (approximately CHF 450,000).

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, 412.6 mt of food items, 233 mt of rice husk, 10,898 Pcs of soap and 3,370 liters 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 reported earlier, BDRCS 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.

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

The UNHCR and the government of Bangladesh continued to work 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.

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.

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 two DP colleagues from the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in June.

The DMD Division regularly participated in meetings of the Disaster Emergency Response (DER) Co-ordination Group, coordinated 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 organizational capacity for effective disaster preparedness and response interventions in seven additional BDRCS Branches.

During this quarter, six additional Districts (Rangpur, Moulvi Bazar, Brahmanbaria, Feni, Patuakhali and Faridpur) were included under the CBDP programme.

The Unit Vice-Chairman, Secretary and ULO from each of the six Districts actively participated in an orientation workshop organized at NHQ in May. A CBDP Squad (each consisting of 25 volunteers, one third of whom are female) was formed in two Districts (Moulovi Bazar and Brahmanbaria). It is anticipated that the remaining four Districts will complete the process of forming CBDP Squads during the next reporting period.

On the initiative of the Executive Committees of the respective Units, basic RC/RC and CBFA training course were conducted in a total of 24 schools and colleges in Bhola, Munshigonj and Barguna Districts. Eleven RCY volunteers from six cyclone shelter areas participated in the same course in the Bankskhali sub-District of Chittagong.

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.*

Three 3-day skill development training courses on water and sanitation issues (including demonstration of the installation process for slab latrines, maintenance of tube wells, testing of water for arsenic contamination and community hygiene) were conducted in Dhaka. A total of 83 participants (21 Unit Level Officers, 5 Squad Members and 57 Community volunteers) from 28 Districts attended the courses. After the training, an Arsenic Test Kit box was presented to each of the community volunteer groups represented at the event, to enable them to ascertain the safety of tube well water in their respective community. Materials for the construction of 1,500 slab latrines for selected communities in 15 Districts were procured and their installation was completed. Technical experts from the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) assisted the local facilitation of 3-day skill development workshops related to the construction and installation of slab latrines in two communities in each of the Districts of Lalmonirhat, Laxmipur, Netrokona Districts and of one community in Narsingdi, Kishoregonj and Sunamgonj Districts, respectively. Participants consisted of two female and two male volunteers from each represented community.

With the active participation of community residents, CBDP Squad and Community Volunteer Group members, documentary video-show on DP issues were organized in the most recently included community of each of 15 Districts. About 500 people witnessed the show in each location.

In other newly formed communities of seven Districts, a 'Dry-run rehearsal' was organized with the active cooperation of local people, community volunteers, CBDP Squad and RCY members. About 5,000 people witnessed these colorful and engaging events in each community in which they were staged.

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

Regular, monthly meetings of shelter management committees were organized in 113 cyclone shelters areas located, variously, in the cyclone preparedness command regions of Noakhali, Bhola, Barguna and Chittagong.

Basic training on shelter maintenance and management was organized in 6-cyclone shelter areas in the Chittagong region.

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.*

Given a very low level of funding commitment by PNS (with the notably loyal exception of the Swedish Red Cross), mass awareness campaigns and rallies were limited in their extent and duration during this reporting period. Most of these events were small-scale and conducted by CPP volunteers acting on their own initiative. The volunteers in Patharghata of Barguna District organized a 'dry-run rehearsal' witnessed by about 10,000 people. A similar number of people (including significant representation by women) participated in disaster preparedness related folk song concerts organized in three Unions of

Bankskhali of Chittagong District. On the initiative of local volunteers in the communities concerned, demonstrations of CPP activities and working procedures were organized in Hatiya, Kolapara and Teknaf sub-Districts by a total of 210 volunteers.

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

- provision of emergency First Aid services for 5,728 people (including 156 victims of road accidents)
- assisting the rescue of 136 victims in peril when their boats capsized,
- assisting the dismantling and removal to safe ground of the houses of 2,007 victims of river erosion,
- provision of basic treatment for a total of 2,495 people affected by diarrhoea,
- help for 751 pregnant mothers in need of TBA services.

In addition:

- a total of 2,466 CPP volunteers assisted the repair of embankments, bridges, culverts and roads in their respective sub-Districts,
- 2,315 CPP volunteers participated in EPI campaigns organized by the local Health Department,
- 3,290 CPP volunteers took part in safe sanitation motivational events,
- 2,682 CPP volunteers participated 'Total Literacy Movement' campaigns organized within their respective sub-Districts by the local administration and benefiting 24,611 people,
- the families of 9,742 volunteers helped to plant a total of 89,785 saplings for windbreaks alongside roads and embankments.

This reporting period witnessed two tragic ferryboat incidents. The first of these occurred during the night of 3 May 2002, when the launch 'MV Salauddin II' capsized and sank on the Meghna river - claiming the lives of over 350 passengers. Among the first on the scene after the accident, more than 100 CPP volunteers from Char Kajol, Choto Baisdia and Rangabali Unions courageously searched for survivors and undertook the heartbreaking task of retrieving bodies from the sunken vessel. Later, they assisted the burial of about 123 bodies.

A second ferry accident occurred within less than a week and a similar number of volunteers from Patharghata and Motbaria sub-Districts extended their support to local government efforts to locate the sunken launch and to discover, identify and bury the bodies of victims. The CPP volunteers also took part in relief distributions to survivors organized by the BDRCS Pirozpur Unit.

With great sadness, it is noted that a Patharghata sub-District CPP volunteer (a passenger on the ill-fated launch) died in this incident.

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

A 3-day basic training course was organized in Boyar Char of Noakhali District for newly recruited volunteers, in which 60 volunteers (of whom 10 were women) participated. On the initiative of the local CPP squads, a total of 200 volunteers participated in two Union level seminars organized in Cox's Bazar District.

A total 157 CPP volunteers received Training of Trainers (TOT) and became community trainers during this reporting period. After participating in the course, they have variously conducted 60 short trainings involving 3,000 volunteers.

Union Committee meetings attended by 2,560 Unit Team Leaders and other volunteers were held in 307 Unions. Unit Team Leaders participated in similar meetings arranged at the higher sub-District level.

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

As part of a process for renovation of the CPP radio network, 10 ex-ICRC HF radio transceivers were installed in sub-District CPP radio stations. Three mobile teams of radio technicians to undertake the maintenance, repair and installation of radio equipment were created. Repair and maintenance work carried out at the program's principal workshops at Dhaka, Chittagong and Barisal included: 13 radio sets (HF and VHF), 30 transistor radios, 47 megaphones, 33 hand sirens and 6 walkie talkies.

Total 32,746 pieces dry cell batteries were procured and supplied by the Federation and distributed to the volunteers in the field during this reporting period.

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

Program 4:

CHTs Projects on Development and Disaster Preparedness

This reporting period coincided with the concluding months of a DFID funded disaster preparedness programme being implemented by BDRCS in the same Region. Given that the communities, volunteers and staff are the same for both programmes, priority was given to completing the DFID activities. In successfully achieving this, it is hoped that newly acquired knowledge and practice will encourage and enable all concerned to improve the quality of programme inputs and to accelerate the rate of implementation of CHT development activities when they become the sole focus of attention from July onwards.

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

Two selected programme volunteers in each of the six sub-Districts visited 10 Primary Schools and 5 High Schools to disseminate information on RC/RC principles and values. In each institution, short informal workshops were attended by all teachers and about 35 students.

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

In cooperation with the volunteers in each sub-District, programme Field Assistants assisted the formation of 123 Village Development Committees (VDC) - each being representative of 50-60 families. These Committees each consist of seven members, of which 2 are women.

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

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.*

At least 50 per cent of the VDC members from each sub-District received orientation on linkage with public service providers, such as the Departments of agriculture, education, health, water sanitation. Field Assistants regularly liaised with related government and non-government agencies. Health volunteers tracked Red Crescent trained TBAs and helped them to refer complicated delivery cases to

the nearest Government maternity clinics. In cooperation with their VDC, it is expected that trained TBAs will be able to render their services more effectively in future at the grass root level.

Communicable diseases were included in the health-training curriculum and greater emphasis was placed on issues related to HIV/AIDS. Health volunteers distributed simple, essential among the most vulnerable people who were sick. During the reporting period, specialized TBA kits were distributed to 97 traditional birth attendants trained by the programme and located throughout the three CHT Districts.

Objective 5: *To help communities for safe drinking water sources (ring-wells, tube-wells, rain-harvest reservoirs, and/or other suitable means). To aware 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.*

In each sub-District, 25 RC volunteers continued to motivate people to consume water only from safe sources (principally protected wells) and to use sanitary latrines such as those provided by the programme. Selected RC volunteers were issued with WATSAN kits for minor repair and maintenance of tube wells. It is hoped that VDCs will eventually encourage community dwellers to undertake such work.

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.*

In consultation with the respective VDC members, 25 volunteers from each sub-District were selected for entrepreneurship training to be organized in next reporting period.

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

A process for transferring the programme's Management Office from Dhaka to Rangamati commenced. It is anticipated that this much overdue development will lead to improvement in both the quality and rate of programme implementation. It will also enable and encourage greater participation by the three BDRCS Units of the CHT Region in the planning of programme activities.

A total of 300 volunteers variously conducted weekly forums on DP and health issues in their communities. These meetings enable vulnerable people to enhance their knowledge of DP and primary health care issues.

Humanitarian Values

Objective 1: *To make the BDRCS better known and respected as an independent, impartial and neutral humanitarian organization 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 continued to face difficulties with regards to funding. Current funding support for the programme is mainly available from ICRC regional delegation. In June, the

Finish RC contributed EUR 16,949 to the humanitarian values program as per original BDRCS Information department's Plan of Action. The activities are being incorporated in the joint ICRC/IFRC quarterly Plan of Action.

In spite of funding constraints, during the reporting period following activities have been achieved:

- Continued lobbying with respective government authority for enhancement of the new legislation on Red Crescent emblem.
- Continued dialoguing with Bangladesh Medical association and Bangladesh Pharmaceutical association to prevent the misuse the RC emblem.
- Printed 12, 500 copies of alternative stickers for Pharmacies, doctors, hospitals and ambulances.
- Carried out 10 days emblem campaign in Dhaka city by 65 youth volunteers.
- An open forum meeting was organized with Bangladesh chemist & druggist association by BDRCS Chairman to explore the ways and means to stop the misuse the emblem.
- A three days dissemination workshop organized for senior staff of BDRCS. The workshop was facilitated by ICRC and Federation delegates.
- The quarterly newsletter of BDRCS "The message" published as a special issue containing 16 pages with 4 color offset print.

"A door-to-door emblem campaign 2002" in Dhaka city revealed certain facts to BDRCS. In most of the cases where the misuse of emblem by certain professional groups was observed, it was revealed that the reason behind was not their willful negligence, but:

- Ignorance about the purpose and significance of the Red Crescent emblem.
- Traditional or customary use of the emblem by other organisations or persons.
- People are mostly aware about the existing pharmaceutical symbol (red crescent).

In response to above mentioned finding, several activities were carried out through the Dissemination Information program. An impact assessment on emblem campaign 2002 was organized for 10 days (in Dhaka city on 29th June). 60 youth volunteers under the constant guidance of senior youth leaders carried out the campaign covering major areas of the Dhaka city. 15 teams with one team leader and three team members moved around the city divided into several different zone. Maintaining a movement schedule youth members visited hospitals, Clinics, Pharmacy, and Ambulances. Methodology used in the campaign was based on individual interviews with identified persons mainly those having professional relevancy with use and misuse of Red Crescent emblem. Question and answer method were followed and specific information collected and recorded in a questionnaire. Concerned professionals expressed their interest to new symbols and committed to extend their cooperation to prevent misuse of the emblem. In the meantime, new logos have started to appear in many places of Dhaka city, especially pharmacies (medicine shops), instead of Red Crescent, medical professionals have started to use green crescent as their new logo.

In late July, a joint planning meeting was organized in Dhaka with full participation of ICRC Regional Cooperation delegate from Delhi, Bangladesh delegation and BDRCS Secretary General and head of information department. The main purpose of the meeting was to explore new areas for future joint projects, upcoming Appeal 2003-2004 planning process, constitutional review and other activities that would significantly further strengthen BDRCS capacities.

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.*

During the reporting period renovation of four Mother and Child Health (MCH) centers in Shakuabazar, Mosharrafgonj, Bairagirchala and Bhairab was finalized. Renovation of remaining five MCH centers is underway.

Following the recommendations of KAPB survey in order to improve the quality of care, nine midwives received four weeks skill based training on safe delivery from the Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB). This training is especially helpful for performing episiotomy and newborn care. Advisor of Primary Health Care Project is working on preparation of the log frame, which will play an immense role in the evaluation process.

Village Health Committees (VHC) have been formed and the Center Management Committee (CMC) meetings were conducted regularly on monthly basis.

Supplies of essential drugs have continued. Cost recovery is still in operation and cooperation of community in cost recovery system has been experienced as favorable. The centers are already having basic equipment and the procurement of recommended instruments are under process. The BDRCS received registration from the Government for family planning services for its health centers. The centers are awaiting to receive the FP materials from the local Government agencies. Provision of EPI services through the Government of Bangladesh health services in all MCH centers are going on. By now all MCH centers provide almost all component of ESP except insertion of IUD.

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

On 8th May 2002 the HIV/AIDS co-ordination cell of BDRCS arranged a colorful rally on HIV/AIDS anti stigma. BDRCS Chairman, Board Members, Officers, Staffs and Red Crescent Youth (RCY) participated in the rally wearing Red ribbon T-shirt. A press conference was arranged in connection with dissemination of the programme.

On 22-28 May 2002 the co-ordinator HIV/AIDS attended a meeting and workshop in Kathmandu, and participated in formation of South Asian Regional Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA)

BDRCS has recently added HIV/AIDS information into all Youth Life Skills, First Aid and other training programme. BDRCS also providing information, medical help related to condoms, treatment for STD's, confidential counselling on HIV/AIDS and STDs from its out door treatment facilities

The village Health Workers in several MCH centers have started arranging group discussions with mothers, head of household and adolescent groups where they disseminate information about HIV/AIDS and STDs, condoms and advice on safer sex behaviour.

To create awareness among mass population HIV/AIDS Anti-Stigma was promoted through BDRCS lottery tickets by putting logo and message "The truth about AIDS pass it on...." on the tickets. This was disseminated all over Bangladesh.

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 mobilization and inter-personal 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.*

During reporting period 433 RCY volunteers have been trained on Interpersonal Communication (IPC) in 6 batches. The training was conducted at NHQ. For each batch the training was scheduled for 3 hours.

Well organized logistical support was received during the Immunization and Other Child Health programme (IOCH) from Dhaka City Corporation and EPI headquarters. One ILR (for storing vaccine) with 100 vaccine carrier has been procured to be used in IPC campaign. IEC materials for awareness promotion campaign in community is under progress. RCY volunteers participated in the polio eradication campaign held on 10-14 August and 14–18 September 2002.

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

During the reporting period 44 RCY members were trained in two batches at NHQ. The duration of training was 7 days. In addition, a first aid training targeting professional groups, industrial workers, drivers, Red Crescent members, Red Crescent Youth, students and the public was organized. Out of 68 RC units 20 first aid post has been established in 20 RC units. The remaining units are under process to start. Discussions are going on with Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) in connection with establishing first aid post at strategic points along the main high ways.

Planning has been completed for Training of Trainers. This will be held at national headquarters and unit level. Regular training schedule for 2002 is being maintained and has been organized for regular first aid and CBFA training by 2002. Four such training have been completed.

Organizational Development

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

A Consultative Workshop for volunteers on Constitution Review was arranged on 22 May 2002. One life member from each of 34 units participated at the Workshop. On the basis of the recommendations obtained, different workshops were organized for volunteers, unit executive members and BDRCS Officers. The final draft has already been prepared and placed for approval of the Managing Board. Upon approval of the final draft by the Managing Board, an extraordinary General Assembly session will be organized to consider the draft constitution and finalize the new constitution with proposed necessary legislative measures. Meanwhile, a draft has been sent to ICRC/IFRC for comments.

Objective 2: *To continue the work of the reconstituted organizational development (OD) Task Force, with the active support and assistance of the management OD subcommittee.*

Appointment of an external consultant to advise and assist the OD Task forces on a biannual basis, and to monitor and facilitate implementation of OD related recommendations has been postponed as per terms of reference. In this context, the BDRCS and the Federation Delegation decided that an Organizational Development Delegate would be of more use than a consultant. In-country, it has long been recognized that many of the constraints confronting BDRCS operational programmes (of all kinds) derive not so much from lack of technical knowledge and/or material resources, as from inadequate or inappropriate structural alignments. Accordingly, the contract of the former Disaster Preparedness Delegate was extended for a period of six months, to develop the role of OD Delegate. The retirement of the Head of Planning and Development Department (in August) afforded an opportunity to strengthen prospects for significant, progressive change by the appointment of the

comprehensively experienced and highly respected former Director of the BDRCS CPP Department to the vacant post.

Organizational Development department has performed the following additional activities maintaining the objective:

- ◆ OD Department conducted different meetings of the Task Force to evaluate the recommendations of OD, CBDP and DP and prioritized objectives for “OD Plan of Action - 2002”. The Task Force has already settled priority on some activities for implementation in the next quarter.
- ◆ A Consultative Meeting was held between Secretary General of BDRCS and a consultant engaged by Swedish Red Cross (ID mini-review-2000). Development of the OD Plan of Action was deliberately discussed in the meeting.
- ◆ Plan of action for Fund Raising for 2001-2003 was prepared and partly implemented. The rest of the plan will be implemented as per Plan of Action.

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

The installation of the proposed new digital PABX system exchange (8x60 lines) at NHQ was delayed due to official formalities. The matter was discussed with Federation and the Swedish Red Cross Society will be requested for a new approval.

A draft RC/RC Basic Manual and First Aid manual have already been prepared and it is under process of checking for finalizing the draft for printing.

The installation of vital parts and upgrading of Society’s different departments (i.e. Computers, UPS etc.) activity is still pending as it was not deemed a priority during the reporting period. Level of priority will be reviewed during the second half of this year.

The Society has developed a new department named “Youth and Volunteers Department” with a view to develop the youths and volunteers of the society motivating to the cause of “Serving the Humanity” mobilizing the “Power of Humanity” to perform social responsibilities.

Planning and Development Department has organized 4 consultative meetings of BDRCS management to discuss about the CAS draft-2. The recommendations of the discussion meetings were evaluated for further consideration and incorporation in the final CAS document. In June, the final Cooperation Agreement Strategy of BDRCS was prepared with assistance of Federation. At present, Bangladesh CAS document is available to wider public on CAS web site. The Society’s “Governance Handbook” is ready for publication but waiting for the finalization of revised constitution of the Society which forms the major part of the handbook.

To improve the overall Human Resources capacity of the Society a HR consultant is due to be appointed. The consultant may be appointed from home or abroad. The Managing Board to engage the professional HR Planning Consultant to recommend and implement a scheme to attract suitably qualified staffs into key positions and terminate contracts of any redundant staff approved by the Board. The total process is dependent upon availability of funds to meet the dues of out going employees. The Terms of References for employment of the Human Resources Consultant is already prepared in consultation with the British Red Cross and approved by the BDRCS Managing Board.

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

Initial steps have already been taken to establish Network System with Web Site of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. In order to investigate possible expenditure under this objective, several local software development companies have been invited to make their offers for provision of necessary equipment for establishment of computer networking system 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*

- Standing Order has been revised, delegating more authority with increased financial power for expenditure to the senior management.
- A committee will be constituted for further revision of The Standing Order.
- 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 organizational development.*

A two day workshop was organized in the BDRCS training on “Vision, Strategy, Objectives and Log Term Plan” of BDRCS Organizational Development department. Vice-chairmans, secretaries of Unit Executive Committees and Unit Level Officers (ULO) attended the workshop.

From 15-21 June, the organizational development department organized two “Basic First Aid training” for NHQ staff in the BDRCS training room. OD department also supervised the “Youth Policy Workshop” held from 28-29 May, to monitor the formulation of the Youth Policy.

Constraints

The inability of the BDRCS Organisational Development program to spend budgeted and available funds in a timely manner has been an issue of major concern. Unfortunately, the OD program seems to have lacked both adequate direction and focus in recent years. In 2001, this resulted in under spending (approx. 45%) which was carried over to the current year. However, as already mentioned above, the transfer of Director of CPP to head the BDRCS Development and Planning Department has already shown improvement in implementation of planned activities, in particular in the last two months.

During the last 5 months, the BDRCS OD department had faced several challenges with regards to implementation of their planned activities, due to the ongoing change management process within the national society. The process lead to replacement of some Unit Executive Committees member. The process of transfer of authority (bank signature) from the former to the current executive committee members has lead to temporary freezing Bank accounts at Unit level. In addition, some OD related activities dissipation into subprograms have received no funding at all. Many of these have been incorporated into the OD program for the last part of this year, which should result in greater uptake of available funds.

Since July, five Units of Dhaka City, Dhaka District, Jypurhat, Jhalokhathi and Dinajpur districts (each of these units has a BDRCS full-time officer), out of 12 Units targeted under the OD development plan, have been implementing planned activities in accordance to their plan of action, while two Units of Meherpur and Magura have been undergoing some legal problems which are being dealt on high level.

The OD director and officer have made plans for the second week of October for a week long visit to the remaining 5 districts of: Naogaon, Natore, Panchagar and Naril (these units do not have a BDRCS officer). The main objective would be to motivate the Unit's secretaries and executive committee member, provide necessary technical support and start with implementation of the Unit development programs.

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.*

The Federation/BDRCS continue to take part at regular co-ordination meetings organized by various UN and government agencies. The delegation maintains close relationship with all our international donors with presence in Bangladesh..

Increased support and daily meetings are held with the BDRCS chairman and board members in order to provide necessary guidance to recently appointed board of management. Main areas still include changes to the BDRCS constitution and the National Society's change management process. Other priorities are the down sizing of BDRCS NHQ employees. Plan of Action is currently being prepared.

Head of Delegation has had meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the State Minister in relations to IFRC's obtaining its Status Agreement. We are hopefully to obtain full status agreement by December 2002.

Outstanding needs

Indications of decreased donor support for BDRCS major programs such as organizational development (OD), cyclone preparedness (CPP), disaster management division, programs are causing serious concerns to BDRCS's 2002-2003 appeal.

It is hoped that participating National Societies (PNS) who have not (so far) considered supporting these programmes will review these documents, with a view to providing much needed funding support. British Red Cross three-year National Lottery Funding support to BDRCS's CBDP program came to an end in June.

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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
External Relations

Simon Missiri
Head
Asia Pacific Department

Bangladesh						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.26/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			24.10.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'304'164		TOTAL COVERAGE 88.7%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				568'173		
AMERICAN - RC		112'427	USD	174'903	20.06.2002	COMMUNITY HEALTH, DHAK DIVISION
BRITISH - GOVT		21'338	GBP	51'211	30.01.2002	CBDP
BRITISH - GOVT		23'483	GBP	56'160	23.04.2002	CBDP
BRITISH - PRIVATE/RC		25'151	GBP	60'362	30.01.2002	CBDP
BRITISH - RC		40'000	GBP	91'816	19.06.2002	CBDP
BRITISH - GOVT/JFS		46'598	GBP	106'994	19.06.2002	COMMUNITY BASED DEVELOPMENT
CANADIAN - RC		12'202	CAD	12'273	14.06.2002	
FINNISH - RC		16'818	EUR	24'828	25.06.2002	INTERN. HUMANITARIAN LAW
JAPANESE - RC		6'100'000	JPY	78'068	12.03.2002	CBDP
SWEDISH - RC		400'000	SEK	63'240	23.05.2002	REPORTING DELEGATE
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'000'000	SEK	158'100	30.05.2002	CYCLONE PREPAREDNESS
SWEDISH - GOVT		700'000	SEK	110'670	30.05.2002	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'000'000	SEK	158'100	30.05.2002	CBDPP
SWEDISH - GOVT		800'000	SEK	126'480	30.05.2002	CHITTAGONOG HILL TRACTS DEV.
UNHCR		549'380	BDT	16'340	06.03.2002	MYANMAR REFUGEE RELIEF OPERATION
UNHCR		549'179	BDT	14'110	27.06.2002	MYANMAR REFUGEE RELIEF OPERATION
WFP		12'660	USD	21'000	18.01.2002	MYANMAR REFUGEE RELIEF OPERATION
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				83'700		PBD007
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'976'528	CHF	85.8%

Bangladesh

APPEAL No. 01.26/2002 - Revised budget

CHF

PROGRAMME	Disaster Resp	Disaster Prep	Health & Care	Human. Values	OD	Co-ord. & Mgmt	TOTAL
Shelter & Construction		122,510					122,510
Clothing & Textiles							
Food & Seeds		23,438					23,438
Water		24,901					24,901
Medical & 1st Aid		29,546	19,100				48,646
Teaching Materials							
Ustensils & Tools							
Other Relief Supplies							
Subtotal Supplies		200,395	19,100				219,495
Land & Buildings							
Vehicles		12,000					12,000
Computer & Telecom		1,088			29,212		30,300
Medical Equipment			5,000				5,000
Other Capital Equipment		43,798	31,800		2,344		77,941
Subtotal Capital		56,886	36,800		31,556		125,242
Programme Management		108,766	14,187	1,661	18,230	7,288	150,132
Technical Services		32,559	4,247	497	5,457	2,182	44,942
Professional Services		36,107	4,710	551	6,052	2,419	49,840
Subtotal Programme Support		177,432	23,144	2,709	29,739	11,889	244,913
Warehousing/Inspection	1,221					1,000	2,221
Transport & Vehicles	7,184	70,783			3,683	21,000	102,650
Subtotal Transport & Storage	8,405	70,783			3,683	22,000	104,871
Delegates & Expatriates		29,746				205,719	235,465
National Societies and Local Staff	59,342	611,688	119,954	9,866	118,337	58,495	977,682
Subtotal Personnel	59,342	641,434	119,954	9,866	118,337	264,214	1,213,147
Travel & Related Expenses		17,560	6,500		4,480	12,100	40,641
Information		125,408		8,735	30,698	910	165,751
Consultants		219,693		3,321	38,548	-256,700	4,863
General Expenses	9,934	80,460	4,900		13,310	53,670	162,274
Training Workshops & Seminars							
Security		22,968					22,968
Subtotal Training, Information & General	9,934	466,089	11,400	12,056	87,037	-190,020	396,496
TOTAL BUDGET	77,681	1,613,019	210,398	24,631	270,352	108,083	2,304,164