

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

MYANMAR

1 May 2002

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.35/2002

Appeal Target CHF 893,448 (USD 548,000 / EUR 610,000)

Programme Update No. 1 Period covered: 01 January - 31 March 2002

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 77.5%

Related Appeals: South east Asia regional programmes (01.30/2002)

Outstanding needs: CHF 200,627 (USD 124,000/ EUR 138,000)

Update: Growing partner support for the the Myanmar Red Cross' and the Federation's work is helping to make humanitarian and development efforts in the country more effective. There is, however, uncertainty over future funding and its impact on progress currently being made. Donors are urged to continue their support.

Operational Developments:

Continuing high inflation rates in Myanmar are having a marked affect on peoples' lives. The average annual inflation rate (aprox. 30%) has been fueled by the increase of commodity prices, which in turn has increased the price of some export goods like beans and shrimp as well as the cost of fuel and electricity. The value of the Kyat, Myanmar's currency has been falling against the US\$ and has devalued significantly over the last 2 years. Exchange rates for January 2000 put 320Kyat against 1US\$, by January 2001 this rose to 500Kyat, and January 2002 shows an even more dramatic increase to 800Kyat. The contrast between those who earn their salary in Foreign Exchange Certificate (FEC) and others who are paid in Kyat is now striking.

UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar Mr. Paulo Sergio Pinheiro and UN Special Envoy Ismail Razali remain committed to facilitating the process of political change in Myanmar. According to government sources, discussions between the Government of Myanmar and the National League for Democracy (NLD) have progressed steadily, and in the last 15 months 263 detainees have been released. Overall, there is still much uncertainty.

Disaster Response:

The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) has been involved in two main response operations during the first quarter of 2002. Whilst Federation support for these operations has been provided, the society also benefits in its response and relief operations from a wide base of public support throughout the country. Through the active involvement of its volunteers in responding to disasters and emergencies such as fires, floods and landslides, MRCS continues to maintain a positive public image.

Context

A fire on 23 December in Meyik Township, along the southern coast in the lower part of Myanmar caused widespread devastation and destruction leaving 3 dead and more than 2,500 families (10,000-15,000 people) severely affected.

Activities & Achievements

- The Federation and MRCS coordinated a response effort.
- An early assessment identified 2,200 beneficiary families in over 20 separate camps, most of which were on the premises of monasteries. These camps were established in Meyik city through the week of January 2 to 10.
- In the first week of January, 6 people from NHQs were dispatched with 2,200 relief packages loaded on 3 trucks to Meyik Township to conduct relief distributions.
- About 50 local RC volunteers worked daily with the NHQ team in cooperation and coordination with local authorities to establish the camps and conduct distributions.
- The relief goods were comprised of 17 nonfood items (clothes, blankets and kitchen utensils) and 4 food items (rice, cooking oil, salt and cans of sardines).
- Although other INGOs, NGOs and Agencies were supportive of the disaster, World Vision was the only one to conduct its own relief operation.

Context

A second fire occurred on 20 February in Yenanchaung township, in central Myanmar. Although only three people were injured, the fire robbed many not only of their homes but also their possessions and threatened their livelihoods. Accommodation was provided in three monasteries and a public hall for 934 of those worst affected. Most of the victims were food/vegetable sellers; there were no farmers involved. One thousand one hundred and seventy-five school children in various levels were also affected, although the high school building and hospital escaped from the fire.

Activities & Achievements

- On March 2, a joint field assessment team comprising MRCS and the Country Delegation visited all three camps with the Yenanchaung T/S Red Cross and local authorities to collect necessary information for a damage assessment and to coordinate the MRCS relief operation in the field.
- The relief operation consisted of; distributions of a 3-day food package, twice daily distributions of drinking water, and sanitation work. It was carried out by township health workers and RC volunteers.
- As a hygiene measure, RC volunteers and ward people also cleaned and sprinkled lime powder on the waste in dumping areas.
- Based on the assessment, MRCS NHQ also provided 15 boxes of secondhand clothing to the fire victims through the Yenanchaung T/S Red Cross.

Constraints

Under the current disaster response system in Myanmar, restrictions are placed on information gathering for needs assessment. A better cooperation and coordination mechanism particularly between stakeholders and local authorities is required.

The National Society also needs to develop their capabilities and capacities in disaster management through training and further supported operational experience. These critical issues have however been identified & discussed in the evaluation workshop conducted last November and recommendations for development have been made.

Disaster Preparedness:

The first MRCS Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) exercise in Community based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) has been conducted in selected target areas. However, further planned activities were postponed due to lack of funds in the 1st quarter. The progress of the other DP-related activities has been slow but is gradually advancing.

Objective 1

Improve disaster management capacity, in particular at headquarters level.

Activities & Achievements

- The Head of the DP/DR Division attended a series of Regional Disaster Management (DM) Workshops, to gather experience and information about disaster management in the region, and learn from examples of other NS' DP/DR policies and strategies.
- This knowledge sharing and gathering provides a broad base of quality and relevant information for MRCS, providing them, in conjunction with support from the Federation Delegation, with the necessary knowledge, guidance and support to draft their DP/DR policy over the next period.
- The Regional Disaster Management Workshops further provide a source of support and guidance in the work which lies ahead to effectively communicate and impart training to the MRCS HQ staff on DR/DP systems, procedures, resources and strategies.

Constraints

A lack of leadership and experience of the Head of DP/DR Division is the main constraint. The Country Delegation will intervene in the stagnated process, and try to organize a series of DP/DR policy workshops, directly facilitating the process from the 2nd quarter.

Objective 2

Strengthen the disaster response system of MACS.

Activities & Achievements

- Although a draft proposal of Emergency Disaster Response Team (EDRT) further detailed work is required. The DP/DR Division will process the EDRT issues in the forthcoming DP/DR policy workshop next quarter.
- Activities aimed at improving communication and coordination mechanisms have not yet commenced. However, the flood relief operation provided a clear example for how to improve these mechanisms, particularly in the area of MRCS reporting.
- On assessment, 6 out of 18 warehouses which are located in the most disaster prone areas were identified for the urgent replenishment of relief goods. The bigger warehouses are located in Yangon, Mandalay, Myikyina, Sittway, and the smaller warehouses in Kayin and Ayeyarwady.
- The original plan to replenish relief goods was as follows;
 1. 600 packages of relief goods (17 items per family) x 4 big warehouses = 2,400
 2. 250 packages of relief goods x 2 small warehouses = 500
- All 2,900 packages of relief goods were purchased and procured by MRCS under the supervision of the joint Tender Committee (MRCS and the Federation) in December 2001.
- However, due to the large-scale fire which broke out in Myeik Township, Thanintharyi Division on 23rd of December, 2,140 out of 2,900 relief sets was transported and distributed to the fire victims on 3-12 January 2002.
- The remaining 760 relief sets will be distributed to the respective warehouses in the 2nd Quarter as follows; 300 sets for Yangon, 100 for Ayeyarwady, 100 for Mandalay, 50 for Kayin, 50 for Bago and 100 for Rakhine.

Constraints

A main constraint to progress has been a lack of initiative and leadership of the Head of DP/DR Division.

In order to implement prompt and effective disaster response, an appropriate volume of stored relief goods and regular replenishment is necessary. This is a good lesson from the last year's disaster

response operation for funds/materials/human resource mobilization and time management for future disaster response and preparedness. The recent response to the fire has again left the emergency stocks in need of further replenishment.

Objective 3

Strengthen MRCS' capacity to manage and implement a community based DP/CP programme.

Activities & Achievements

- On 25 Jan.-8 Feb, the DP/DR Division conducted, for the first time, a 15-day PLA exercise at La Har Pa village and Kywe The Gon village in Hinthada township, Ayezarwady Division. This followed the PLA training at MRCS NHQs in Yangon last December.
- The PLA team comprised 5 management staff members from NHQs and 3 RC volunteers from Hinthada township Red Cross. An external consultant led the exercise.
- The activities included making a physical mapping of a village, a seasonal calendar, daily routine work, brief history of village, a venn diagram, pair-wise and matrix ranking & wealth ranking. Afterwards, the information was analyzed and shared with the villagers, and presented in a village meeting.
- As a result, a Village DP working Group (VDPWG) was formed in each of the respective villages.

Constraints

As it was the first PLA exercise/experience for the team in the field, it was a learning experience for them also and some confusion and mistakes were apparent. However, the team and their activities were well accepted and understood by the villagers, and the results were satisfactory. Due to funding constraints in the 1st quarter, activities to follow, such as 2nd PLA exercise in Tabon township and the DP planning session, were put on hold.

Health and Care:

Capacity Building in Health

Goal

To develop the capacity at headquarters level to ensure well co-ordinated and integrated health programmes.

Objective 1

Develop appropriate human resources in health management.

Activities & Achievements

- A mini workshop on the Federation's reporting format was conducted by the Health Delegate, and 2 members of the Health Division attended the human resource management workshop and have agreed to develop a performance appraisal system for use by MRCS.
- Two participants (one working on MRCS's HIV project and the other on the Reproductive Health project) attended the Regional Health Trends Workshop and presented on their life skills approach following support from the Health Delegate.
- MRCS advertised for Head of Division in March, however, no suitable applicants were received. Suitable and transparent alternative options will be pursued under the guidance of the Federation's Health Delegate.
- MRCS received a visit from the regional health programme evaluators and provided input into this evaluation. The Country Delegation (HOD and Health Delegate) also had the opportunity for input into the review.

Constraints

It could be difficult recruiting a HOD due to the nature of the working environment. This person will be required to work with both staff and the MRCS Executive Committee.

Objective 2

Establish standard operating procedures to efficiently utilise existing health resources.

Activities & Achievements

- This has not yet commenced as the HOD has not yet been recruited.

Objective 3

Establish co-ordination and networking systems within MRCS and with other stakeholders.

Activities & Achievements

- The Health Delegate has intensified efforts to meet informally with MRCS's bilateral health partners. It is anticipated that formal meetings will commence sometime after the HOD is appointed.

Constraints

This has not yet commenced due to an absence of funds.

Health promotion project (hygiene and HIV/AIDS prevention)**Goal**

To reduce the incidence and prevalence of preventable diseases through a health programme targeting risk behaviour and addressing vulnerable groups.

Objective 1

Increase MRCS capacity to develop, implement and review health promotion programmes with vulnerable groups.

Activities and Achievements

- Work continues on the HIV comic strip brochure that details the fundamental principles, basic facts on HIV/AIDS and examples of Red Cross volunteers assisting positive people in the community. A draft text has been produced.

Constraints

Major work has not yet commenced as this is a new project and funding is not forthcoming.

Objective 2

Develop educational and promotional materials to effect behavioural change.

Activities and Achievements

- This has not yet commenced as this is a new project and funding is not forthcoming.

Constraints

No funding

Objective 3

Develop a co-ordination and networking mechanism within the MRCS and with other stakeholders.

Activities and Achievements

- MRCS attended a HIV meeting with INGOs (the only local organisation to do so) following support and guidance from the Federation Health Delegate. This has led to a small HIV proposal being developed by MRCS for consideration by Save the Children UK.
- The Health Delegate attends the INGO HIV meetings and the Federation has recently been nominated as an alternative or back up for the UN Expanded Theme Group on HIV/AIDS.

Constraints

MRCS is reluctant to engage with INGOs although these barriers are slowly being broken down with much support and guidance from the Health Delegate.

First Aid Programme

Goal

To reduce the incidence of preventable illness and be more responsive to accidents, through the effective implementation of a first aid programme.

Objective 1

MRCS develops and disseminates updated first aid materials reflecting current and emerging health needs and disaster response.

Activities and Achievements

- A cross divisional first aid policy working group has been formed and development of a draft is underway. To date a preliminary draft on the role of Red Cross players, & community and first aid, volunteering and training have been prepared. It is anticipated that a workshop with all MRCS staff and EC will be conducted once a draft is prepared.
- MRCS have reviewed and updated the Federation's guide to first aid and HIV/AIDS to suit the Myanmar context. This is now being translated into Myanmar and will then be distributed to RCV around the country. Preliminary discussions have been held on the Asian First Aid certificate and the basic first aid manual and it is anticipated that these discussions will intensify in the following quarter.
- Interviews have been conducted for an Assistant Head of Division responsible for first aid, health education and watsan, negotiations with a preferred applicant are currently underway. This incumbent will have management responsibility for the First Aid Programme and the Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVI) project funded by UNHCR..

Constraints

Staff capabilities are limited which has delayed progress in developing the first aid policy.

Objective 2

MRCS enhances its capacity to manage and implement effective first aid programmes.

Activities and Achievements

- An informal programme evaluation of last year's performance was facilitated by the Health Delegate in January 2002. MRCS have commenced implementation of some of the recommendations following this.
- MRCS have also submitted their first ever quarterly report for the First Aid program following a workshop on how to prepare quarterly reports.
- The first aid project officer, following extensive consultation between the Health Delegate and MRCS Executive Committee, will be the team leader at the Regional First Aid Competition.

Constraints

MRCS has some knowledge regarding first aid training but little experience or knowledge in the other parts of first aid programming.

Objective 3

MRCS has effective systems for quality assurance, reporting and logistics in its first aid programme.

Activities and Achievements

- These issues are being addressed from a management perspective in the first aid policy group meetings. It is anticipated that a draft policy manual will be finalised in the next quarter following a workshop with senior and middle level staff.

Constraints

Staff capabilities in the first aid division are limited to basic first aid training. There is an absence of management. However, it is hoped the appointment of a HOD should overcome this.

Humanitarian Values:

MRCS and the Country Delegation have been working on the staffing issues of Communications Division. Both parties agreed that the Head of Division post would be filled by an employee from outside and the two other posts by existing staff. This will be finalized after the General Assembly to be held on 9 April. The publication of MRCS' newsletter was halted in the 1st quarter due to the stagnation of the discussion on these staffing issues. Publication is expected to resumed after the General Assembly has elected the new MRCS leadership.

No dedicated activities have therefore taken place within this programme during the first quarter, but activities are planned for the objectives below from the second quarter.

Goal

A high degree of visibility, credibility, co-operation and support for the Red Cross/Red Crescent in Myanmar.

Objective 1

A strong and well-developed communications capacity of the Myanmar Red Cross.

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 MRCS, particularly in emergencies.

Objective 3

Heightened awareness of Red Cross/Red Crescent activities and humanitarian values in Myanmar among key external stakeholders, including diplomatic missions, the corporate sector, civil authorities, NGOs, INGOs and civil society.

Objective 4

Integration of communications components into all regional and national programmes.

Organisational Development:

Review of the MRCS' statutes progressed, staffing issues were partially solved and are still in process for Communications and Health Division. The lack of funds in the 1st quarter complicated the staffing issues and salary support.

A new OD delegate will be posted in the Myanmar delegation in June of this year. The delegate will assist the NS to develop and strengthen their competence, capacity and organizational structures at local as well as at NHQs level in order that the whole may rapidly evolves toward a well-functioning Society that works in close cooperation and collaboration with the HoD. In particular the delegate will focus on helping the Society to build its disaster preparedness capacity to respond to disasters in an effective and efficient manner and reduce the impact of disasters on people/communities most at risk through prevention and mitigation.

Goal

The strengthening of the governance and management capacity of MRCS at both national and local levels.

Objective 1

The development of a revised set of statutes for the society which will allow the creation of a clear and documented policy on the structures and specific responsibilities of the governing and management bodies. This should include the linkage between headquarters, states/divisions and township branches.

Activities & Achievements

- Review of the MRCS' statutes has progressed step by step, and one of the MRCS' OD task force, a co-operation delegate from ICRC and the Federation Delegation's HoD have started writing a draft of new MRCS's statutes.
- This work has progressed chapter by chapter, based on the "Guideline" of the NS statutes and the Statute of the Cambodian Red Cross as an example.

Constraints

The new leadership of MRCS that will be elected by the General Assembly on 9 April might impede the current process. There is high expectation that the most active and dedicated EC (Executive Committee) members, one of whom is a core member of the statutes review team, would leave MRCS after the General Assembly.

Objective 2

The development of a cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) by the end of 2002.

Activities & Achievements

- The MRCS' 5-year strategic plan, prioritizing 4 core areas is currently undergoing drafting discussions.
- The MRCS' 5-year health strategic direction has already been completed, and approved by the Executive Committee.
- Concrete steps over the next quarter will see the establishment of the MRCS' DP/DR policy and 5-year strategic plan.
- MRCS now has a clear understanding of the contents and process of CAS, which was repeatedly addressed and discussed in the Partnership Meeting, Jakarta.

Constraints

It is a really time-consuming process due to lack of experience and skills for programing.

Objective 3

The implementation of a human resources development plan guided by regional HR strategy, to ensure that MRCS develops its existing staff and recruits new staff for MRCS programmes and support services.

Activities & Achievements

- A new structure for the Health Division, equipped with three senior managers, was proposed in the MRCS' health strategic plan, and this was approved by the MRCS.
- Job descriptions were drawn up and the MRCS, and the Country Delegation agreed upon necessary selection procedures for these senior managers. The process of appointment is now under way.
- For the DP/DR Division, the Country Delegation proposed that MRCS appoint a new Head of Division and two middle management staff to strengthen the management capacity of the DP/DR Division (following the agreed principle of separation of governance and management).
- Training courses are in the planning process, and will be implemented from next quarter.

Constraints

Lack of qualified and experienced manpower at MRCS NHQs and salary support issues.

Objective 4

The development of a fund-raising plan and activities at headquarters to improve the MRCS' financial base and public image.

Activities and Achievements

- Except commercial FA training (ongoing policy), no further progress against this objective.

Constraints

Lack of the funding for these programme activities in the 1st quarter caused a delay, this also combined with weak leadership of the Executive Committee.

Objective 5

The formulation of a new MRCS branch development strategy and plan.

Activities and Achievements

•The British Red Cross (BRC) has expressed an interest in supporting the 1-year branch development study. A term of reference for the study is being prepared.

Constraints

No funds are available for activities at the moment.

Objective 6

The formulation of a new MRCS youth programme strategy and pilot programme.

Activities and Achievements

•No activities have been commenced.

Constraints

No funds are available for the activities at the moment.

Coordination and Management:**Goal**

To maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of Federation assistance to the MRCS so that it can contribute to reducing the vulnerability and suffering of the most vulnerable through timely, effective and efficient action.

Objective 1

Effectively co-ordinate and channel development and relief assistance to the MRCS.

Activities & Achievements

MRCS has been involved in two main response operations during the first quarter of 2002. Whilst Federation support for these operations has been provided, the society also benefits in its response and relief operations from a wide base of public support throughout the country. Through the active involvement of its volunteers in responding to disasters and emergencies such as fires, floods and landslides, MRCS continues to maintain a positive public image. (See the section of disaster response in detail)

Constraints

Under the current disaster response system in Myanmar, restrictions are placed on independent information gathering for needs assessment. A better cooperation and coordination mechanism particularly between stakeholders and local authorities is required.

The National Society also needs to develop their capabilities and capacities in disaster management through training and further supported operational experience.

Objective 2

Ensure that an agreed and negotiated Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) for MRCS is in place by the end of December 2002.

Activities & Achievements

•During this period, the highlights were the results of the Southeast Asia Partnership Meeting.

- 1.The active and participatory discussion of “Serving Leader” demonstrated the Federation’s new roles in connection with the NS
- 2.The nature and process of the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) was shown to the MRCS through the good examples of the Cambodian and the Laos Red Cross
- 3.The progress of regional programmes and networking such things as HIV/AIDS and DM in the region

4.A harmonization process with the ICRC in programming and implementation at all levels

5.Individual/face-to-face session with partners.

- The MRCS' 5-year strategic plan, prioritizing 4 core areas is currently undergoing drafting discussions.

Constraints

It is a really time-consuming process due to lack of experience and skills for programing.

Objective 3

Effective coordination takes place between MRCS, the Federation and ICRC for all programming in Myanmar.

Activities & Achievements

- The General Assembly held every three years will be held this year, and new leadership of the MRCS will be elected.
- The Country Delegation is now preparing some programmes and activities for the newly elected President and Executive Committee members, such as training in the handing over of business as well as leadership, hoping in particular not to impede the on-going OD process in the MRCS.

Constraints

There is a strong possibility that the most active and dedicated EC (Executive Committee) members, one of whom is a core member of the statutes review team, would leave MRCS after the General Assembly.

Objective 4

A well managed Federation country delegation in Myanmar.

Activities and Achievements

- There is a weekly meeting in the country delegation to discuss the programme-related agenda including financial transactions, regional/Geneva management information, the weekly work schedule, and travel and living situations, including security. The working atmosphere is effective between delegates and the local staff.

Constraints

None encountered

Objective 5

Fully funded appeals which support MRCS's development and relief programmes.

Activities and Achievements

- The MRCS and the Country Delegation found two new partners at the Partnership Meeting this year. Both the British Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross have expressed their interest in the MRCS and its development programmes, and promised their technical and financial support starting from this year. This comes as a result of the efforts of the Secretariat, Regional and Country Delegation in exploring prospective partnerships over the last three years.
- In response to the requests that current and new partners raised, MRCS and the Country Delegation will continue to make efforts to improve information exchange, reporting, and publications for their partners/donors.
- Suggestions and requests from donors are currently being discussed. There were also some constructive suggestions from the Korean Red Cross and the Chinese Red Cross on funding the MRCS' programmes.
- Both PNSs raised and discussed the feasibility of funding for results-oriented and small-scale projects, which are seen as a more practical and realistic funding scheme by both organizations. The MRCS and the Country Delegation are discussing including this in the programme planning process for presentation to prospective partners/donors.

Constraints

We need to respond and meet NS's requests such as Japanese, Korean and Chinese Red Cross in a timely, appropriate and detailed manner.

Objective 6

Effective representation of the Federation and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in Myanmar.

Activities and Achievement

- The Country Delegation had an opportunity to meet Director of Dep. for International Development Cooperation of Finland and Deputy Head of SIDA, Sweden and to discuss about the RC/RC Movement and the MRCS's development programmes. This was another opportunity to help them understand the current status of RC/RC Movement and the National Society as well as recent changes within Myanmar politics.
- On 14-16 Feb., the HoD attended an opening ceremony for the tube well and wooden bridge in Meiktila and Ma Hlaing townships. This was a completion of the Federation-assisted flood relief operation supported by ARC and JRCS.
- On 24 Feb.-2 Mar., the Country Delegation received 19 members of the JRCS Kyushu Chapters delegation. They visited Maubin township Red Cross to observe and learn MRCS township Red Cross programmes and activities. In Hinthada township they observed a PLA field exercise as part of CBDP. They met with the ICRC Myanmar Delegation to be briefed on ICRC activities in Myanmar, and with the MRCS Executive Committee to discuss the progress of JRCS assisted-programmes as well as future assistance. It is of interest that they emphasize the visibility of any programme for future funding.

Constraints

Nothing in particular. Quality publications released from the Secretariat and Regional Office during this quarter are quite useful and helpful.

Federation Delegation:

- The composition of the Country Delegation is now Yutaka Oiwa, HoD based in Yangon; Margarete Roberts, Health Delegate, based in Yangon; and two local staff, Ma Nandar, Finance Officer and Ma Sandy, Administration Officer.
- Oiwa will finish his contract by the end of June, and the process to replace him is underway. Margartte will extend her contract from April until the end of June when she will also be replaced.
- It is expected that a new OD delegate will be posted in the Myanmar delegation in June of this year as well.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

- Monthly Heads of Divisions meetings, facilitated by the HoD of the Country Delegation, monitor the respective programme activities and progress, and allows for sharing experiences and learning in development management.
- The Regional Technical Unit visits Myanmar on a quarterly basis to provide effective and timely input to the monitoring process facilitated by the Technical Delegates of Country Delegation.
- MRCS provides monthly financial reports, which are monitored in-country by the Country Delegation and these forms the basis of the quarterly financial reports from the Country Delegation, in consultation with the Regional Finance Unit, to donors.
- MRCS will also conduct a formal review and evaluation as key milestones are reached, which will address both quantitative measures and qualitative results.

Lessons Learned:

Dealing with the staffing, the change of power structure and the working procedures of MRCS is sensitive and difficult. Entrenched attitudes and behaviour often impedes the OD process in MRCS. However clear direction, sharing information, tenacious coaching and patience have been bringing

about an understanding, consensus and solutions among EC members and senior management staff in the OD process.

Financial Update (see attached annex):

See attached annex.

Wider Context

Repatriation/Reintegration

- The joint UNHCR-MRCS Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVI) programme focused on skill development training this year in coordination with UNHCR/Education Team and the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA).
- There are six types of skills development training identified by the programme as follows: (1) cane and bamboo craft training for men, (2) homestead gardening training for both man and women, (3) fishnet knitting training for women, (4) tailoring training for women, (5) needle craft training for women and (6) snack-making training for women.
- One hundred and fifty training courses will be organized throughout 2002, and approximately 3,000 people to be benefited: 2,320 females (77%) and 680 males (23%).
- The training site selection was based on data from village profile prepared by UNHCR Magsazsaz Project: Maungdaw North (46 sites); Maungdaw South (35); Buthidaung North (35); Buthidaung South (17); and Rathedaung (17).
- The MRCS field staff has been busy identifying potential beneficiaries in the selected training site during this quarter.

Outstanding needs:

The current funding position is critical to implement the planned activities through the first quarter of 2002 due to delays of the fresh funds 2002 supporting the Myanmar programmes. There were positive responses from the British Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross at the Partnership Meeting in Jakarta in March 2002 to start supporting funding the Myanmar programmes from this year. This interest is a result of exploring and persuading the prospective partners/donors that the Federation has concentrated on for the last three years. MRCS and the Myanmar Delegation will continue improving information exchange/reporting/publications to their partners/donors.

Conclusion:

Considering the critical funding position in 2002, MRCS and the Myanmar Delegation will jointly make as much effort as possible to overcome the financial constraints to implement programme activities and revise the plan-of-action and budget of Appeal 2002 in next quarter. However, MRCS and the Myanmar Delegation are pleased that they will have new partners with whom to work from this year.

Plans for the next quarter:

Disaster preparedness and response:

- Staffing issues (a new HoD and two project officers' posts) are finalized.
- Resume the PLA exercise and other CBDP activities in the selected areas.
- DP/DR policy workshops organized in cooperation with the ICRC.
- Preparation for a new OD/DP delegate.

Health care

- Staffing issues (HoD and sub-HoD positions) are finalized.
- FA policy and the working procedures in the Training Division are being progressed.

- HIV brochures are released.
- First aid kits are purchased.

Organizational development

- Business hand-over to the new EC members including orientation sessions.
- A new OD task force is formed, and it resumes the work according to the plan-of-action.
- The statutes review team is re-organized, and it resumes the work.
- The intermediate English course commences as planned.
- Refresher finance training for local staff in co-operation with Regional Finance Unit.

Humanitarian values

- Staffing issues are solved, and three posts (HoD, one information officer and one admin. position) are filled.
- Vocational training.
- Resume the MRCS news letter publication.
- A communications workshop in cooperation with Regional Communications Unit.

For further details please contact: Sandra Rosner, Phone : 41 22 7304456; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: rosner@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
Head
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Simon Missiri
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Myanmar						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.35/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED				01.05.2002
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				893'448		TOTAL COVERAGE 77.5%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				235'170		
JAPANESE - RC		31'570'000	JPY	399'171	16.04.2002	DEVELOPMENT, DP, CBFA, NATIONAL COORDINATION
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				634'341	CHF	71.0%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			29'733		
JAPAN	DELEGATE(S)			28'747		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				58'480	CHF	6.5%