

# PROGRAMME UPDATE



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

## ***SOUTH EAST ASIA: REGIONAL PROGRAMMES***

27 December 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. 01.30/2002*

*Appeal Target CHF 4,909,189 (USD 3.49m/EUR 3.38m)*

*Programme Update No. 2;*

*Period covered: 01 April - 30 September 2002;*

*Last Programme Update (no. 1) issued 01 July 2002*

### **IN BRIEF**

*Appeal coverage: 54%*

*Outstanding needs: 2,283,000 (USD 1.62m/EUR 1.57m)*

*Summary: Regional programmes in South East Asia moved ahead in the second and third quarters of 2002, despite funding shortages and other uncertainties. Coordination and direct support was provided to national societies across the region in disaster management, information, health and care and organisation development activities. A highlight of the reporting period was the meeting of the region's Secretaries General Forum in September, which agreed modalities for its role as a sustainable body for debate and decision, guiding Red Cross Red Crescent work in South East Asia.*

### **Operational Developments w**

During the last six months, several countries in South East Asia experienced natural disasters of a complex and significant nature. Indonesia was rocked by two major earthquakes in September and struggled simultaneously to cope with ethnic and religious conflict in several provinces throughout the world's most populous Muslim nation. The influx of tens of thousands of migrant workers returning from neighbouring countries also stretched the resources of the Indonesian Red Cross - Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI). Meanwhile, floods from seasonal monsoon rains devastated countries along the lower Mekong river, affecting people and their livelihoods in Vietnam, Myanmar and Cambodia. The Philippines was similarly affected.

World Red Cross Red Crescent Day in May, saw an increase in HIV/AIDS awareness activities among national societies in the region, focused this year on the Federation's global campaign against stigma and

discrimination. In the same month, a regional first aid competition held in the Philippines led to development of draft minimum standards for an Asian first aid certificate.

## **Disaster Management w**

The regional disaster management (DM) programme aims to strengthen capacity of the 11 national societies in the region in disaster preparedness and response, at the national, regional and global level. To achieve this, the regional DM unit developed a comprehensive, integrated and institutionalised regional cooperation mechanism that brings together DM delegates and national society managers, through the South East Asia regional DM committee (RDMC). Its work builds on the Regional Cooperation Framework, a document adopted at the second RDMC meeting in November 2001 and now formally endorsed by national societies.

As of September the regional DM team consisted of five delegates, two country-based (Indonesia and Myanmar), and three (currently two) regionally-based (Bangkok). A regional disaster response preparedness coordinator joined the team in June, and a regional disaster preparedness coordinator in August. One national programme officer from Vietnam also sits on the team.

The RDMC has identified four main objectives for the programme, and a range of activities under each objective. Sub-groups were formed for each objective and the general role of regional DM delegates is to facilitate work of the groups. Components 1-4 of the regional programme comprise the four main work areas agreed on by the RDMC; the fifth component reflects management matters.

Component/objective 1:	National Society disaster preparedness support
Component/objective 2:	Disaster response and response preparedness
Component/objective 3:	Disaster management information and knowledge sharing
Component/objective 4:	Regional institution and capacity building
Component/objective 5:	Programme management, coordination and cooperation

### **1. National Society Disaster Preparedness (DP) Support**

*Objective: The new regional coordinated and team-oriented approach to individual National Society support is understood, accepted, introduced and starting to function.*

#### **Activities & Achievements**

One element of the regional approach adopted by national societies is for DM staff of national societies to coordinate efforts for regional initiatives. In April, national societies in the lower Mekong valley sub-region attended the First Flood Forum in Phnom Penh organised by the Mekong River Commission. Responses to an extensive questionnaire were coordinated by the DM unit of the Vietnam delegation, and a presentation made on the Federation's DM and coordination systems from the global to local level.

In May, the first Federation South East and East Asia regional Sphere training was held, coordinated by the Vietnam delegation and Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC), with support of the regional DM unit. Follow up with participants was undertaken by the DM unit in September on the basis of the three-month action plans prepared by each national society.

Extensive networking was undertaken during the period including:

- Sharing of DM training materials from the Cambodian and Vietnam Red Cross societies, in the region and beyond;
- Facilitation by Cambodian and Hong Kong Red Cross in a DM workshop, organised by Myanmar Red Cross;
- Study visits in April by DM teams from Vietnam, Hong Kong and Thai Red Cross to the Cambodian Red Cross community based DM programme. In June, several Red Cross staff from Indonesia, Thailand and Hong Kong visited the Philippines Red Cross DM programme.

The regional DP coordinator visited Cambodia prior to the end of mission of the Cambodian DP delegate to ascertain an appropriate level of support for the Cambodian Red Cross and delegation. (Note: The DP delegates

in Vietnam and Cambodia both concluded their missions in the second quarter of 2002. Programme support will continue through the regional delegates and national DM staff.)

The checklist for a 'well-prepared national society', completed by all national societies, was collated and will now serve as an important tool for development planning and 'matching' capacities with needs among national societies.

In August, the DP coordinator provided support to VNRC during severe floods and storms experienced throughout the country. Preparations for a letter of understanding, with the government's Central Committee for Storm and Flood Control, was initiated and meetings held with VNRC to better clarify roles and responsibilities of the various departments during disaster response operations.

Through the RDMC meetings, and increased interaction taking place between these meetings, a strong cooperative spirit and sense of shared responsibility has developed among DM managers and delegates in the region.

## **2. Disaster Responses and Response Preparedness**

*Objective: The Federation's regional disaster response and preparedness capacity being strengthened (for the benefit of individual national societies), and the understanding of and linkages to the Federation's global response system are assured.*

Specific objectives of the programme are :

1. A mechanism for efficient and effective deployment of 'regional disaster response teams' in South East Asia being gradually developed and the field assessment and coordination team (FACT) capacity of the Federation within the region being maintained.
2. The possibilities for strengthening the emergency response unit (ERU) capacities being explored and developed accordingly.
3. Logistics development needs, including structures and resources in the region are being identified through a six-month logistics assessment to be followed by development work addressing these needs and challenges.
4. Adequate support is being provided to national societies/delegations in South East Asia in response preparedness and in times of disasters.

### **Activities & Achievements**

#### **A. Response preparedness activities**

*Policies and procedures:* Efforts were made to ensure that Federation global policies, concepts, strategies and tools in disaster response are better understood among the disaster managers and core staff in national societies, through distribution of materials, e-mail interaction, discussions at regional meetings and during disaster situations.

*Sphere and better programming initiative (BPI):* In May, the first regional Sphere training workshop was organised in Hanoi for 29 participants primarily from eight national societies, but also delegations and other organisations in the region. Action plans for the next three, six and 12 months were developed by each participating national society. The DM unit followed-up the three-month plans in September. Plans are underway to establish a regional pool of 10 Sphere trainers, through a training of trainers course in 2003.

*Contingency plans:* Systematic work to develop contingency plans for potential disasters in various national societies was initiated and generic and specific national society (Philippine National Red Cross) contingency plans distributed.

*Regional response mechanism:* The concept of a Federation regional disaster response team was introduced at the RDMC meeting in June. A working group is currently studying the concept and will draft a proposal to include examples and experiences from other regions. The Federation's DM division in Geneva has indicated its support for a training programme for the team in 2003, subject to resourcing constraints.

*Logistics:* Preparatory work was undertaken for a logistics mapping exercise of the South East Asia region and within individual national societies. The exercise will commence early next year.

*FACT and ERU:* The DM unit and RDMC together ensure Federation global concepts such as FACT and ERU are understood and integrated into regional disaster response and individual national society systems. A recent survey found that only 10 of the original 15 trained FACT members remain on the regional database. Negotiations were initiated with national societies for the terms and procedures for deployment of FACT trained staff.

## **B. Response activities**

The DM unit assisted with natural and complex disasters in seven of the 11 countries in the region, from seasonal storms and floods in the Philippines, to complex disasters (such as earthquakes in conflict areas) in Indonesia. For almost three months, the annual typhoon season that brought floods to countries along the lower Mekong river demanded daily attention from the unit. Direct support was provided to the Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar Red Cross societies during this period.

Consultations took place with the Indonesia delegation and Indonesian Red Cross, mainly focusing on earthquakes, haze from Kalimantan, and unrest in Aceh, Sulawesi, Molukus and Papua. DM managers in the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia shared information on issues related to migrant workers in the region.

National society counterparts continue to receive information and technical support from the unit including preparation of disaster situation reports and information bulletins.

### ***Constraints***

The DM unit has found it a challenge to monitor disaster trends and events in all 11 countries in the region and, at the same time, assist in disaster situations. Simply reporting on disasters in the region on a daily basis is difficult. Progress has been made, however, to convince national societies to share information on these matters. The development of greater regional capacity and a sense of shared responsibility will hopefully see changes in this respect, in the long-term. Meanwhile, efforts continue targeted at achieving and then maintaining a sound balance between proactive, development-oriented work and reactive, response-oriented work.

Furthermore a stronger 'buying in' of national societies, vis-a-vis Federation global response tools and concepts, constitutes a challenge for the regional DM team and the RDMC. The general perception in the region is that the DM unit's role lies on individual national society capacity building, rather than on matters related to the Federation's global response mechanisms.

## **3. Disaster Management Information and Knowledge Sharing**

***Objective:*** *The disaster management information systems, and the networking and knowledge sharing mechanisms within the region being improved.*

Specific objectives of the programme are:

1. The Federation's new global, web-based disaster management information system (DMIS) is established and being used by delegations and some of the national societies in the South East Asia region.
2. Knowledge sharing networks are introduced and becoming increasingly functional, both within South East Asia and in relation to the Secretariat and other regions.
3. That the efficiency of the Federation in the region during disasters is substantially improved through the provision of better coordination and service.

### ***Activities & Achievements***

The main focus was on introducing the Federation's web-based DMIS system in the region. Seven DMIS focal persons were nominated by their national societies and trained during a three-day workshop in August, organised in cooperation with Thai Red Cross and facilitators from the Federation secretariat. Since then, focal persons from five societies have provided regular information to DMIS and other Federation websites. By the end of

September, all national societies in the region had nominated a focal person for disaster information purposes. In Vietnam and Indonesia, DM information teams are being developed by the societies. The need to develop information-gathering networks has been recognised, as has the broader issue of improved DM information systems and mechanisms for knowledge sharing.

### ***Constraints***

From the individual national society perspective, DMIS does not seem particularly important. Despite, being a highly disaster prone region, nearly all disaster response work in South East Asia takes place within the individual country/national society context, using the national society's own resources and without substantial need or desire for rapid outside intervention. Political environments, rigid organisation cultures, lack of human and information technology facilities, may also constitute additional constraints. Great effort has been made by the DM unit and national society disaster managers to advocate for this kind of information in a timely, regular manner - and there are encouraging signs that this key initiative is having an effect.

## **4. Regional Institution and Capacity Building**

***Objective:*** *The Federation's Regional DM Cooperation Framework in South East Asia being maintained, sustained and further developed.*

### ***Activities & Achievements***

The main achievement to date is the formal endorsement by the secretaries general of all 11 South East Asia national societies of the Regional Cooperation Framework document on which the RDMC builds its work.

In June, 23 participants attended the fourth RDMC organised by the DM unit and hosted by Thai Red Cross. While the focus in previous meetings had been on development of the cooperation mechanism, this meeting concentrated on technical and operational matters. Participating DM managers, the DM unit and visiting observers provided reports and updates. Discussions and knowledge sharing on a range of technical matters took place and a 'visioning' exercise was carried out for the regional cooperation framework. Action plans for the next four months were drawn up. The group agreed to reduce the RDMC meetings to twice yearly.

Members of the RDMC attended the Federation's global DM consultative group meeting in Athens, and a preparatory meeting in Japan for the Red Cross Red Crescent Asia Pacific regional conference (Manila, Philippines, November 2002). Presentations were made on the regional DM framework, on both occasions.

During the reporting period, the (then) head of the unit communicated regularly with RDMC members, sharing information and knowledge on various matters. A briefing on the regional framework was made at the secretaries general forum in September.

### ***Constraints***

While programme and technical tasks to be implemented within the context of the regional framework were identified after the RDMC meeting in February, it was not until the regional coordinator positions were filled that significant progress could be made.

## **5. Programme Management, Coordination and Cooperation**

***Objective:*** *A management function for the Regional Disaster Management Programme being established and becoming functional, for the purpose of overall programme management, development, coordination, cooperation and follow-up.*

### ***Activities & Achievements***

After six months, the programme administrator for the DM unit (staff on loan from Hong Kong Red Cross) completed her contract in June. The (then) head of the unit attended to programme, staff and financial management, administration, report writing, internal meetings, external relations, briefings, and meetings with the regional DM team. The management function of the unit has been well established and is increasingly functional.

The DM programme's original budget was based on a higher resourcing, staffing and activity levels that initially envisaged and revised downwards accordingly. Even so, with the country programmes and individual national societies sharing higher than expected costs for workshops and meetings as well as the regional logistics mapping postponement until 2003, almost certainly there will be an end of year surplus.

In May, a joint DFID/Federation review of the DM unit's work and approaches both at regional and country level, was conducted. Meetings were held at the regional delegation and with representatives of the Cambodian, Thai and Philippine Red Cross societies. Besides some acknowledged concerns, the review report was generally positive and among other things stated:

*"...In particular, the work to establish a Disaster Management Cooperation framework is clearly empowering national societies, encouraging national society ownership of the network, and improving co-ordination, lesson learning and information sharing. The Southeast Asia regional delegation should ensure that adequate human resources/financial support are sought to support the framework during the critical initial stages, while encouraging it to become more locally self-sufficient. If successful, this approach could be used as a pilot for other regions."*

As well as developing its own plan and appeal for 2003, the DM unit spent considerable time assisting country delegations with their appeals, thereby assuring relevance, quality and coordination in national society DM programmes.

## **Humanitarian Values w**

***Objective 1:** Strong and well-developed communications capacity of National Societies in the region.*

### **Activities & Achievements**

*Regional communications network:* The communications strategy, initially developed by national society communicators in Bangkok in 2001, was revised by the same group during a communications network meeting in Macau in 2002, based on experience gained during the first year of implementation. Following a meeting of the network's working group in May to finalise this document and a working plan for the remainder of 2002, the revised strategy was shared with various partners and other stakeholders in June.

The working group also proposed the concept of a regional Kite campaign on World AIDS Day 2002, in support of the Federation's global campaign against HIV-related stigma and discrimination. Cooperation was sought with the regional health unit, delegations, the Asian Red Cross Red Crescent AIDS task force (ART) network and national society health departments and staff in the region. A formal proposal was made to national societies in mid-July.

Participation of the network in communications work for the Asia Pacific Red Cross Red Crescent conference in Manila was discussed. A planned meeting of the working group in September was postponed for lack of funding.

*Regional internship programme:* Red Cross communications officers from Mongolia, Philippines, Cambodia, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong and Vietnam took part in a regional internship programme in May and August (three for each session). In addition to compulsory modules, interns received training in photography, videography, events management, news writing and media relations. Feedback from participating national societies has been positive and a number of them have expressed interest in taking part in the programme later this year or in 2003.

Cooperation with the ICRC regional delegation in Bangkok regarding the internship programme has been further strengthened. Cost-sharing mechanisms have been set up. Each group of interns spends 1.5 days of the week with the ICRC attending sessions on tracing, international humanitarian law (IHL), and dissemination of IHL to the armed forces. The cooperation with ICRC has been most fruitful and constructive.

*Support to national societies:*

*East Timor:* A three-day workshop on basic concepts and skills in communications was held in East Timor in June, in cooperation with the East Timor delegation. Sixteen East Timor Red Cross (CVTL) staff and volunteers took part in this first workshop organised by the new national society. Participants produced mock versions of simple brochures and posters and drafted a plan for communications and advocacy activities for the coming year, which has since been refined.

*Lao PDR:* In August, a four-day workshop was held in Lao organised by the Lao Red Cross in cooperation with the Lao delegation. The purpose of the workshop was to increase capacity in communications work in the national society, familiarise participants with the latest Federation communications strategies, provide communicators with an understanding of modern communications, increase awareness of donor requirements for visibility, transparency and timely reporting, and link communications work to the Lao Red Cross fundraising plan. Among the main outcomes of the workshop was a basic plan of action, to be finalised over the next few months with further support from the information unit. The workshop was facilitated by the Netherlands and Australian Red Cross bilateral representatives, the Lao Red Cross communications director, and the information unit. Through the regional communications network, the Thai Red Cross fundraising department's head of public relations facilitated a session on fundraising.

*Vietnam:* Following a series of meetings and discussions with the Vietnam delegation and VNRC over the last 18 months, a communications planning workshop was organised in September. The basic content of the workshop, outlined by the regional information delegate, was polished in cooperation with the Vietnam delegation and VNRC leadership. Over 30 VNRC managers and staff including the president, former president, heads of departments and representatives of key branches participated. As only two days were allotted to the workshop (due to the hectic schedule of national society managers and staff), the event was intense but nevertheless successful. Participants showed good understanding of the need for well coordinated and planned communications work and had obviously given much thought to the national society's challenges in this area. The outcome was a basic 'skeleton' of a communications strategy, to be finalised over the next three to six months with further support from the Vietnam delegation and information unit.

*Indonesia:* Support was provided to develop the PMI communications strategy in April. The result of the meeting, held with the participation of PMI communicators, Indonesia delegation and the ICRC country delegation, was a draft working plan. This plan is being discussed and developed further at various levels in PMI. In September/October, as part of this process, a communications management workshop was organised by PMI's communications department in central Java. Representatives of 28 of PMI's 30 branches participated in the workshop, the first devoted to communications and public relations in 20 years. The Federation facilitated sessions on communications management and media relations in times of emergency, while representatives from ICRC (co-funding the workshop with the Indonesia delegation) ran sessions on communications in conflict situations.

*East Asia:* Ahead of the appointment of a regional information delegation for East Asia during mid-year, technical communications support was provided on request to the Beijing regional delegation from Bangkok. In May, a meeting held with Chinese Red Cross press representatives discussed various communications issues, including production of a Chinese version of the Movement's communicators guide. Shortly thereafter, the Federation's communications department in Geneva provided funds for a web- and CD-based translation of the guide - as one version of a substantial number of translations into various languages. The Chinese Red Cross had originally wanted to produce a printed version of the guide, for distribution to its more than 3,000 branches, but funding was available only for web or CD-based publications. At the end of the reporting period this work had commenced in Beijing. Following a visit to DPR Korea in February, the Sphere manual and accompanying video was shared between the two Korean national societies. DPR Korea Red Cross had translated the manual into Korean. The Republic of Korea National Red Cross produced a Korean language version of the training video, shared with DPR Korea through the information unit. The Federation's Sphere office in Geneva provided valuable support in this exercise.

**Objective 2** *Expanded strategic links with local and international media to secure sustained and high profile media coverage for the activities of the Federation and National Societies in the region, particularly in times of emergencies.*

#### **Activities & Achievements**

*Regional conference:* In early April, a three-day visit to the Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC) helped develop a communications plan and budget for the Asia Pacific Red Cross Red Crescent regional conference in November. The plan covered media relations, publication of a daily bulletin, production of a video on the conference's themes, and design and set-up of mini exhibits related to the sub-themes of the conference (migration, disaster management, and health and care, with special emphasis on HIV/AIDS).

*World Disasters Report launch:* Media, international organisations, foreign missions and others were alerted to the launch of the Federation World Disasters Report 2002, and the report widely distributed.

*East Asia:* During the first quarter, a communications strategy was developed for the ongoing long-term humanitarian emergency in Mongolia. A visit to Mongolia in May was the first part of implementing this strategy. Several articles were written for Asia-Pacific Focus and the Federation's website, and video footage shot on the on going vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) process in Mongolia, for a video to be used by Mongolian Red Cross, PNS, media and the Federation secretariat. Production will be finalised to fit in with the outcome of the VCA process. In April, a meeting in Beijing of officials from the national societies of Japan and DPR Korea, and representatives of their respective foreign ministries, was covered for Federation publications. The meeting discussed humanitarian issues that have impeded normalisation of relations between the two states, not least the whereabouts of about a dozen Japanese nationals presumed missing in DPR Korea since 1977, and some 260 Koreans presumed missing in Japan since the end of World War II. These talks, later continued in Pyongyang, were the start of a new era in Japanese-Korean relations. The two Red Cross societies have often been the only channel for communications between Japan and DPR Korea.

**Objective 3** *Heightened awareness of Red Cross Red Crescent activities and humanitarian values in Asia Pacific by key external stakeholders, including diplomatic missions, the corporate sector, civil authorities, NGOs, INGOs and civil society.*

#### **Activities & Achievements**

*World Red Cross Red Crescent Day:* In May the regional delegation participated in Thai Red Cross celebrations in Bangkok, setting up a photo exhibition (entitled 'Positive Lives') and an information booth on HIV/AIDS and the Federation's global campaign against stigma and discrimination. Thousands of people attended the whole day event, which received significant media coverage.

*World AIDS Day 2002 – Kite campaign:* A plan for a regional event on World AIDS Day 2002 was developed by the regional communications working group, in cooperation with the regional health unit, the ART network and others in societies around the region. The plan is to organise kite-flying events around the region on World AIDS Day, in line with the successful regional Balloon campaign in 2001, combined with the 'street art' theme developed by the Federation secretariat's HIV/AIDS unit. The concept has been warmly received by national societies in the region. At the end of the reporting period, more than 20 Asia Pacific national societies had indicated interest in participating in the regional/global event. The regional health and information units in Bangkok are jointly coordinating the event.

*Asia-Pacific Focus:* Issue 29 of Asia-Pacific Focus was published in June, chiefly focusing on the emergency in Mongolia and the global HIV/AIDS campaign. It also covered Red Cross Red Crescent operations and programmes in India, Nepal, Lao, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor, Myanmar, the Philippines, and the Pacific. About 7,000 copies were printed in English and distributed to national societies across the Asia-Pacific, PNS around the world, media, foreign missions, international organisations, INGOs, the corporate sector and others.

*'Changing Attitudes' video:* Work continued on production of a short video, tentatively titled "Changing Attitudes", dealing with HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination and Red Cross Red Crescent activities

and challenges in this field. For several reasons (including the end of mission of the information delegate in Delhi, also cooperating on the project) the video will not be completed for the Asia-Pacific conference, as planned. Cooperation with national societies, delegations, health delegates, ART members and others around the region regarding the project has been good and fruitful.

*Barcelona HIV/AIDS conference:* An extensive presentation on HIV/AIDS work in the region, including posters and a paper documenting the Federation's regional Balloon campaign of 2001, was produced for the regional health unit's participation in the Barcelona HIV/AIDS conference in July.

*Pacific:* In September, the regional information delegate visited national societies in the Pacific and gathered material for a marketing document and discussed initiatives for promoting the 2003 Pacific appeal. At the same time, the 2000 version of the Pacific 'profile' (outlining the work of national societies and the Federation), was updated and material gathered for other publications. Options are being examined for developing communications capacity/expertise to be available to Pacific national societies from within this region itself.

***Objective 4 Integration of communications components into all regional/national programmes.***

#### ***Activities & Achievements***

*DMIS workshop:* In September, a session on media relations and communications work during emergencies was conducted at a regional DMIS workshop in Bangkok. Representatives of most national societies in the region took part in the workshop, co-organised by the regional DM unit and the Federation disaster management coordination division in Geneva.

*Regional secretaries general forum:* In September, a presentation on regional communications and the 'communications culture' was made to South East Asia secretaries-general, at a forum organised by the regional delegation in Bangkok.

*Corporate identity:* Templates for reports and publications, based on the Federation 'corporate identity' manual, were produced for technical units in Bangkok.

***Objective 5 Effective coordination of communications activities and projects in Asia-Pacific as leader of the Asia-Pacific Regional Information Unit.***

#### ***Activities & Achievements***

Cooperation with the regional information delegate in New Delhi and his colleagues continues to be constructive and productive. A regional information delegate for East Asia has been assigned in Beijing, a development that will allow the regional information unit to devote more time to the South East Asia sub-region. Efforts are still underway to identify suitable communications capacity for the Pacific.

#### ***Constraints***

The funding situation has become increasingly critical, as some funds expected for 2002 - based on the resourcing of the 2001 programme - have not been forthcoming. Given this situation, both regional information officers left the unit at the end of their contracts. For the last quarter of 2002 the information unit will be staffed by the delegate alone and a number of planned activities have already been postponed.

## **Health and Care w**

### **Regional Health Unit Evaluation**

A comprehensive three-month evaluation of the regional health programme was conducted in March 2002. Overall, the evaluation found the regional health unit (from 1998 to 2001) had implemented a programme that was relevant and coherent within Federation policy and guidelines, by operating as a support and facilitation unit for all member national societies in the region.

The unit had been very active and productive, undertaking traditional Red Cross programmes (such as blood, community based first aid , health in emergencies) as well as crosscutting programmes in human capacity building and health information and technical support.

The evaluation listed the main roles of the unit as being:

- Agent of the Federation
- Facilitator of capacity building
- Adviser to improve national society health programmes
- Promoter of health programmes and approaches

It found the unit had succeeded well in its roles as agent and promoter, but needs to improve as adviser and facilitator. It identified two factors as serious constraints:

1. Large and diverse region, making it difficult to match regional approaches with the needs of individual national societies. The size of the region also makes it difficult to achieve good and equal coverage of all countries.
2. Lack of clear guidelines, standards, or agreed working mechanisms for collaboration between the Federation secretariat and the field, as well as for the interrelationships between units within the regional delegation, and for relations with country delegations and PNS.

These constraints are referred to repeatedly and, in many ways, have affected the work of the unit explaining some of the difficulties encountered.

### ***Main findings***

The evaluation concentrated on the following aspects of the programme:

- Coverage
- Relevance and coherence
- Interconnectedness
- Effectiveness
- Monitoring, evaluation, documentation and reporting

In terms of coverage, the evaluation found that although the unit had chosen to focus on less-developed countries and countries with Federation delegations, generally all national societies had been involved. Many workshops, for example, were all-inclusive ('everything for everybody') and overwhelming for some national societies. Others reportedly felt 'left-out' and voiced a hope that the unit would 'get to know them, their situations and needs better'. The size of the region, however, makes it difficult to provide full support to all national societies, even when targeting less-developed countries.

The issue of relevance had been addressed by the unit through workshops and networks, formation of a regional health team and other information sharing events. Regional workshops had been central for determining priorities and needs, but because of variable national society response, and sometimes inappropriate national society representation, were not always appropriate venues for assessment and planning. The evaluation concluded that there is a need for further tailoring of activities to account for regional diversity and size. In terms of coherence, the programme was found to be fully consistent with the strategic guidelines and selected priorities of Strategy 2010 and the Hanoi Declaration.

The evaluation concluded that 'interconnectedness' is an area that needs attention by the Federation as a whole. It is, however, also an area that requires attention specifically by the unit with its history of vertical, insular programmes. Some means for 'interconnectedness' at the regional level have been established through the regional health team, networks, workshops and meetings, and through the regional health newsletter.

Effectiveness was assessed in terms of capacity building and while the evaluation commended the strong emphasis placed on human capacity building, information sharing and technical support, it also identified a number of shortcomings. Workshops and training courses were criticised for being too few and far between (for

individual programmes), too frequent (for the overall programme), too academic, and for not being part of a continuous development process. There were clear indications of improvements in some national societies, but the broad and disconnected efforts of the human capacity building programme tended to raise more expectations than it met.

The unit had been extraordinarily productive in its outputs and its professionalism widely recognised. Reporting and documentation were of very high standard. However, aside from the detailed documentation of the unit's own work, there was a lack of data collection and use for ongoing monitoring and impact evaluation.

### ***Summary of main recommendations***

1. The unit should reduce its direct involvement in vertical programs and rather emphasise facilitation and advice, while transferring increased responsibility to national societies. Focus should be on organisational development and human capacity building. Networks are suggested as promising means for targeting participation according to needs and for increasing national society roles and responsibilities.
2. Long-term planning involving all concerned parties is strongly recommended, even with shorter budget cycles. Strategy 2010 largely deals with long-term development issues that cannot be addressed through episodic interventions. It is suggested to have a five-year strategic plan, a three-year implementation plan, and an annual management plan.
3. The Federation secretariat should provide clear guidelines and mechanisms for the various units in regional delegations, national societies, country delegations and PNS, in order to improve their 'interconnectedness' and ensure appropriate coverage. The lines of communication and authority need to be simplified and roles and responsibilities clarified. The regional delegation should aim at better integration of regional units.
4. National societies need to take more responsibility when defining what support they want from the unit, and to show increased commitment by participating in activities requested.
5. In general PNS do not wish to be seen as 'donors' and consequently it is important they do not act as such. There were several indications of limitations imposed by PNS on the type of funding that could be made available, indicating a lack of appreciation of the issues involved in the unit support programme. It is important that PNS be included in dialogues on directions and approaches to achieve a common understanding.
6. There is a need to provide for ongoing monitoring and evaluation as an integral part of the programs and projects, and for increased focus on impact rather than outputs.

### **Human Capacity Building in Health**

The human capacity building programme is a crosscutting component of the regional assistance strategy (RAS) for health in South East and East Asia. It is the centrepiece of all technical programs in health. The programme was developed in 1998, in a meeting where urgent and critical issues related to human resources and capacities within the existing health programmes were discussed with national societies. The strategic health planning seminar in April 1998 identified areas within national society health programmes that could be supported and further strengthened with support by the regional health unit, the starting point in defining the goal, objectives and activities of this programme.

Since then, the programme has assisted national societies in capacity building through regional workshops on strategic planning, emergency assessment and response, health trends and surveillance, and quality health management. It has also supported/facilitated national society health strategic planning workshops, given scholarships to national society health staff for international conferences and a tailor-made health management course, provided the advice of health experts and other resource persons and promoted interaction and networking among national society health managers.

***Objective 1*** Key national society health managers/key staff equipped with adequate managerial and technical skills to design, implement and evaluate health programmes.

### ***Activities & Achievements***

Initial steps were taken by the unit to develop 'best practice' guidelines and stories in health, from national societies. Comments on the guidelines were made by identified individuals from regional national societies, programme units, and country delegations. Feedback was received from the Myanmar delegation, Singapore Red Cross and colleagues from within the unit. The selection of 'best practice' cases was discussed with the Philippine National Red Cross. The Hainan branch, Chinese Red Cross, confirmed interest in the guidelines.

***Objective 2** A system for the effective utilisation of experts and resource persons of national societies within and outside the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.*

#### **Activities & Achievements**

A list of 253 health experts in the region was compiled through information sent to the health unit. 'Skills mapping' guidelines were sent to contacts in national societies' human resources department, to confirm them as 'skills mapping' focal persons and to further gauge comments on the guidelines. A regional database was designed to include people with specific health skills and to identify national society staff/individuals wanting to further develop skills through international experience or skills training seminars.

***Objective 3** A regional network for information and experience sharing, and advocacy among national societies, country delegations and the regional delegation.*

#### **Activities & Achievements**

Issue seven of the regional health newsletter was published and the next issue is under preparation.

***Objective 4** Technical and resource support systems for national societies, country delegations and regional initiatives in the field of health.*

#### **Activities & Achievements**

Reports on the Health in Emergencies workshop and First Aid competition were prepared, but printing and distribution delayed due to funding constraints. Recent additional funding will allow these activities to take place in the last quarter of 2002. One staff member from the unit attended a workshop on regional health trends in Manila.

### **First Aid**

All national societies in South East and East Asia have first aid programmes, in an effort to contribute to the prevention of disease, reduce injuries and accidents, and transfer skills to local communities. With rapidly changing demographic patterns, programmes need to be sensitive to changing environmental and health situations and ensure quality through minimum standards in curriculum, techniques and training programmes. To ensure this is carried out effectively and efficiently, national society first aid managers need to strengthen their technical and managerial skills.

The health unit initiated the regional first aid programme to assist national societies facilitate changes through regional initiatives, jointly-developed with national society first aid managers. While the programme supports capacity building, technical support, and networking and information sharing, it also facilitates development of minimum standards to ensure quality of first aid training programmes across Asia.

***Objective 1** Key national society first aid programme managers/key staff equipped with adequate managerial and technical skills to design, implement and evaluate first aid programmes.*

#### **Activities & Achievements**

Results of the pilot community-based health programmes of Cambodian Red Cross were reviewed, together with the Cambodia delegation. The unit assisted the East Timor Red Cross develop a comprehensive first aid project proposal and subsequently the Korean Red Cross agreed to fund the project for two-years.

***Objective 2** A system for the effective utilisation of First Aid experts and resource persons within and outside the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.*

**Activities & Achievements**

Relevant information was submitted to develop the regional 'skills mapping' computer database.

**Objective 3** *A regional network for information and experience sharing, and promotion of first aid***Activities & Achievements**

The regional first aid competition was held in Manila in April. The competition was organised by Red Cross staff and volunteers in the Philippines and Hong Kong, supported by the health unit. Ten national societies in South East and East Asia participated, testing knowledge and competencies in the delivery of first aid through quizzes, relays, and test scenarios. Draft minimum standards of the Asian basic first aid certificate and previous guidelines on first aid and HIV/AIDS were key references for the competition. The competition included exhibits of various products, materials and activities developed by national societies and a half-day seminar on first aid developments.

An unprecedented component of the competition was inclusion of 'community-based' approaches during test scenarios, marked on the competence of teams in needs assessment and case management, identification of risk behaviour and the introduction of prevention measures at individual, family and community levels.

**Objective 4** *A set of minimum standards for quality assurance in the field of first aid in the region***Activities & Achievements**

The unit facilitated the first aid working committee meeting in April. The second round of consultations with national societies on revised draft standards and recommended validation and conversion processes is planned. A draft information pack summarising standards and validation/conversion processes is under development.

**Health in Emergencies**

Countries in the region have developed capacity in understanding the pathogenesis, surveillance and management of diseases and problems affecting public health. However, most of these countries are at different levels of socio-economic and human development, and regularly experience disasters or face political, religious and ethnic upheavals. Most national societies in the region have operational disaster management programmes, well placed and highly-regarded in-country. These are designed to address natural disasters and conflicts, but are yet to be adjusted to respond to disease outbreaks and epidemics. These programmes also have limited or no input from national society health departments, though observations show an increase in health components in disasters.

The programme is designed to support national societies develop emergency health preparedness and response capacity, to enable them to address public health issues in the aftermath of a disaster or other public health crises.

**Objective 1** *Improved capacity of national society health departments and assigned emergency health staff to assist communities in addressing health problems/issues during disasters or disease outbreaks.***Activities & Achievements**

The unit facilitated a meeting of the health emergencies working group in June, linked to the RDMC committee meeting. The group is composed of representatives from the Red Cross societies of Cambodia, China, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. A detailed report of the health emergencies training workshop, conducted in late 2001, was finalised in May and distributed to national societies.

**Objective 2** *Improved capacity of the Federation to provide technical support, facilitate and to coordinate national society emergency health programmes and response operations.***Activities & Achievements**

Between April and June, the health unit assisted PMI with floods in Jakarta, and the surge of dengue and malaria cases. It also coordinated with the Philippine National Red Cross following an earthquake in southern Mindanao.

On going disaster monitoring and disease surveillance was undertaken through contacts with relevant authorities and information sources such as ReliefWeb, ProMed, and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Support was provided the Asian Development Preparedness Centre for its training programme for health authorities in Asia through the health emergencies field library, and the British Department for International Development (DFID) in connection with the review of the DFID/Federation partnership.

Within the regional delegation, informal discussions continued on establishing working arrangements that allow for integrated assistance to national societies in terms of emergency response. One result was cooperation with the DM unit on the Sphere workshop in May, providing inputs to workshop design and selection of participants. The programme also provided technical advice on a disaster assessment form, developed by Cambodian Red Cross. In June, the programme officer participated in a FACT refresher course in France.

### **HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health**

The HIV/AIDS epidemiological situation in South East Asia has become increasingly dramatic. In an effort to help address the pandemic, Red Cross Red Crescent national societies initiated awareness and advocacy campaigns in communities and specific high-risk groups, and home-based care programmes for affected people and their families. The unit, in assisting national societies strengthen capacity to develop and deliver better programmes on HIV/AIDS, helped set up the Asian Red Cross Red Crescent AIDS task force (ART) in 1994, and provides continuous technical and resource support for the achievement of its vision, mission and goals.

***Objective 1** Technical and resource support systems for the ART Secretariat in supporting ART members to implement the programmes of the Task Force.*

#### **Activities & Achievements**

In May, the 15<sup>th</sup> ART meeting was conducted in Nepal. Several new members joined the network and, for the first time, the Singapore and the Japanese Red Cross societies attended as observers. Contributions from the two national societies were highly beneficial.

Extensive and fruitful discussions were held on the involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in programmes run by national societies. The content and quality of discussions were significantly improved compared to previous meetings. Informal networking and information sharing with participants from the South Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA) expanded ART members' understanding and knowledge on HIV/AIDS issues in the Asia Pacific region.

A three-days skills building workshop was conducted in conjunction with the ART and SARHNA meetings. The workshop focused on HIV/AIDS discrimination issues, advocacy campaigns and how to involve PLWHA in HIV/AIDS programmes. The workshop was facilitated by the Federation's advocacy department in Geneva.

A writing skills workshop was conducted for ART members, useful to improve the quality of the ART newsletter. The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the newsletter was distributed at the meeting. Twelve ART members submitted draft text for a promotional brochure on HIV/AIDS to the Federation secretariat.

Health unit staff and the ART secretariat attended the Australian Red Cross Mekong sub-regional HIV/AIDS network meeting (ARCSAN) and workshop in September. The respective roles of ART and ARCSAN was discussed as well as ideas on future cooperation. The meeting/workshop strengthened the partnership between the two networks and clarified their roles, objectives and responsibilities.

***Objective 2** A system for health data and health-related data collection and analysis in the field of HIV/AIDS/STDs as a basis for strategy development in specific country/risk group situations for national societies and country delegations.*

**Activities & Achievements**

The health unit continued discussions with the UNAIDS Asia Pacific inter-country team (APICT) for possible cooperation between the regional delegation and UNAIDS APICT. A joint letter was drafted, to chairmen of UN country theme groups and secretaries general of the region's national societies, to encourage cooperation at national society level.

The newly appointed UNAIDS delegate to Myanmar visited the regional delegation in June and met with heads of the health and information units. The possibility of future cooperation, especially in the field of HIV/AIDS advocacy and anti-discrimination, was discussed.

*Objective 3 Increase awareness for the prevention of discrimination and stigmatisation against people living with HIV/AIDS.*

**Activities & Achievements**

As part of the Federation's global HIV/AIDS campaign on World Red Cross Red Crescent Day in May, the health and information units organised a photo exhibition titled 'Positive Lives', in cooperation with the Thai Red Cross AIDS research centre and ART secretariat. The event was well attended by Thai celebrities and the local media. Several other national societies in the region also participated in the HIV/AIDS global campaign.

For World AIDS Day 2002, some 25 national societies in the Asia Pacific region agreed to take part in a regional Kite campaign, an initiative of the regional communications network. In partnership with the Thai Business Coalition on AIDS, all campaign materials will be produced by PLWHA in the region.

*Objective 4 ART members capable of implementing and supporting HIV/AIDS related programmes.*

**Activities & Achievements**

Federation scholarships enabled Red Cross societies from Cambodia, China, Laos and Thailand to present abstracts at the international HIV/AIDS conference in Barcelona in July. The unit also supported Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam Red Cross societies develop and submit project proposals to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund for HIV/AIDS activities in their countries.

**Blood**

National societies identified key issues for the programme to include: blood governance, national policy development and advocacy; voluntary, non-remunerated donor recruitment and blood screening standards, internal management, quality management and assurance. In the past, these areas were addressed largely through uncoordinated, isolated Federation and bilateral initiatives. In October 2000, blood managers from various national societies revisited these issues during a workshop on voluntary blood donor recruitment in Singapore. Since 2001, the programme has focused on developing two types of regional blood bodies - the blood donor recruitment network and the blood advisory group.

*Objective 1 Key national society blood managers equipped with necessary managerial and technical skills to provide blood programmes of adequate quality.*

**Activities & Achievements**

The manual on non-remunerated voluntary blood donor recruitment was distributed to national societies in September.

*Objective 2 A communication network amongst national society blood managers for information and experience sharing in the fields of policy, donor recruitment, counselling and other issues.*

**Activities & Achievements**

The regional health newsletter continues to run articles on issues related to blood. Information is also shared with the WHO.

**Objective 3** *A system for the effective utilisation of expertise and resource person in blood within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.*

#### **Activities & Achievements**

In May plans commenced for the second regional advisory group and blood donor recruitment group meeting. Funding constraints and the lack of opportunity to combine it with other regional blood forums, has postponed the meeting.

#### **Water and Sanitation**

Lack of access to clean water and adequate sanitation continues to have a significant impact on public health in South East and East Asia. In this respect, national societies in the region have different approaches to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. Most programmes conducted by national societies have adopted an integrated approach, with health related activities such as community based first aid and primary health care.

**Objective 1** *Key national society water and sanitation personnel equipped with adequate managerial and technical skills to design and implement programmes and a response to water and sanitation needs in emergencies.*

#### **Activities & Achievements**

Regional water and sanitation training for 25 participants from South East and East Asia national societies was conducted in June. Training was facilitated by the unit, with support from ICRC and the International Water and Sanitation Centre Netherlands, co-hosted by Lao Red Cross. Topics covered water and sanitation, sustainability issues and community monitoring. Resources and reference materials, including a Federation CD-ROM on health and care and a catalogue on standardised equipment for emergencies, were distributed to participants.

Following the workshop, two national societies (Indonesia and East Timor) adopted participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) as a tool for programme activities. In Indonesia, the PHAST manual is being translated into Bahasa Indonesia.

**Objective 2** *To establish a regional network for information and experience sharing, and advocacy among all stakeholders in the field of water and sanitation.*

#### **Activities & Achievements**

Discussions were held with International Development Enterprises on their household filtration units and its use by the Vietnam Red Cross DP programme in the Mekong Delta. The programme officer participated in various technical discussion groups and e-conferences.

**Objective 3** *Improve the capacity of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the region to provide adequate technical resources and support to national societies' water and sanitation activities.*

#### **Activities & Achievements**

Technical support was provided as follows::

- Austrian Red Cross - facilitator for water and sanitation ERU unit training.
- Regional DM unit - facilitator for Sphere training.
- DPR Korea delegation - European Commission (ECHO) reporting.
- China regional delegation - establishing links to potential water and sanitation suppliers (for provincial floods).
- Cambodia Red Cross and Cambodia delegation - evaluation of the response to the 2001 floods.
- Indonesian Red Cross - plans for training 12 branch personnel in community based first aid development and implementation.
- Vietnam Red Cross - development of a proposal for water sanitation support to flood affected families in the Mekong Delta.
- DPR Korea - development of terms of reference for a water sanitation review.

## **Health Information System and Technical Support**

Global, regional, national and local surveillance, monitoring and early-warning systems alert the Red Cross Red Crescent to impending threats to health, allowing appropriate actions to be taken. Currently, capacity within some national societies to compile and analyse relevant health information for strategic health planning and programme implementation is less than sufficient. This includes means to identify regional trends or transborder issues in health. The potential for joint action/programmes in the field of health is thus limited.

Besides fostering and enabling bilateral/sub-regional/regional collaboration, and providing information for emerging health issues, the programme aims at assisting national societies identify trends early on and react proactively to emerging health threats.

***Objective 1** Establish a user-friendly system for country delegations and national societies to request and access required information on health trends and technical information for use in their programmes.*

### **Activities & Achievements**

Technical information on health related matters continues to be provided upon request to national societies and Federation country delegations.

***Objective 2** A system for health data collection, analysis and dissemination for national societies and country delegations.*

### **Activities & Achievements**

The health unit continuously monitors health trends, issues and outbreaks in the region through various information sources and links with organisations such as the WHO. Relevant information is disseminated to country delegations and national societies for appropriate action.

***Objective 3** A formal/informal network for health information sharing and exchange for national societies within and outside the Red Cross Red Crescent network.*

### **Activities & Achievements**

A section on health trends and surveillance was introduced in the regional health newsletter.

***Objective 4** Improve the capacity of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the regions to provide adequate technical, resources and support to NSs health programmes.*

### **Activities & Achievements**

The unit is assisting the Federation secretariat's health department prepare for a regional health team meeting in December.

## **Psychological Support Programme**

Unlike much of the developed world - where infrastructure provides easy accessibility for individuals in need of psychological support - in South East Asia families play a vital role in providing care to family members in need of similar support. In some cultures in the region, the need for psychological support is not recognised through fear of potential discrimination in society.

Psychological support is seen as an integral part of the social welfare programme in many national societies and requests have been made to the Federation to establish such programmes in the region. In 2002 the health unit planned to launch such a programme. Due to funding as well as human resources constraints the programme has not yet been initiated.

## **Organisational Development w**

Since late 1998 the regional organisational development (OD) programme, in close cooperation with country delegations, has addressed issues related to governance and management, organisational foundation, and the regional delegate recruitment and training programme. Along with feedback from national societies, the 2001 regional OD review identified an increasing need for support in the areas of resource development, regional knowledge sharing, project planning and management, branch development, youth, volunteering and gender. National societies have also indicated the need for more country-focused human resources support.

**Objective 1** *National societies in the region demonstrate significant improvements in their basic foundation.*

### **Activities & Achievements**

*Third regional OD core group meeting:* Since November 2001, regional OD practitioners have met with the view to build a group of OD ‘specialists’ within the Red Cross Red Crescent in the region. During the third OD core group meeting in June, the group agreed to broaden participation to include national society OD practitioners, and discussed the future creation of a regional OD forum.

The regional OD evaluation process and its recommendations were reviewed by the group, which concluded the recommendations were far too general but agreed to work towards them in spirit. Financial resource development was the main theme of the meeting. The Laos delegation has developed a fact file on resource development, the first step towards compiling a comprehensive regional document. Branch development was identified as a theme for discussion during the fourth meeting. The group strongly felt the need for a structured forum for the secretaries general of South East Asian national societies, to take ownership of various regional networks.

*Regional OD course:* In June, the Federation’s OD department in Geneva conducted an OD course in Bangkok. Practitioners from several regions attended the course and were trained to run similar courses either in their respective countries or in the region. Half of the course participants were from South East Asia.

Overall, participants found the course highly satisfactory and appreciated the role of external facilitators and the mix of Geneva-based and regional facilitators. Feedback from the course clearly showed participants felt better equipped to identify, assist and address problems at the national society level. The course was an excellent forum to share experiences and tools for change management and to increase awareness on issues related to organisational change.

*Counterparts in relief and development workshop:* The workshop was originally an initiative of the British Red Cross to provide a platform for delegates to reflect on and understand the relationship with their counterparts, for instance in national societies. The workshop was organised by the Federation secretariat and regional OD unit, hosted by the Malaysian Red Crescent (MRCS). Participants included locally-employed staff of the Federation, Federation delegates from across the globe and national society representatives.

Topics covered included exploring working relationships, issues in counterpart relationships, working with other people and communications for working together. Among the key outcomes of the workshop:

- The relationship between delegates and national society counterparts is of key importance to the success of the Red Cross Red Crescent’s work.
- Participants were provided with a range of tools and ideas to enable them to nurture relationships and exchange knowledge and skills more effectively and efficiently.
- Participants put in practice what they learnt and shared during the week through a visit to MRCS.
- Participants identified their personal profile and work preferences, enabling them to first understand themselves and then others.
- Lessons learnt are applicable to both professional and personal relationships.

*National society statutes:* The most recent versions of Red Cross Red Crescent statutes from ten of the region’s national societies are now under legal review by ICRC Bangkok. Based on the outcome, the Federation and ICRC will offer formal assistance to revise national society statutes.

*National society self-assessment:* The regional OD unit has facilitated a self-assessment process of four national societies (Laos, Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam) this year. The results are being analysed in Geneva and will be forwarded with specific recommendations. In past years, the Philippine, Myanmar, Cambodian and Indonesian Red Cross societies have participated in the process.

**Objective 2** *National societies with significantly enhanced leadership and management skills.*

### **Activities & Achievements**

*Secretaries general forum:* A major highlight during the reporting period was the secretaries general forum, attended by 10 of the region's 11 national societies in September. This two-day meeting took stock of regional cooperation and finalised rules and procedures for the forum. It further strengthened regional cooperation through various national society networks making them accountable to the forum. All the secretaries general agreed to appoint OD focal points in their national society. To ensure consistency and continuity, the forum secretariat will remain at the regional delegation. The OD unit will support this function on behalf the head of regional delegation.

*Regional delegation direct support:* Contacts were established with the Malaysian Red Crescent and Singapore Red Cross. A close working relationship has been developed with Thai Red Cross; their participation in and support of various regional programmes during this period has been most encouraging

The OD team's visit to PNRC in August served as a platform for exchange of information and more importantly cleared the way to work together in the future. The following issues were discussed.

1. *Past and current roles and responsibilities of the regional delegation:* In general, the national society stated it does not feel part of the regional delegation - the absence of a delegation in-country may contribute to this. Support from the Federation to PNRC needs significant improvement. PNRC suggested the appointment of focal persons in the regional delegation covering countries with no delegations as one way to improve communications. Strong involvement at the technical level, between PNRC departments and the regional health, disaster and communications units, continues. In the past, the OD unit had direct link with PNRC's secretary general; an OD focal person will now provide the link.
2. *Governance and management:* Much has been achieved since PNRC's strategic planning workshop in 2000. Board members and management staff were assigned to task forces that dealt with matters of priority (including human resources, governance and financial resource development), resulting in specific recommendations for change in these areas. Roles and responsibilities between governance and management are also better understood but room for improvement exists. A refresher course in governance/management is planned for early 2003, to assess the current situation and map a future course of action.
3. *Resource development training:* PNRC has requested technical and financial support from the regional delegation for 2003. Its human resources systems are one of the most established one in this region, from which sister societies can certainly draw expertise. Senior managers in the region are encouraged to join PNRC on study visits or on-the-job training. The national society provides comprehensive training at all levels, both in technical and basic management training; it also runs a management development programme to create potential managers. The OD unit is keen to introduce this programme to other national societies. A new head was recently appointed to the fund generation department.

*Cruz Vermelha Timor Leste (CVTL):* The East Timor Red Cross has made a modest but important progress during 2002. The OD unit has provided guidance to establish a new governance structure and new administrative systems and structures for the national society. With significant increase to staff numbers, standard recruitment procedures and salary systems need to be put in place quickly.

*East Asia:* Through the China delegation, sessions on a capacity building framework, characteristics of well functioning national society, and governance and management, were facilitated during the first leadership course organised by Chinese Red Cross. Assistance was also provided to DPR Korea Red Cross to revise its

2002 OD plan, facilitate an OD workshop in-country and the visit of the national society to Red Cross societies in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam. DPR Korea Red Cross saw major developments with the appointment of a new secretary general and deputy secretary general, both of whom attended the OD course in June.

**Objectives 3** *National Societies with strengthened programme management capabilities.*

### **Activities & Achievements**

*The regional delegate recruitment and training programme (BTC):* Interest in the programme, an essential element of many national society organisational development processes, continues to rise. Several national societies in the region have conducted their own in-country BTC. In April 2003, Singapore Red Cross will hold its first BTC, supported by the OD unit and Federation BTC coordinator in Geneva through selection of participants, training and reading materials, course content, and resource persons.

*Myanmar branch development officer:* The unit assisted the Myanmar delegation recruit a branch development officer, to carry out an extensive branch survey in the country and help build a foundation for future capacity building support to the Myanmar Red Cross.

*Gender pilot project:* Funds for gender programmes in the region, unused in the past two years, will now be managed by the OD unit for a pilot gender project in Cambodia. The Cambodian Red Cross will lead the process with close support from the Cambodia delegation. Overall management will be provided by the regional OD unit.

*Resource development/fundraising:* A South East Asia income generation fact file, based on data by OD practitioners and led by the Lao delegation, is being compiled. The file comprises national society activities in income generation (successes and failures), potential resource persons, and potential donors/sponsors of OD and resource development initiatives. Other national societies and delegations in the region are being encouraged to add to the document. During the secretaries general forum resource development was raised as a programme that requires Federation support.

*Strategy for the Movement:* Together with the ICRC regional delegation, the Federation has developed a plan for implementation of the Movement's strategy in the region. Identified within the plan are capacity building of national societies, training of Red Cross Red Crescent leaders, protecting the integrity and compliance of the fundamental principles, review of national society statutes, improved emergency response coordination, regional trend analysis, the Seville Agreement, respect for the emblem, public image and relations with political and military actors in the region.

*Asia Pacific Youth Network:* In July/August, the OD unit helped national societies in the region participate in the Asia Pacific Youth Network meeting in Seoul. More than 50 participants attended the meeting to exchange a wide range of experiences and discuss the roles, function and management of the network. Further discussions focused on bioethics and environmental protection.

### **Constraints**

The funding situation in the OD unit has been precarious since the beginning of the year. Substantial time was spent by the delegate securing a reasonable level of funding for programmes. As a result, many planned activities were postponed to the last quarter of 2002. The OD delegate also took on the additional role of interim head of regional delegation for a six-week period. While this added responsibility proved an invaluable experience, there was an effect on the OD functions.

BTC facilitators have indicated the quality of candidates selected for training leaves much to be desired. Focal persons at national societies, specially trained for selection of BTC candidates, are either no longer in the same job or have left the organisation. There is a clear need to improve the mechanism of BTC selection.

### **Regional Cooperation w**

As indicated earlier in this report, in September, the South East Asia national societies Secretaries General Forum was held in Bangkok. The main objectives were to review resolutions of previous secretaries general meetings (Phnom Penh, 2001 and Jakarta, March 2002) and to agree on next steps to be taken by national societies and Federation delegations.

The meeting further strengthened regional cooperation through various national society networks, by ensuring these networks are accountable to the forum. Besides taking stock of regional cooperation, the forum adopted new rules and procedures and agreed it should be sustained as an institution. The chairmanship of the forum also pledged to remain active in between meetings. Furthermore it was agreed that the South East Asia regional delegation become the permanent bureau of the forum.

## **Coordination and Management w**

***Objective 1** Strategically managed and coordinated country & regional delegations and other Secretariat activities in the region.*

### **Activities & Achievements**

*Changes in senior management:* The reporting period saw a change in leadership at the South East Asia regional delegation, with the arrival of a new head of delegation in July. Prior to his appointment, the regional OD delegate assumed responsibility as interim head of the delegation for six weeks. The Cambodia delegation also welcomed a new head of delegation in June, following the departure of the former head after four years.

*Heads of delegation meeting:* Regional heads of delegation met in May to discuss the Federation's change process, a useful first step for the team to discuss conceptual approaches in the context of current realities. In August, the team met to discuss the 2003 appeal process for the region in order to produce coordinated Federation country and regional appeals.

*Strategic planning:* Regional heads of delegation commented on the draft plan of the Asia Pacific department to regionalise and streamline structures.

*Reporting lines:* As of September, reporting lines for the regional finance unit Kuala Lumpur, covering the entire Asia Pacific region, were changed from the head of South East Asia regional delegation to the head of the Federation's Asia Pacific department in Geneva. This change more closely reflects the responsibilities of the unit.

### **Constraints**

The interval between departure of the former head of regional delegation in May and placement of the incoming head in mid-July, was a major constraint for effective management and a drawback to strategic planning in the region.

***Objective 2** The development and management by June 2002 of a Regional Assistance Strategy for South East Asia.*

### **Activities & Achievements**

The region's secretaries-general agreed during their Jakarta forum in March to develop a formal regional strategy and will set a revised target date in due course.

***Objective 3** Coordinated work from the regional technical units and their country technical delegates*

### **Activities & Achievements**

Coordination between regional and country technical units has gradually intensified, more so since country delegations started reporting to the regional delegation in late 2001. Close coordination between country delegation technical units and their respective regional technical unit was crucial in preparation of the 2003 Federation appeals. With the overall number of technical staff in the region reduced, regional technical units now

provide more intensive services to country delegations. For instance, the regional disaster management unit now manages certain aspects of the DM programme in Cambodia and Vietnam.

**Objective 4** *A financially well-managed regional delegation that does not go into unacceptable financial deficit.*

#### **Activities & Achievements**

A poor mid-year financial outlook led the regional delegation to take a number of strong measures to reduce its deficit. The regional funding and planning unit was scaled down to a single reporting officer. The position was vacant for three months and will be filled in the next quarter. Two programme officers left the regional information unit at the end of August, now manned by the delegate alone. The administration unit was also reduced by two people, the assistant to the head of regional delegation position was cut and the information technology function outsourced. Due to lack of funding several cuts were made to programmes; the regional health programme continued to run but on zero spending except for legal commitments. By the end of September there was evidence of an overall reduction in the regional delegation's deficit. Though the health and information units, as well as regional delegation's core costs, remain in deficit, it is anticipated that these can be further reduced by the end of the year.

#### **Constraints**

Cost cutting measures resulted in a reduction of the regional delegation's planning, management and fundraising capacities. Much of this work has had to be taken over by the new regional head of delegation who would otherwise focus attention on other programme issues.

**Objective 5** *An efficient information technology system which allows for effective communication and data flow across the regional team and with the Secretariat in Geneva.*

#### **Activities & Achievements**

The idea of a regional website was abandoned as sufficient access to information on the Movement is available through other sources, such as the Federation's website. The Federation's e-mail system continues to improve work efficiency. However, limited e-mail/internet access in some countries in the region still poses a hindrance to effective communication and measures are needed to address this.

**Objective 6** *Major improvements in financial awareness, responsibility, control and reporting, throughout the Asia Pacific region.*

#### **Activities & Achievements**

In September, Asia Pacific heads of regional delegation and the head of the Asia Pacific department in Geneva met in Kuala Lumpur to discuss steps to reduce costs regionally and to streamline the Asia Pacific regional structure. Outcomes of the discussion were incorporated into the Asia Pacific regional implementation plan for the change strategy and have been reflected in the 2003 appeal.

**Objective 7** *Effective representation and advocacy of the Federation and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in South East Asia and specifically with regional bodies represented in the region.*

#### **Activities & Achievements**

In August, the regional head of delegation presented a paper on the Federation's disaster response system at the Humanitarian Relief Conference in Singapore.

Regional technical units and the regional head of delegation continue to establish contacts and maintain working relations with other organisations in the region. During the reporting period, the health unit met regularly with UNAIDS and UNESCAP while the DM unit attended monthly interagency meeting with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre. The new head of regional delegation has made initial contact with several ambassadors and heads of international organisations in Thailand.

**Objective 8** *Harmonious and close working relations with ICRC across the region.*

**Activities & Achievements**

Regular meetings were held between the Federation (regional head of delegation and OD delegate) and the ICRC deputy head of regional delegation and cooperation delegate. These meetings have allowed the two delegations to keep each other updated on various issues. In September, ICRC attended the South East Asia secretaries-general meeting and shared steps taken regarding the Strategy for the Movement.

The ICRC and regional information unit continue to cooperate on the regional communications internship programme, with interns from six national societies attending the one-week programme in May and August.

As in 2002, the regional partnership meeting in 2003 will be co-funded by the ICRC and Federation South East Asia delegation.

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

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

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Director,  
Division of External Relations

Simon Missiri  
Head  
Asia Pacific Department

South East Asia regional						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.30/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED				27.12.2002
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>4'909'189</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 53.5%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				431'632		
Programme support				343'080		
Programme support RFU				379'760		
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT/RC		73'000	AUD	59'225	03.09.2002	
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		4'335	AUD	3'572	26.09.2002	REG. HEALTH MGT COURSE
AUSTRIA RC				16'500	10.07.2002	MISSION DELEGATE
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				235'000	19.02.2002	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH, REG.DEL. CORE COSTS
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				175'000	07.08.2002	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH
BRITISH - RC		25'000	GBP	60'750	22.02.2002	NS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
BRITISH - RC		10'000	GBP	23'083	09.12.2002	RFU KL - FINANCIAL TRAINING
BRITISH - RC		10'000	GBP	23'083	09.12.2002	RFU KL - FINANCIAL TRAINING
CANADIAN - RC		5'868	CAD	5'902	24.06.2002	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DELEGATE
DANISH - RC		36'125	USD	53'682	30.09.2002	REGIONAL DELEGATION, DIRECTLY TO FIELD
DANISH - RC		52'280	USD	77'688	19.11.2002	REGIONAL DELEGATION, DIRECTLY TO FIELD
FINNISH - RC		16'819	EUR	24'766	10.07.2002	REGIONAL DELEGATION
KOREA REPUBLIC - RC				5'000	16.01.2002	SEA PNS MEETING
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		545'267	NOK	103'873	08.04.2002	HIV/AIDS NETWORK
NORWEGIAN - RC		100'000	NOK	18'606	08.02.2002	REGIONAL COOPERATION
SWEDISH - RC		325'000	SEK	52'390	22.04.2002	ORGANISATION DEV. & REGIONAL CO- OPERATION
SWEDISH - RC		200'000	SEK	31'620	30.05.2002	ORGANISATIONAL DEV.
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'450'000	SEK	229'245	30.05.2002	HEALTH, ORGANISATIONAL DEV., INFORMATION, REG. COOPERATION, DMIS, COORDINATION & MGT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2'353'457	CHF	47.9%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRIA	DELEGATE(S)			64'722		
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			25'133		
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			34'661		
ICELAND	DELEGATE(S)			59'960		
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			53'059		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			34'497		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				272'032	CHF	5.5%