

# 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

## SRI LANKA

15 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](http://www.ifrc.org)*

*Appeal No. 01.29/2002*

*Appeal Target: CHF 652,199*

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

### IN BRIEF

*Appeal coverage: 56%*

*Related Appeals: South Asia (Regional Programmes) 01.24/2002*

*Outstanding needs: CHF 287,008*

### **Operational Developments w**

The United National Front (UNF) government entered into a formal ceasefire agreement with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on 22nd February 2002. This paved the way for a build up to peace talks. However, in spite of earlier hopes that the talks would commence as early as May, continuous postponements have led to the date not yet having been agreed.

The ceasefire agreement committed the two parties to create conditions that would enable civilian life, especially in the north eastern parts of the country, to return to a state of relative normalcy. The ceasefire has largely been observed, with the assistance of an international team of monitors. The LTTE leader addressed a national and international press conference in April for the first time in 12 years of the conflict, restating the LTTE's long-standing position that any negotiated settlement would have to acknowledge the rights of the Tamils to a homeland, to Tamil nationality, and to self-determination. The government, however, has continued to state its resolve that any solution will have to fall within the framework of a unitary nation.

Three months after taking office, the Government's success in the local council elections, with the UNF winning 217 out of the 222 councils in which elections were held, prompted the government to fast track the peace process. The government has agreed to de-proscribe LTTE ten days before the commencement of agreed peace talks. In addition other governments who have designated the LTTE as a terrorist group, while stating that they will not de-proscribe the group until a settlement has been reached, have pledged support for the peace process and recognised that the government will have to lift the ban in country.

It seems too early to monitor anything except the non-economic benefits achieved by the cease fire. Foreign donors and business interests appear to be waiting for a stable peace to be negotiated before investing further. Expectations are focussing on the need for legal and legitimate structures of governance being in place. Nevertheless it was announced in June by UNHCR that some 100,000 people displaced by the 19 year old conflict have already returned home in the hope that a lasting settlement will be agreed. The conflict has driven

1.3 million people or approximately 7% of the total population from their homes, of which some 800,000 are settled elsewhere in the country with relatives or in new areas or in government camps.

In March the government presented its budget to Parliament against a difficult economic environment of negative growth in 2001, a substantial fiscal deficit, and high inflation. The emphasis on fiscal consolidation, further deregulation and privatisation was well received by both the private sector and external donors. A simplified two tier tax system is to be introduced in July, with “essential” goods and services such as basic foodstuffs, petroleum, fertilisers and agricultural and medical equipment attracting the lower rate of 10%. This together with other economic and fiscal reforms have won the approval of the IMF which has stated that dependent on the government’s implementation of structural reforms Sri Lanka could benefit from larger and more concessionary funding from the IMF.

Real GDP growth was estimated to have contracted for the first time in seven years by 1.3% in 2001. The severe drought accounted for a 2.3% shrinkage of crops in the agricultural sector. Other causes were the protracted decline in tourism as a result of the LTTE attack on the international airport in July 2001, and the severely reduced output of power caused again by the prolonged effect of the drought on the reservoir systems. Inflation remains high with consumer price inflation moderating to 12.7% for the twelve months ended in March 2002. The economy overall is showing mixed signs, with modest recoveries in the manufacturing and tourism sectors in the first quarter of 2002 benefiting from the lifting of the war risk surcharge in March which had been imposed by a London-based insurance underwriter.

Continuing drought conditions in pockets of Hambantota District in the rain shadow area of the south of the country are causing concern. Red Cross/Federation reassessments of the most vulnerable areas in February, May, and June showed that families were living on food measured in a food basket exercise as 30% of the Sphere standard calorie and protein needs of daily intake.

### **Disaster Response w**

On 18th - 20th February the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) completed the fourth and final six weekly distributions of food rations to the total 3716 families in a programme to severely drought-affected families in Hambantota District. Throughout the six month programme the SLRCS conducted regular and detailed house to house surveys of the beneficiaries in conformity with Sphere guidelines. This to improve the involvement of beneficiaries in the planning of the relief programme and to enable them to better self-assess their needs and receive appropriate and relevant relief supplies. The findings were also distributed to other agencies to enable them to better understand the situation, and co-ordinate the provision of non-duplicated supplies.

The lack of rainfall in the most affected areas in early 2002 has continued to effect the poorest chenna cultivator families whose marginal lands did not receive enough rainfall for their crops to mature. The Regional Disaster Response Delegate was invited to Sri Lanka to conduct a joint assessment with SLRCS between 22nd - 24th March and again in late May to assess the continuing and future needs of the most affected populations in Hambantota District. The assessments confirmed that the families who had been receiving Red Cross rations over the duration of the 6 month programme experienced notably improved conditions compared to families that did not receive assistance. Families assessed through a food basket exercise were often found to be consuming no more than rice and leaves, comprising 30% of the Sphere standards for daily calorific nutritional needs. For many this is the third consecutive year of sustained drought.

The Federation assisted the SLRCS’s drought relief co-ordinator at national headquarters and the local Branch volunteers to receive training to make local community level assessments and monitoring visits to the affected areas throughout the whole programme. Assistance was also given to help the SLRCS to draw up appropriate questionnaires and assessment training to volunteers to assess the situation of drought-affected beneficiaries.

The Government has also begun redistributing more food rations in response to continuing needs in Hambantota District in early February 2002. Local Government Agents who have attended the Red Cross drought relief distribution operations have continued to work in close co-operation with the Hambantota District Branch. The situation regarding water needs is also being closely monitored by the Red Cross and Government Agents. The Government Agents have praised the Red Cross from the very outset of the operation

as the only humanitarian institution which raised the profile of the drought affected families sensitively, consistently, and which delivered the required relief assistance through the full planned cycle.

A second drought appeal was prepared by SLRCS and the Federation during June and launched on 1st July. Its objectives are to assist a further 3,000 families or 18,000 beneficiaries with an 80% food ration for nine months till the next harvest cycle, and to provide construction of water tanks and tankered supplies to ten most affected locations for 5 months. Training was conducted for 80 volunteers in June and enabled them to target women headed households in health, nutrition and hygiene education, as the May assessment recorded a high incidence of dysentery due to the declining number of water sources and the deteriorating quality of water.

## **Disaster Preparedness w**

*Objective 1: To improve the disaster preparedness programme of the Society.*

As a result of funding from the regional DP programme, a study tour was organised for five District governance representatives of SLRCS to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in late December 2001. The report was circulated internally in January 2002 and this formed the basis of a presentation to improve the Board of Governors' understanding of the needs for a comprehensive DP Policy and plan for SLRCS. The topics studied in Bangladesh RCS were the functioning of Community based DP programmes at Branch and community levels, sustainability features of these programmes, and models for the more effective development of DP structures at all levels in SLRCS.

Of particular importance to SLRCS was the aim of BDRCS's national DP policy which was to enable vulnerable communities withstand and cope effectively with disasters through collective participation on a self-help basis. These learnings were also transferred into the DP programme in 8 Districts which is supported by the Spanish Red Cross through ECHO funding for 12 months in Sri Lanka. The specific recommendations from the study visit were to help strengthen the SLRCS national headquarters planning, organising and management process, to introduce a new training philosophy and practice, and to improve grass roots level participation and accountability in the SLRCS's DP programmes.

The DP programme to support the development of community based DP structures and capacities in 8 flood-affected Districts supported by the Spanish Red Cross and ECHO has continued to show effective results. In April questionnaires had been developed and used at community level to conduct detailed assessments of needs at family level to prepare community hazard mapping and identification of the most vulnerable areas and families. Local government officials were also involved to ensure effective co-ordination. Training curricula were also completed and the selection of key volunteers for training was also completed.

Between 15th - 23rd April four participants from SLRCS (two national Directors and two Branch representatives) undertook intensive training in the regional Disaster Management workshop held in Delhi. Their training in effective assessment and disaster management procedures was immediately put to use on their return as they assisted in the assessment of further families to be assisted in the second phase of drought relief which is to start in July.

The Regional DP delegate has assisted SLRCS during two visits with the development of a detailed job description for a new Disaster Management Director, incorporating both disaster preparedness and response into a new and restructured national headquarters department. The responsibilities of this new Director, currently being recruited, include developing a DP/DR policy and action plan; supporting nation-wide risk and vulnerability mapping exercises; developing training curricula and programmes; establishing a system for contingency stocks and adequate communications and logistics systems and developing strategic liaison and co-ordination with government departments and Ministries, other regional national societies, and external humanitarian agencies.

The Federation's regional DP funds will support the salary of the new DM Director for the first 12 months to assist the SLRCS to build its strategic management capacity in this area. The post will strengthen the organisational structures at all levels to enable sustainable disaster management activities.

**Objective 2:** *To organise one liaison meeting per year with other key institutions (Government, ECHO, NGOs) to improve clear definitions of the roles for the national society, as well as collaborative planning and programme implementation*

Although the national co-ordination committee between SLRCS and the government has not yet been finalised, there has been measurably increased participation of government officials in joint planning and training within SLRCS's DP activities. For example government personnel have participated as key resource persons in SLRCS Branch level DP training events which has led to close co-ordination at times of relief distribution (in the Hambantota drought relief operation, for example).

The Director of the Government's National Disaster Management Committee has played an active and supportive role on the newly established SLRCS national DP advisory committee, convened under the Spanish Red Cross/ECHO DP programme. This has also helped to improve the approach to co-ordinated planning at all levels.

**Objective 3:** *To initiate a drought mitigation programme in one severely drought-affected District.*

Although Federation funding for this objective was not mobilised until June 2002, some initial developmental longer term water management systems have been integrated into the drought relief operation beginning in July 2002. It is hoped that this may act as a catalyst for funding for this longer term programme to demonstrate the use and replicability of longer term mitigation models that break the cycle of annual relief appeals.

## **Health and Care w**

**Objective 1:** *To strengthen the Society's overall health management system.*

The Canadian Red Cross health programme funds continue to enable the Society to support the costs of the Director and Assistant Director of the Health Department. As a result the pilot community based health programme supported by the Canadian RC (reported on under objectives 2, 3 and 4 below) is progressing well. One of the most important impacts of the strengthening of this health management structure, however, is the emergence of new programming ideas.

A new proposal has been developed to enable a comprehensive First Aid programme to be consolidated in 17 Branches and made sustainable through local services, training and income over three years. This proposal has been submitted to the Korean Red Cross and is under consideration. If approved it will be agreed as a bilateral programme between KRCS and SLRCS, but seen as a contribution against the overall Federation and SLRCS appeal for Sri Lanka. The objectives of this new proposal are included under the new objective no. 7 below.

**Objective 2:** *To recruit and train community health volunteers to increase public awareness of communicable diseases, and of prevention and curative activities in the fields of First Aid, HIV/AIDS, Reproductive Health, Family Planning, and Primary Health Care.*

The Canadian RC desk officer visited SLRCS in early May to discuss progress with the Director of Health. In April the first draft questionnaires to be used in a participatory manner at community level to conduct baseline needs surveys were finalised with input from regional Health Delegate. A programme to involve 18 District and Divisional Directors of Health Services in the further development of the needs assessment questionnaire was successfully held in June 2002. All participating DHSS personnel welcomed the initiative which they felt would add value to the existing health data collected by government. They assured the assistance of themselves and their staff in taking the survey to the community level.

The District Community Health Officer was appointed in Kurunegala in March. A national Advisory Committee on Community Health Services is being established with external representatives from key government and other voluntary health institutions also participating.

In order to further strengthen learning from other regions and national Societies in community health programming, the Canadian Red Cross desk officer agreed to send the SLRCS Health department samples of health survey forms from Latin America and the Philippines.

**Objective 3:** *To expand the existing reproductive and child health care programmes.*

This objective will be achieved when the 10 Divisional level community health workers are appointed in the community based health programme. The selection has nearly been finalised and it is envisaged that there will be 50% men and women balance in the 10 volunteers appointed to work at community level. However, work has commenced on drafting community level health education materials in three languages on PHC, First Aid, Reproductive Health, and HIV/AIDS as an integrated perspective.

**Objective 4:** *To renovate Primary Health Care physical infrastructure and facilities in vulnerable priority areas.*

This objective will be realised as an integrated part of the community based health programme once it reached community level and the community identify suitable uses for this centre.

**Objective 5:** *To develop an active HIV/AIDS awareness programme.*

The SLRCS has made an application to the OPEC AIDS programme. If the response is positive a considerably scaled up programme is being planned. A national SLRCS Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS is being established with representatives from government and other external relevant institutions and organisations.

The SLRCS was also represented by a member from a Branch at the South Asia regional HIV/AIDS meeting/workshop in Kathmandu from 22-28th May. In the meantime other activities have been initiated within the national society such as a seminar to improve the awareness of all staff, and one for Branch officials, and a Training of Trainers programme for 46 participants from all Branches (including one Branch official and one member of the Youth Wing) which encouraged all Branches to submit an action plan to conduct further orientation trainings at Branch and community level in HIV/AIDS awareness.

In a meeting with national Ministry of Health officials, it was suggested that SLRCS could play a valuable role if it shifted its attention from pure education and awareness to behaviour surveillance and peer education. The SLRCS has also networked with the only HIV positive group in Sri Lanka to explore ways of better co-ordinating their work and programmes to challenge stigma, discrimination, and improve relevant services.

**Objective 6:** *To utilise the Global Fund to deliver effective malaria and TB prevention programmes in most affected areas.*

The SLRC has met with the government Health Secretary who has encouraged the national society to submit a proposal to be considered in the next round of Global Fund applications. A proposal is in active preparation and will also be consulted on with ICRC as some of its operational area will fall into conflict affected Districts.

**Objective 7:** *To build a viable self-sustainable organisational structure to scale up First Aid training and services at the District and Divisional levels with a system of appraisal to retain trained volunteers within the National Society.*

The training curriculum for this newly proposed intensive training programme has been developed in uniformity with the Asia Pacific agreed minimum standards. These were discussed and agreed when the Director of Health attended the Asia Pacific workshop on standardisation of curricula and materials in Thailand earlier in 2002. An action plan has been drawn up to integrate FA training into the Youth Wing development and other programmes such as DP and community based health care management.

Plans are in place to develop education materials and a mass based orientation strategy when funds for this programme are agreed, hopefully in August 2002.

## **Organisational Development w**

***Objective 1: To train members, governance and management on their roles as set out in the new Constitution.***

The SLRCS Constitution Revision Committee has continued to meet and amend the Society's key areas of policy and procedures to align them to the new separation in the roles of governance and management as prescribed by the new Constitution.

The Annual General Assembly preparations were conducted with elective processes being held in all unit and District Branch levels according to a clear election schedule. As a result of the encouragement in the new Constitution for Branches to expand their membership base to democratise the Society further, the SLRCS's total membership rose from 13,000 in 2001 to 128,000 in 2002. The national Branch development workshop held for senior governance and management in June 2002 addressed key questions such as how to turn this membership base into an active volunteer force, and how to continue to orient new members into the rights and duties of active membership.

The Society's Branch development programme, supported by the 11 Branch Development Officers and the forthcoming Branch Executive Officers in each of the 25 Branches, will address these key orientation and deployment issues (see also Objective 3 below for the links to the development of a "Volunteering Policy" in SLRCS).

The SLRCS Annual General Assembly was successfully held on 13th July and elected the first new Central Governing Board which reduced the previous number from 48 to 15 members.

***Objective 2: To develop and implement a comprehensive human Resource Development (HRD) strategy for staff and volunteers.***

A number of areas of progress have been achieved as a result of the continued important funding from the Federation's Capacity Building Fund. This include the introduction of a Training Needs Analysis questionnaire with training for Directors and staff on how to identify training needs; the development of SLRCS's first ever national Training and Development plan; job rotation programmes designed to increase the skills base of key staff; and revised competency based job descriptions for all new recruitments (e.g. Branch Executive Officers, National Youth Coordinator, and Fundraising and Communications Director).

In May 32 staff of all levels received training in how to approach the newly implemented Performance Appraisal system. Managers have been trained on conducting supportive interviews, and the overall guidance and training has been developed by those staff who attended the regional meeting to agree the final draft of the South Asia regional HRD Manual. The specific guidelines and the full adapted Manual for SLRCS are now being translated and training in its use will be conducted at Branch level from July in a phased plan to improve Branch HRD systems.

To further strengthen the SLRCS's HRD processes it has been agreed to recommend to the Central Governing Board to appoint a new Human Resource Manager as assistant to the Assistant Director HRD to manage the monitoring and conduct of all Performance Appraisal systems, develop a HR database of all staff and volunteer skills, and support training in HR at Branch levels to develop HR focal points in each Branch.

***Objective 3: To adopt a Volunteer Policy to improve the diversity profile, recruitment, training and retention of volunteers.***

The participating Branches at the national Branch Development workshop in June recommended to governance that a national Volunteer Manager be appointed to strengthen all the Society's volunteer recruitment, development and retention systems. This is a highly welcome development as recommended by the Federation's "Volunteering Policy" and the regional HRD Manual.

***Objective 4: To develop leadership and strategic management skills to meet the challenges of strategic management.***

During the national Branch Development workshop integrated HRD training was given on retaining and developing volunteers and members; effective leadership skills; youth wing development; and an introduction to the Performance Appraisal system for Branch Chairpersons, Secretaries and Treasurers.

Further management training, and the establishment of a Training of Trainers programme to build management development programmes and trainers in SLRCS are being planned for late 2002. These TOTs will be arranged under the Regional Organisational Development programme. It will enable the management development programme trainers in Nepal Red Cross Society to visit SLRCS and run the TOT, using in-region expertise and building a sustainable base of trainers within SLRCS to give management training to staff and volunteers.

**Objective 5:** *To strengthen the Branch development programme against timebound sustainability plans.*

The planned national “Branch Development review and strategy” workshop was held in June 2002 to help determine the Society’s future Branch development programme. The workshop for all Branch Chairpersons, Secretaries, Treasurers, and BDOs, provided uniform training in the Society’s new financial planning, monitoring and reporting systems; improved narrative reporting; fundraising and communications; and HRD improvements. It enabled the SLRCS to decide to continue the BDO posts and build a long term Branch development strategy based on the valuable learning from the pilot programme supported by the CBF.

Branch Development Officer’s responsibilities have been formalised in areas such as building linkages and networks with external institutions; financial planning and resource mobilisation; planning and conducting targeted HRD training programmes for volunteers, youth wing, and members; programme planning including strengthening needs assessment surveys, monthly and annual planning at Branch level; and strengthened monitoring and reporting, with effective co-ordination between the Branch and national headquarters.

### **Finance Development programme**

**Objective 1:** *To expand the computerised accounting system in the national headquarters and in selected branches.*

The Regional Finance Development Manager has visited SLRCS in March and June to support the ongoing computerisation of the internal accounting systems and identify software that can provide reports to multiple donor requirements. The visits recommended that prior to the installation of software, a detailed assessment should be made of the requirements on internal stakeholders (eg Branches, departments, and national headquarters managers), as well as of external partners (Federation, ICRC, bilateral and other PNS) etc.

It was also decided that training in the new software should be given in a structured and systematic way not just to accountants but to programme managers and selected pilot Branches to ensure that the final consolidation of all accounts can be achieved by a clear change management plan.

**Objective 2:** *To further improve finance management and administrative procedures and train finance, non-finance, and senior management staff in financial procedures.*

Two meetings for senior governance and management were held on 7th-9th April and 31st May-1st June to finalise further revision and training in SLRCS’s Finance and Administration Manuals as per the requirements of the new Constitution.

### **Finance Resource Development programme**

**Objective 1:** *To diversify existing income generating programmes to create sustainable new programmes.*

This programme has made measurable progress thanks to the strategic funding received from the Federation’s Capacity Building Fund.

The job descriptions for the new Director and Assistant Director of Fundraising and Communications posts were completed and national advertisements published. Interviews are being held for the Fundraising and

Communications Director post in early July. The SLRCS hopes to appoint a highly experienced professional in this very key new position to enable it to build sustainability plans through local as well as international resource mobilisation. SLRCS has invited senior external corporate sector well-wishers to join the interview panel to appoint the most suitable candidate.

Fundraising training has been conducted in a more integrated way in all the Society's workshops and meetings in the first 6 months of 2002. The Federation's new "Income Generating Projects" guidelines have also been studied at governance and senior management meetings. The Central Governing Board has decided not to develop a national Fundraising Policy until it is guided by the new Fundraising and Communications Director.

The national Branch Development workshop in June contained sessions on "Marketing and fundraising" to enable Branches to further develop a uniform approach to self-sustainability. These objectives were also integrated into all programme presentations which encouraged Branches to plan for sustainable health, disaster preparedness, and youth wing development programmes. The session was CO-facilitated by the SLRCS's Finance Director who linked finance development and reporting systems with effective resource mobilisation and disbursement systems to increase donor confidence and long term relationship building.

It is planned that one of the first tasks of the new Fundraising Director and her/his department will be to conduct a review into the fundraising and sponsorship potential from the corporate, business and company trusts sectors in country.

***Objective 2: To intensify public fundraising in the country.***

Some initiatives have been undertaken even before the new Fundraising and Communications Director's appointment to improve the publicity materials, brochures and leaflets targeted at specific audiences about the Society's work and achievements. A new leaflet advertising the Society's growing Youth Wing, for example, aims to recruit Youth Wing members and offers fundraising as one of the areas in which Youth Members can actively support the Society's overall work.

The SLRCS placed its first national fundraising advertisement in national newspapers for public donations for its work on World Red Cross Day, and results are being carefully monitored. It is hoped to expand a regular series of newspaper supplements by attracting corporate sponsorship once the Director of Fundraising is appointed.

In order to develop a membership base and use it for soliciting donations and increasing long-term donor campaigns, the Society has computerised records of its recently increased membership base of 128,000 new members. The new Fundraising Director will help making a strategy for developing a committed giving scheme in return for regular newsletters, information, and recognition systems.

In another significant new initiative the Society is planning a national level meeting of all the country's largest companies and business sector Chief Executives to mobilise resources in cash and kind for the recently launched SLRCS/Federation Drought Appeal. This is the first time the national society has felt confident in approaching a large gathering of senior corporate and business sector contacts and following a presentation the Society aims to develop a database of contacts as part of a donor relationship management system for the future.

Three Branches have initiated new income generating programmes following the earlier fundraising training supported by the first CBF grant in 2001. All eleven Branch Development Officers who participated in the national Branch Development workshop have shared active ideas for increasing income generation from sources. It is hoped that the new Director of Fundraising and Communication will agree on the allocation on seed money to enable Branches to initiate such plans, conduct professional business planning, and share successful learning with each other.

Due to the workload of existing staff, the case study on the Society's existing First Aid resource mobilisation experience is to be finalised by the new Director of Fundraising and Communications. Thereafter it will be

shared regionally to help national societies to learn from each others' successful resource mobilisation experiences.

### **Information Development programme**

***Objective 1:** To develop a well-functioning and resourced Information Department.*

The documentation of information activities carried out by Branches during the discussions at the national Information Officers' workshop held in March showed encouraging progress in the number and diversity of initiatives taken by some of the Branches in their information work. Based on their training from earlier workshops many Branches are now actively engaging with their local media. Discussions were also held with the ICRC's Cooperation delegate on ways of improving support to the information and dissemination work carried out by the volunteers in the conflict affected Branches supported by ICRC.

***Objective 2:** To develop and implement a strategic communications plan for the Society including long term relationship building with the media.*

In March a national level workshop was held for all the 25 Branch Information and Dissemination officers. Facilitators included the SLRCS Information Officer, the regional Information Officer from the Federation's South Asia delegation's Information team, and the Information Officer of Pakistan Red Crescent Society.

The workshop developed further training from the subjects discussed at the previous workshop in September 2001. The objectives of the March workshop included the need to understand well-functioning internal and external communications plans; action planning to enable more key strategic linkages to be made with the print and electronic media; improving the communications co-ordination between Branches and the national headquarters; and achieving a better understanding of the Federation's advocacy agenda, objectives, and planned impacts.

### **Youth Wing Development programme**

***Objective 1:** To create a co-ordination mechanism for the Youth Wings of the Society at all levels.*

As a result of funding from the Federation's Capacity Building Fund this programme was able to be initiated at a national level. The job description of the National Youth Co-ordinator has been prepared as well as that of the 25 Branch volunteer District level Youth Co-ordinators. Applications are now being called from Branches.

A national SLRCs Youth Subcommittee has been finalised with appointments being considered from external relevant agencies as well to enable SLRCs to network at policy and co-ordination levels with other youth focussed institutions. One of the first tasks of the Youth Subcommittee will be to develop a SLRCs national Youth Policy. The Youth Officer has collected not only the Federation model Youth Policy but the policies of many other National Societies around the world which will be studied to enable SLRCS to learn actively from other environments and draw on best practice in a manner adapted to suit Sri Lanka's needs.

The SLRCS has attended two international youth meetings within the RC/RC world, one in Austria and one to be conducted in August in Korea. These visits will build international solidarity and friendship, but will also enable SLRCS to learn from other youth governance and membership experiences while developing its own structures and systems.

***Objective 2:** To recruit, orient, and integrate Youth Wing members in all the programme activities and at the governance levels of the Society.*

A pilot Youth Camp is being planned for August in Kegalle District. It will bring together 100 young people to learn about, discuss, and make recommendations on issues such as volunteer characteristics, responsibilities and functions of youth volunteers in community health programmes, leadership qualities. Sessions will also be conducted by external resource persons in topics such as anti-drug addiction counselling. These sessions will

be conducted by representatives from other youth organisations (e.g. Girl Guides), Public Health Department officials, and representatives from the National Youth Council.

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

***Objective 1:** To develop a communications strategy and a regular flow of materials to inform the public and authorities of SLRCS's mandate and activities.*

Although SLRCS does not access funds for this programme it remains strategically extremely important as the national society finds itself in an external environment where both the public and government need to understand and support its neutral and humanitarian role. In spite of no specific funding, many activities have been carried out to meet the objectives and these are funded both by the Information development programme budget as well as some other programme budgets (such as Health and Care stigma facing people living with HIV/AIDS).

On 8th May SLRCS celebrated World Red Cross Day by holding a national press conference. The well attended conference was chaired by the Government's Minister for Social services and in a wide media coverage the SLRCS chose to highlight two significant themes - the misuse of the Emblem and the issue of challenging the stigma and discrimination facing people living with HIV/AIDS.

***Objective 2:** To increase awareness in the Social Services Ministry and other relevant Government authorities on SLRCS's activities and the Fundamental Principles.*

In a separate strategy, but one which was again widely publicised, the SLRCS senior governance leaders presented the Minister for Health, Nutrition and Welfare with a Memorandum containing the Society's concerns about the wide spread misuse of the Emblem. It also presented recommendations on the steps needed to prevent further misuses. The Minister pledged support to collaborate between the Health Ministry and SLRCS to ensure the appropriate measures were taken.

The launch of the "World Disasters Report" on 19th June was achieved at another well attended press conference. A number of representatives from external institutions such as Embassies, UN organisations, and media institutes attended, and the gathering was addressed by the Minister of Social Services, the Director of the Government's National Disaster Management centre, SLRCS and Federation representatives. The Movement's unique Principles and positioning were covered, and ten media institutes participated resulting in wide coverage in the electronic and print media.

### **Regional Cooperation w**

The SLRCS has made use of opportunities to learn from the programmes and achievements of other National Societies in South Asia. Its staff and volunteers have benefited from trainings in DP, disaster management, Information development, and Change Management training under various regional training initiatives.

The SLRCS has also become recognised as a place of learning in some areas, and has hosted the visit of the Treasurer and other finance staff of the Nepal Red Cross Society in March to learn from the Internal Audit department's experience in SLRCS. Sri Lanka has also been the host to a variety of the regional workshops held in Sri Lanka in 2002 which has enabled it to send extra participants at little extra costs.

In May the SLRCS kindly made all assistance available to the staff and families from the regional Federation Delegation in Delhi who were relocated to Sri Lanka for 2 weeks due to the security situation in Delhi as a result of the tensions between India and Pakistan. SLRCS were thanked warmly for their hospitality and generosity in making office space immediately available to enable the SARD delegates to continue their work.

### **Co-ordination and Management w**

As a result of the increased programmes being developed in SLRCS and new donor partnerships emerging, a full time Federation Representative position has been created and interviews were held in July. In a break from tradition the SLRCS were represented on the Federation's interviewing panel through the National Secretary post which was deemed to have been a positive experience by all concerned.

The new Federation Representative will take up the full time position in November and the current half time Federation Representative and half time regional Organisational Development delegate will continue to be based in Sri Lanka but to play a full time regional OD support role to all 6 national societies in the region, including to SLRCS as and when required.

### **Advocacy/Public Information w**

*Objective 1: To take up the issues of slow onset and “hidden” disasters in Sri Lanka and bring them to the attention of the authorities and the public so that vulnerable people access the appropriate levels of humanitarian assistance to achieve a sustainable level of well-being.*

The SLRCS has continued to play a pivotal role in attracting the attention of government and other humanitarian agencies to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Hambantota District, where people suffer from the effects of the third consecutive year of lack of rainfall.

The SLRCS generated media coverage has again been recognised as an important contribution by government with the Social Services Ministry increasing its efforts to seek assistance from other donors to assist the most vulnerable. The SLRCS methods of house-to-house questionnaires conducted continues to bring it high credibility, and the sharing of these assessments with other agencies including government has brought increased assistance to the most vulnerable. Further co-ordination with government, UN family agencies, and national and international NGOs continues with regular co-ordination and joint planning meetings being chaired at national level by the Federation.

The case study of the Hambantota drought operation and its extremely effective advocacy strategy and impact has been used at the regional level in Information Officers’ training programmes as a model of excellence.

### **Outstanding needs**

Although the National Society has been successful in gaining increased support from donors in 2002, there are still needs for further support for the Organisational Development, DP, and Humanitarian Values programmes.

In addition a joint SLRCS, Federation and ICRC Branch assessment mission to identify the needs of five northern Branches traditionally working in conflict affected areas has also identified short, medium and long term needs of these Branches. A proposal submitted by the Spanish Red Cross on behalf of SLRCS to ECHO to cover a 6 month programme to address some short term needs in these Branches is currently being processed. However the three components of the Movement in country agreed that the recommendations from this joint assessment should lead to a nation-wide Branch development programme, as the issues of capacity building facing these Branches remain the same as those facing the remaining 20 Branches.

As a result of the new trilateral MOU to be signed in September between SLRCS, ICRC and the Federation to improve strategic co-ordination and planning between all components in future in the spirit of the “Strategy for the Red cross Red Crescent Movement”, it is hoped that a comprehensive Branch development strategy will be drawn up in September for sharing with a wider set of partners.

*For further details please contact: Ewa Eriksson, Phone : 41 22 730 4252; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: eriksson@ifrc.org*

*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*

John Horekens  
Director  
Relationship Management Department

Simon Missiri  
Head  
Asia & Pacific Department



<b>Sri Lanka</b>						ANNEX 1	
<b>APPEAL No. 01.29/2002</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>				14.08.2002	
<b>DONOR</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>UNIT</b>	<b>VALUE CHF</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>	
<b>CASH</b>							<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>652'199</b>		<b>56.0%</b>	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				61'199			
CANADIAN - RC		71'459	CAD	74'432	24.01.2002	COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE	
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				52'250		PLK005	
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				77'310		YOUTH DEVELOPMENT	
KOREAN - RC				100'000	07.08.2002	BILATERAL	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>365'191</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>56.0%</b>	
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>							
<b>DONOR</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>UNIT</b>	<b>VALUE CHF</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>							
<b>DONOR</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>UNIT</b>	<b>VALUE CHF</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>CHF</b>		