

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

CARIBBEAN

22 December 2003

Appeal No. 01.49/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 2,547,557

Programme Update No. 2

Period covered: 15 May – 30 September 2003

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 over 180 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 91.2% ; See attached Contributions List for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 224,784

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) Annual Appeal (Appeal 01.47/2003)

Programme Summary: Focus areas for the Caribbean remain HIV/AIDS and Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP). The period covered by this report has seen a number of developments in both these programme areas. The revised peer education manual for HIV prevention, known as "Together We Can," was launched, as was a CBDP training manual and other materials such as posters, stickers and songs. The launch of these materials has been followed by intensive training, with participation from around the region. The Caribbean Red Cross HIV/AIDS Network (CARAN) was also strengthened through the drawing up of a plan of action and the election of a new CARAN executive.

The container programme has now been extended with the procurement process underway for Barbados, Trinidad and Suriname. There are currently 15 National Societies participating in this programme, all of which have received relief items as well as training in logistics. The National Society of the Dominican Republic will begin participating in the programme early next year. After a successful hurricane preparedness meeting in June involving 22 Red Cross entities, fortunately, there have been no major hurricanes or serious tropical storms in the Caribbean. However, many of the islands have been affected by severe flooding. In addition, in July the region witnessed further explosive activity of the Soufriere volcano in Montserrat, which caused the worst ash levels in the country since 1995. The Red Cross in the region has been able to respond effectively to all of these events.

Significant progress has been achieved by the Cuban Red Cross and the Haitian National Red Cross Society in the area of organizational development, particularly as a result of the granting of Capacity Building Funds. Progress includes renovation of branch premises, the publication of handbooks and training in Cuba and the finalization of the national development plan and the holding of a partnership meeting in Haiti.

The Port of Spain Sub Regional Office (SRO) was further consolidated during the reporting period with the recruitment of an HIV/AIDS youth officer, the assistance of a volunteer information officer and the arrival of a new coordinator who took up office in June.

Operational developments

The period covered by this update saw increased consolidation of the Federation's sub regional office (SRO) in Port of Spain, Trinidad. In addition, the Port of Spain SRO and the various components of the Federation field team that share responsibility for the Caribbean, including the Panama Regional Delegation, the sub regional office in Santo Domingo and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) worked together to clarify roles and responsibilities. The Port of Spain SRO, which covers the English-speaking countries in the Caribbean, was joined by a new coordinator as of mid-June.

The Port of Spain SRO has also been strengthened with the addition of an HIV/AIDS youth officer covering youth and training. In addition, an information officer has been recruited to start in October and a UN volunteer was working with the office for eight weeks, providing specific support to the HIV/AIDS programme through work on the Caribbean Red Cross HIV/AIDS Network (CARAN) communication strategy. A contract between the Federation and the European Commission's disaster preparedness programme (DIPECHO) provided the SRO with the resources to contract staff from the St. Lucia Red Cross to support the regional disaster management programme. This staff member is providing a link between the Federation disaster preparedness delegate and the National Societies. The finance and administration offices of the SRO have also been strengthened during the reporting period, giving more priority to the accounting needs of the office.

In the Santo Domingo sub regional office, which covers the Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, local staff members have been reduced to a minimum and the office coordinator has been increasingly based out of Haiti, due to the increased needs and resources. In 2004, the Federation's structure will reflect the reality of the situation in Haiti by maintaining the office in that country and transferring most of the responsibilities previously covered by Santo Domingo to the Regional Delegation in Panama. The decision to make this change also reflects funding availability and a high level of interest maintained by bilateral overseas branches in the Spanish and French speaking Caribbean.

The hurricane season has, to date, had limited effects on the Eastern Caribbean with hugely powerful storms such as Fabian and Isabel hitting Bermuda and the United States but as yet not affecting the less developed islands or the more vulnerable populations. Related flooding has, however, been widespread with most islands affected and some, such as Haiti, recording major damage. In all cases, PADRU and the Regional Delegation have coordinated efficiently. In addition, the use of pre-positioned container items has shown the worth of the Japanese Red Cross-funded container project.

In Montserrat, the Soufriere volcano erupted again on 12 July with persistent explosive activity over the following days. The eruptions caused the worst ash levels since 1995, covering the entire island. The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society worked together with the Montserrat Red Cross and government to respond with drinking water and ash masks. In the following weeks, the Jamaican and Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Societies offered to host children from Montserrat for various camps and activities since the conditions on Montserrat were such that children could not continue attending summer schools at home. The British Red Cross maintained links with the Montserrat Red Cross as well as with PADRU and the regional office, and good communication was ensured.

The Caribbean programmes continue to be supported by the Norwegian Red Cross, which remains the main donor for programmes in the region. ECHO, the British Red Cross (including DfID funds) and the Japanese Red Cross Society are the other principal sources of funding for the Federation in the East Caribbean region.

Health and care

Goal: Vulnerable populations in the Caribbean region receive appropriate and accessible health care in the context of national health policies and frameworks.

Objective: Caribbean Red Cross National Societies have the capacity to educate, mobilize, advocate for and deliver health and care of appropriate scale and quality to the most vulnerable in their societies.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Expected Result 1: National Societies and Participating National Societies have scaled up their activities regarding HIV/AIDS prevention, care and stigma and discrimination.

This has been a period of intense activity for the HIV/AIDS programme in the Caribbean. The Federation has been working at both the regional and sub regional level, pressing ahead with a range of objectives supported by the Norwegian Red Cross. Starting with the 4th CARAN meeting and ending with the official launch of the “Together We Can” manual that took place in Barbados on 24 September, the programme has moved into its most active phase yet with tangible results around the region. The Caribbean Community’s Pan Caribbean AIDS Partnership (PANCAP) declared the Red Cross and UNICEF as the two leading agencies for the prevention of HIV transmission among young people. The Federation is proud of this recognition, as well as aware of the responsibility that it brings.

The CARAN meeting held between 26 and 30 May brought together 53 representatives from 23 Caribbean National Societies and overseas branches, as well as representatives from the Federation, and the American, Netherlands and Norwegian Red Cross Societies. Key partners such as UNICEF, UNAIDS and the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) were also involved, ensuring that these relationships were further strengthened. As a result of the meeting, a synthesis report on the HIV/AIDS activities of different Red Cross entities around the region was produced. In July, the CARAN executive held its first meeting establishing the roles of the different members and the criteria for becoming a member of CARAN. The executive also drew up a six month plan of action and delegated responsibility to the different working groups.

In June the Federation health team was strengthened with the addition of an HIV/AIDS youth officer. This person is now responsible for youth and peer education activities, with a vital role in strengthening Red Cross youth sections and volunteering in general. The team was also given a boost by the temporary but important presence of a UN volunteer who worked for two months on designing the CARAN communications strategy, including developing the structure of the web page that will be part of www.caribbeanredcross.org. The UN volunteer also worked with the Caribbean HIV/AIDS Youth Network (CHAYN) on shared communications issues and trained CARAN personnel in communication. This volunteer position remains open and the Federation is pursuing further funding and / or volunteering possibilities with the UN and the University of the West Indies to ensure that the momentum is not lost.

The Federation team provided support to a number of Red Cross entities over the reporting period, assisting with the design and implementation of ongoing or proposed HIV/AIDS activities. Of note has been the support to HIV/AIDS activities within the Red Cross Societies of Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos. The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society has received additional support from DfID, as well as from the Spanish Red Cross though funding from the REPSOL oil company.

In July, in Antigua a joint Red Cross / UNICEF peer education programme review took place over five days. UNICEF has been supporting the programme for the past 18 months in the National Societies of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat and St. Lucia, all of which took part in the review. The National Societies of Bahamas, Belize, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago, which are in the planning phase of the Together We Can (TWC) peer education activities, also took part. The meeting proved very useful in that it demonstrated the different ways that the TWC methodology was being interpreted in different countries, and highlighted the need for standardized training and more rigorous criteria governing the selection of trainers. A separate report on this review is available.

Throughout the period further improvements have been made to the revised “Together We Can” manual through information exchange, field testing and meetings. These were finalized in time for the launch of the manual in Barbados with media and other organizations present. A follow up meeting in Barbados with key partners such as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), UNICEF and CAREC helped to further define the role of the Red Cross and the CARAN and ensure that there is no duplication of activities. During the meeting, the Red Cross defined its programmes for increasing peer education, reducing stigma, creating a pool of resource materials, providing home based care and reducing mother to child transmission.

The first full training of both regional and national level trainers will take place in the Dominican Republic in October, putting the Red Cross firmly at the forefront of the fight against HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean. In addition, the peer educator’s manual and the activity kit will be translated into Spanish, Creole, French and Papiamentu.

Expected result 2: Areas have been defined that are consistent with the public health agendas of the countries and territories of the Caribbean region as well as with Strategy 2010, where the Federation, National Societies and overseas branches, public health authorities, and other actors can coordinate their activities to improve the lives of the most vulnerable.

As the Caribbean has the second highest HIV/AIDS incidence rate in the world after sub-Saharan Africa, many of the Red Cross health programmes are focused reducing the prevalence of the disease, particularly among youth. However, other health programmes are ongoing in the areas of community health, safe blood and emergency health.

In Haiti, the National Society introduced a women's health project in August that is being supervised by the Federation and funded by the Norwegian Red Cross. The project includes a mobile clinic that provides health services twice a week in the markets of Marche de la Croix de Bossales and Salomon, both very busy markets in particularly poor areas. The clinic includes two medical staff and volunteers that will promote awareness in young women regarding HIV/AIDS, STDs, reproduction and sexual health. The project also plans to provide vitamins, drugs and vaccines for specific, urgent cases seen by the medical staff. This curative component of the project will be supported by the Ministry of Health through the sanitation department of Port au Prince.

Also in Haiti, the regional health delegate has been working to coordinate activities in polio eradication between PAHO and the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS). The HNRCS has expressed interest in being involved in this country-wide campaign and the PAHO advisor plans to visit the HNRCS in early December to discuss coordination.

Several National Societies in the region have large blood programmes that focus on blood banks and the recruitment of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors. The Dominican Republic and Haiti are particularly prominent in this field. The Haitian National Red Cross Society has received a large Global Funds donation and the Federation, through the head of health department in Geneva, has made an offer of technical support to guide the initial phase of the programme. The HNRCS has accepted this offer and the technical delegate will be in place shortly. Federation support to Haiti has also been enhanced through the employment of a French-speaking regional health officer based in Panama.

The regional health delegate has been in discussion with the voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD) working group, and a sub regional plan of action was discussed, including the re-activation of the Inter-American network on VNRBD. The region will have a representative at the 9th International Colloquium on VNRBD in Beijing in April 2004. The Federation is also reviewing the possibility of having the 10th colloquium in the Americas in 2005, and the regional health delegate was tasked with exploring this option and assessing interest levels in the region.

On 13 September a majority of Caribbean National Societies celebrated the 1st International First Aid Day by arranging activities involving volunteers, youth and the media in a day dedicated to recognizing the importance of first aid and the need to have trained practitioners.

Also in September, the regional health delegate worked closely with the regional water and sanitation delegate to define a sub regional strategy to link public health interventions with vital water and sanitation activities. At the request of the Cuban Red Cross (CRC) it was decided to plan a technical visit early in 2004 to assess how the Federation can become involved in a project prepared by the CRC to bring potable water to 20 pre-selected communities. Strategies to work along the Haitian / Dominican border were also discussed during this visit. These plans will be further developed in 2004.

The Federation has attempted to improve communication and cooperation amongst all actors including National Societies, overseas branches and governmental and non-governmental organizations through regular coordination meetings and inviting key actors to CARAN meetings. Communication and coordination will be considerably enhanced in 2004 through the presence of information officers in the Trinidad sub regional office and the Panama Regional Delegation, and through the design and promotion of a CARAN website.

Impact

- CARAN has been strengthened and a strategic direction was decided upon. A six month plan of action for CARAN was developed.
- The new CARAN executive was elected, including the new position of public relations officer.
- The Red Cross is now positioned to take a leading role in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean.
- The CARAN communications strategy was developed and training was provided to the CARAN communication team.
- The CARAN webpage structure was designed.
- The TWC manual was revised and improved. Instructor and participant manuals are now available.
- A mobile clinic in Haiti is now providing health care and health education to vulnerable members of the population.
- Blood programmes in the region have been strengthened through the support of the Federation and Global Funds. A regional representative will attend the international VNRBD colloquium in Beijing in April.
- Partnerships were strengthened, particularly with UNICEF and CAREC.
- The Federation's programme team was strengthened.
- Multiple National Societies and Red Cross branches now feel that they are an important part of the regional programme.
- The TWC training of trainers' workshop has been designed and is now ready.

Constraints

- The need for consensus resulted in the preparation of final version of the TWC manual taking longer than expected.
- The over reliance on Norwegian Red Cross funding leaves the region with a limited donor base.
- The original expectation to replace or retain the UN volunteer working in communication was not realized.

Coordination

The main areas of coordination have been with CARAN, UNICEF and CAREC. The Federation delegation has also been preparing for a regional Pan Caribbean AIDS Partnership (PANCAP) meeting that will bring together governments and all the main agencies working in the sector. This will take place in Guyana in November.

The Federation continued to focus on networking and coordination during his period, and in this respect the CARAN meeting was an opportunity to interact with all partners. During this meeting partners clarified how they and the Movement could work better together and regional partners learned about the Red Cross's HIV/AIDS programmes. Participants at the meeting included, UNICEF, UNDP, USAID, CAREC, the Caribbean Network of people living with HIV/AIDS (CRN +), Caribbean HIV/AIDS Youth Network (CHAYN), CHAMP and Family Health International (FHI).

UNICEF, which has been supporting HIV/AIDS programmes in National Societies in the region for the last year and a half according to a mandate under the PANCAP agreement, has expressed an interest in increasing its support in the eastern Caribbean.

In addition, the Federation continued to build on existing agreements with the Pan American Health Organization, including holding an HIV/AIDS partnership meeting with CAREC, UNICEF and PAHO in Barbados. During this meeting, participants discussed mapping strategic alliances, identified key strategic directions for 2004-2005, clarified roles and responsibilities and finalized agreements. In addition, participants took this opportunity to make known their intentions and objectives regarding HIV/AIDS programmes in the region.

Disaster Management

Goal: The impact of disasters in the Caribbean is reduced through effective disaster management measures at the regional, national and community level.

Objective: The capacity of National Societies, overseas branches and communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters is improved, and the Red Cross is firmly established as an important player in the disaster management arena in the Caribbean.

Progress/Achievements

In this period, the disaster management programme has continued community based disaster preparedness (CBDP) work with selected National Societies with the support of DIPECHO IV funding, ensuring that the National Societies are prepared and that lessons are learned from previous contracts with ECHO in the Caribbean region. Much work has gone into the design and production of a CBDP manual as well as into training for vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA). These components are a central part of Red Cross strategy in working with communities.

Progress has been made on the region's other disaster management programmes, such as the Japanese Red Cross Society-funded container programme, which involves pre-positioning of containerized relief items in strategic areas for use in times of disasters. In addition, the Red Cross in the region has been preparing for the hurricane season, working on the operations in Cuba following hurricanes Lili and Isidore and supporting the capacity building project to enhance the disaster management structure of the Jamaican Red Cross. Finally, the Federation has been working to strengthen regional coordination between the Federation, National Societies and other organizations.

Expected result 1: The Red Cross contributes to the strengthening of community based response to disasters.

In May, the four National Societies that had participated in the DIPECHO III project, which ended in February 2003, completed their final narrative reports and provided the necessary financial information so that the SRO could put together the final report for ECHO. Fortunately, ECHO support in the region continues and over the reporting period the Federation has scaled up activities with the National Societies of Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which are involved in CBDP activities as part of the DIPECHO IV project.

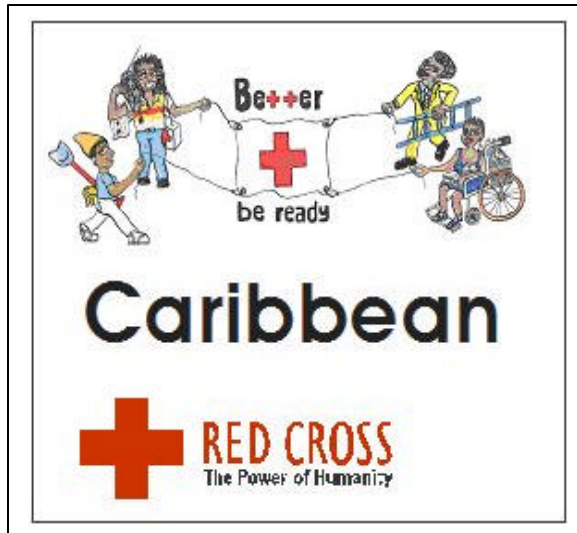
Also in May, the ECHO regional office in Santo Domingo invited all regional partners that are part of this round of DIPECHO funding, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), OXFAM, Movimundo, UK International, Save the Children, the French Red Cross and the Federation, to a preparatory meeting to discuss the change in the new ECHO agreement and to share knowledge of best practices from past experiences.

In July the Federation appointed a DIPECHO project coordinator from the National Society of St. Lucia, and between 20 and 23 August the ECHO regional coordinator took part in the start up meeting for the DIPECHO IV project. Senior representatives and finance staff were present from all four National Societies with the following results:

- All four National Societies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Federation's sub regional office.
- Financial reporting procedures were explained and are understood by the National Societies.
- Operational budgets were received.
- The narrative reporting and monitoring system was made clear.
- Timelines were agreed
- The ECHO policy on visibility and other operational areas was clearly explained.
- Mutual understanding was increased between ECHO and the National Societies.
- The CBDP tools that will be used as part of the project were reviewed.

From May to August the training material for community based disaster preparedness projects was being developed. The material includes an information, communication and education strategy as part of the overall design of the Red Cross work with communities.

Stickers have been designed for Red Cross and community use with the objective of ensuring that key messages are delivered where they will have an impact. In addition, three songs related to disaster preparedness have been written and recorded and ten sets of posters have been designed and shared with the National Societies for consultation prior to printing.



Stickers such as this one have been designed to deliver key messages that will have an impact on the community.

Training materials now available also include the participant's workbook and a facilitator's step-by-step manual that will allow Red Cross personnel to work systematically with communities to reduce risk. Red Cross trainers will be trained in October.

In Jamaica, the first phase of a capacity building project to strengthen the National Society disaster management structure has started to yield some results. The first phase focuses on developing a comprehensive logical framework that integrates training, volunteer management and the core areas of disaster management and first aid.

In Haiti, the National Society began a disaster preparedness and response project in August that is being supervised by Federation and funded by the Norwegian Red Cross. The Haitian Red Cross has created five local disaster committees in the most vulnerable areas of Port au Prince. Training in VCA for several NGOs and local associations, a participatory learning and action session, first aid training and disaster preparedness awareness activities have all been planned as part of this project. Once the local disaster committees have been created, they will distribute basic first aid and disaster preparedness materials to the community, such as stretchers, first aid kits, wheelbarrows and shovels.

Expected result 2: National Societies and overseas branches have the capacity to respond to disasters, and the Red Cross is established as an important player in the disaster management field.

In May the first VCA workshop was held in Trinidad with the participation of the National Societies of Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as ECHO, OXFAM, PAHO, the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency (CDERA), the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). As a result of this workshop, regional and country action plans were drawn up, VCA materials were revised, and documents for the training of trainers' workshop that will take place in October were created. A separate report on this workshop is available.

In June, the annual hurricane preparation meeting took place with the participation of 22 Red Cross entities from the region. At least ten Caribbean Red Cross entities have now created contingency plans. In addition, the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross, the Dominica Red Cross and St. Lucia Red Cross confirmed their interest in supporting the Caribbean Radio Network. The meeting was also attended by donors and regional partners in the Caribbean, including ECHO, PAHO, OFDA and CDERA. The Port of Spain sub regional office was the focal point for coordination, with support from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Delegation, both based in Panama.

In July, the container project was reviewed and the contents modified slightly to include ventilators and dehumidifiers, based on the results of a survey in January. Cots have also been exchanged for sleeping mats and blankets for single sheets. MoUs were signed with the Barbados Red Cross Society and the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, and the procurement process is now underway. The MoU with the Suriname Red Cross is pending signature and should be completed shortly.



Heavy rains resulted in flooding in St. Marc, Haiti. Thousands of residents lost all of their belongings.



Thanks to the regional container project, the Haitian Red Cross was able to provide relief to 300 families.

In Haiti, heavy rains resulted in flooding in late August in St. Marc, in Bas Artibonite. Thousands of residents of the areas lost all of their belongings. Thanks to the container that had been positioned in the province, the Haitian National Red Cross Society was able to provide relief to 300 affected families. This operation demonstrated the capacity of the Haitian Red Cross National Society to respond effectively in an emergency. The National Society worked closely with the regional branch of Saint-Marc and many branch members worked as volunteers during the relief operations. These and other volunteers played a very important role in identifying flooded areas, interviewing disaster victims and distributing relief goods. The success of this operation was largely a result of the hands-on approach of the volunteers in the region.

Needs assessments were carried out in Saint-Marc to identify the areas that were hardest hit by the flooding and the most vulnerable members of the population. The areas with the most damage were primarily those located near rivers or the ocean. Because of the large number of families affected by the floods, the Haitian National Red Cross Society launched an emergency appeal to help 1,050 families (7,000 beneficiaries) with the support of the French Red Cross. Additional support came from ECHO, which allocated EURO 80,000.00 for the relief efforts and the local bank Sogebank, which donated USD 2,400.00.

The Federation coordinated closely with local representatives, regional or departmental offices such as the Civil Defence Office and local branches of the Haitian National Red Cross Society. The National Society sent a team of Red Cross volunteers to Cap-Haitien, where the container was located, to retrieve the goods that would be distributed to the beneficiaries. Red Cross volunteers tailored the size of the pre-made kits according to the size of each family, which made it possible to assist more than 300 families, and some 2,000 people were reached. Each family received kitchen sets, hygiene kits, blankets and plastic sheeting.

In Cuba, the response to Hurricanes Lili and Isidore that struck in 2002 was extended. Rehabilitation and reconstruction activities have continued with the arrival of zinc sheets in July for beneficiaries in Isla de Juventud. Once these and other supplies are distributed the operation will come to an end.

Expected result 3: National Society and community disaster preparedness will have been enhanced through an innovative disaster management distance learning programme (DMDLP).

No funding has been received for this training programme and it will not be included in the 2004 Appeal.

Expected result 4: The safety and disaster preparedness of institutions in the hotel and tourism sector will have been enhanced by their participation in a hotel and tourism safety programme (HTSP).

This programme remains on hold due to a lack of funding and will not be included in the 2004 Appeal. However, it will be retained as a project that National Societies can pursue within the proposed organizational development network. This programme may be of interest to some National Societies given the management requirements and resource development opportunities that it brings.

A final document of the Hotel Safety focus group was produced in July. This includes all the recommendations from the Think Tank meeting earlier in the year, and remains a comprehensive and valid overview with clear indications of how this programme could move forward in the event that necessary resources are made available.

Impact

- Participatory assessment tools to be used at the community level have been tested and approved by the National Societies.
- Community Based Disaster Preparedness training material was designed and validated by National Societies.
- A communication, information and education strategy was included in the CBDP programme approach.
- A revised disaster management strategy was agreed upon by the Caribbean Red Cross Societies as part of the revision of the regional cooperation agreement strategy (RCAS).
- 22 communities were identified and selected for the development of disaster preparedness activities.
- The VCA awareness workshop-meeting with Red Cross Societies and regional partners proved to be a key factor for the inclusion of new community approaches in disaster management programmes. This will be carried out through working with Red Cross leadership and ensuring a broad understanding of the approach.
- The community level integrated disaster preparedness programme was incorporated into the DIPECHO IV project and accepted by National Societies.
- Relationships with key actors in the region were strengthened and coordination activities were improved.
- Contingency guidelines for hurricanes were produced and shared with ten National Societies.
- Red Cross response plans were produced by the sub regional office and adapted by at least three Red Cross Societies.
- The Jamaican Red Cross Society strengthened its disaster management structure and has identified volunteer management and training coordinators.
- The agenda of the humanitarian work of the Red Cross in the Caribbean was highlighted during the 6th annual meeting of the Natural Disaster Commission of the Association of Caribbean States, enhancing the profile of the Red Cross at government level.

Constraints

- The workload in the area of disaster management is increasing but resources, particularly human resources, are being reduced.
- The process of validating training material was slow and delayed the final production of training materials.
- There has been limited funding to support the disaster management delegate.

Coordination

Much has been done over this period to promote coordination with other agencies working in disaster management. The profile of the Red Cross has been raised considerably, and the Federation's role in disaster management has been shared widely with the public, governments and other organizations.

In June the Federation attended the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group meeting, ensuring that the Red Cross's profile was raised. At the meeting, contacts were established with key agencies and the roles and capabilities of the Federation as a support body for National Societies in disasters were recorded as part of the "Operations Order". The Federation also attended the 6th meeting of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) where Red Cross members were able to discuss Red Cross activities in the region with representatives from 28 countries.

With CDERA, the Federation discussed possibilities for joint youth training programmes in CBDP. The Federation is also pursuing the possibility of joint training with OFDA on damage and needs assessments.

As part of the VCA awareness workshop and meeting, a regional plan of action was produced with regional and international partners, and many of the objectives of the plan have been achieved. The level of contact with OAS, ECHO, OXFAM, PAHO and OFDA has increased as a result.

Humanitarian Values

Goal: The Federation's profile in the Caribbean is enhanced and its advocacy role on behalf of vulnerable groups increased.

Objective: The advocacy capabilities and activities of National Societies in the Caribbean are improved and their functioning in the field of information and communications is strengthened.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: The Red Cross Societies in the region have increased their involvement in advocacy activities.

The participatory process of revising the regional cooperation agreement strategy (RCAS) saw increased interest in advocacy activities, which are now more adequately reflected in the document. The document now reflects particular advocacy opportunities, such as Red Cross Day and World AIDS Day, and makes specific mention of seropositive persons and immigrant communities.

Most of the work in advocacy remains connected to the HIV/AIDS programme, with the work that is being carried out in the fight against stigma. The Federation provided support to GIPA, a global organization of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), and a local Trinidad-based PLWHA association for the production of a video. The video is designed to help fight the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS by putting a human face on the epidemic and working closely with PLWHA. Once editing is completed, the video will be distributed regionally through the Caribbean Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (CRN+).

In St. Lucia, the Red Cross is involved in an educational project called "Breaking the Silence" that aims to create youth-produced and youth-targeted messages about HIV/AIDS prevention in the Caribbean through digital video productions. The goal of the project is to begin a process of systemic change, empowering girls with skills and knowledge to leverage against the inequities of gender and poverty, and to implement a creative, cutting-edge intervention in the global AIDS pandemic.

On World First Aid Day, National Societies and branches in the Caribbean celebrated and promoted the day with a range of different activities, using materials supplied by the Secretariat in Geneva. The activities were followed up by the sub regional office, which has helped to increase participation in the event from two National Societies last year to ten this year.

Expected result 2: The information and communications capacities of Caribbean National Societies and overseas branches will have been significantly strengthened.

Following the biennial meeting in July, during which the National Societies and OSBs communicated the need for increased support to information and communication capacities, the Federation sub regional office set about recruiting an information officer.

The successful candidate will begin work in October and will be responsible for building a communications strategy for the region, strengthening local capacity and raising the profile of the Red Cross in the Caribbean. The initial focus will be on raising the Red Cross profile, including increasing use of the Caribbean Red Cross web site and reviving the Caribbean newsletter on a quarterly basis.

Impact

- National Society participation in World First Aid Day has increased.
- The capacity of the sub regional office to work in the areas of advocacy and communications has increased.
- Caribbean Red Cross Societies supported the revision of the RCAS.

Constraints

- The main constraint in this programme area remains the limited capacity of most Red Cross entities in the Caribbean, very few of which can afford dedicated staff or volunteers working in advocacy and / or communications
- The technical capacity of certain Red Cross National Societies and branches is limited.

Coordination

The Humanitarian Values programme has been conducted in coordination with a number of PLWHA organizations. In addition, the Federation maintains close communication with the ICRC through regular meetings in Port of Spain and Haiti.

Organizational development

Goal: Well-functioning National Societies and overseas branches in the Caribbean are providing a more effective level of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities.

Objective: National Societies and overseas branches in the Caribbean receive material and technical inputs which enhance their structures and capacities to enable them to carry out the full spectrum of programmes in an effective manner.

Progress/Achievements

The Capacity Building Fund has provided significant support to both Haiti (CHF 185,000) and Cuba (CHF 150,000) in 2003, making it possible to enhance both human resource capacity and improve training materials in these National Societies. The Haitian and Cuban Red Cross Societies have received technical training, participated in important events such as the partnership meeting in Port au Prince, produced key documents such as technical handbooks, and taken part in branch strengthening activities.

In the English-speaking Caribbean, it has been difficult to carry out many of the activities planned during the reporting period since support from the Capacity Building Fund has come to an end, and the regional organizational and branch development delegate completed her mission. The Federation is currently emphasizing the creation of an organizational development network built around the training of a group of organizational development practitioners from the region to help bridge the resource gap. However, this initiative will not start until 2004 and will depend on funding.

Expected Result 1: National Society capacities to plan and implement quality programmes are enhanced.

The Jamaican Red Cross will be sending a representative to the international fundraising skillshare workshop in the Netherlands in October, with the support of the Federation. Upon return to the region, the participant will be expected to share lessons learned and methodologies with the wider region. This type of workshop may also be incorporated into the planned training of the organizational development network next year.

The PPP methodology allowed the Dominican Red Cross Society to prepare, present and submit several projects in August for the 2004 Appeal. These National Societies presented projects in disaster preparedness, HIV/AIDS, and community assistance for water and sanitation. Although many of these projects still need to be improved, this has been a major step forward for the National Societies, which are now aware of the necessity of identifying and designing projects that address the needs of the most vulnerable members of society.

Expected result 2: Governance issues are effectively addressed by Caribbean National Societies and overseas branches.

The biennial meeting in July was used as an opportunity for leaders to discuss the issues facing organizational development in the region. The Dominican Red Cross led the way by discussing some of the challenges the National Society has faced in recent years. The biennial meeting was also used as an opportunity to train

participants in “emotionally intelligent leadership,” encouraging senior figures from the region to analyze their management and governance approaches and become more rounded leaders.



National Society elections were held during the general assembly of the Dominican Red Cross in August.

General Assemblies were held in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The meeting in the Dominican Republic on 15 August was held to elect National Society leaders and to elect members to the National Board. The meeting was also the culmination of a process that began nine months earlier and sought to include new branches in the Red Cross network. This process included introducing the Dominican Red Cross (DRC) Statutes to the branches and examining the election process of each branch. Representatives of 44 branches of the DRC were present at the meeting, including those who had not yet been officially recognized, as well as representatives of the Federation and the ICRC.

The Federation was involved in each step of the General Assembly, from supporting the effort to recognize new branches and supervising the electoral process to providing tools that the National Society and the branches could use to move forward, such as planning guides.

The elections were carried out in a positive and democratic climate. The new National Society President was elected with one hundred percent of the votes and there was a major restructuring of the National Board. In addition, gender representation has improved in the DRC as seven women have been elected as branch presidents. The Dominican Red Cross has now recognized 27 new branch offices, bringing the total number of provincial and municipal branches to 50.

Following the General Assembly, a seminar for all branch presidents took place in mid-August in order to help these presidents link their work with the work of the ICRC in the area. Topics addressed during the meeting included presentations on the Red Cross Movement, Strategy 2010, characteristics of a well functioning National Society and better governance. The national development plan was also presented and revised during the meeting.

With the end of funding from the Capacity Building Fund in the English-speaking Caribbean and the departure of the organizational branch development delegate with a specifically development-oriented portfolio, it has been difficult for the Port of Spain sub regional office to pursue governance issues with the knowledge and proximity that they require. The new coordinator of the Trinidad SRO has taken up some work in this area, primarily through working with the Caribbean Cooperation of the Red Cross (CCORC) and its leadership.

In the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society there has been a significant delay in the process of revising the Statutes and hiring a CEO. In Barbados, a two year process that was strongly supported by the Federation came to an end when the final version of the National Society’s revised Statutes was approved at the annual general meeting on 22 September. In Suriname, the support of the outgoing organizational and branch development delegate helped the National Society prepare a final draft of the revised Statutes that is now ready for presentation at the general assembly on 2 November. The Federation has also supported National Societies of Dominica, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, but there has been no reported additional progress in these countries during this reporting period.

Elsewhere, the sub regional office stands ready to assist National Societies with specific requests or areas that they wish to address. This can be carried out through existing resources within the Port of Spain SRO or by coordinating efforts more widely in the Americas region where the Federation has access to a range of organizational development professionals.

Expected result 3: The capacity of Caribbean National Societies and overseas branches to effectively mobilize volunteers and youth is increased.

The hiring of an HIV/AIDS youth officer in the Port of Spain sub regional office is part of the support strategy to promote more emphasis in this area. The main focus of the HIV/AIDS peer education programme is on youth, involving young people from both within and without the Red Cross Movement.

In addition, the Federation has helped develop a working group on youth made up of representatives from the Red Cross Societies of Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Jamaica and St. Lucia, which is trying to improve youth participation and representation within Red Cross entities around the region. One of the strategies of this group is to focus attention on young people between the ages of 16 and 25, an area that has traditionally been neglected by a number of Red Cross Societies and which has a direct effect on a wider lack of volunteers. The group will also be tasked with monitoring the regional youth policy that was drafted in 2001, which was again shared with CCORC members at the biennial meeting.

Expected result 4: The capacity of the Cuban Red Cross to meet the needs of the most vulnerable is enhanced, and the public image of the National Society is heightened.

With the valuable support of the Capacity Building Fund for the third consecutive year, the Cuban Red Cross (CRC) has made significant changes in its organizational structure. There is now better communication between branches of the CRC regarding branch development activities, improved knowledge among volunteers in key programme areas and increased awareness of the need to improve the relationship between governance and management.

Branch Development

At least 15 branches have been involved in the branch development project to improve facilities. The project has included construction and renovation of buildings, improved sanitation systems and painting at a cost of USD 45,000. The project was all carried out with the help of local volunteers. In addition, the National Society and the branches of Camaguey, Cienfuego, Florida, Habana, Pinar del Río and Villa Clara received information technology equipment such as computers and printers.

Handbooks

The process of completing the first aid handbook is ongoing. Due to the complexity of this handbook and the fact that it must be approved by the Ministry of Health, the handbook is not expected to be ready until the beginning of 2004. Work on the volunteer handbook is nearing completion and the final version is expected to be ready in December. In addition, the project planning process and psychological first aid handbooks have been completed. The PPP handbook was distributed for use in training sessions and the psychological first aid handbook was printed for 500 instructors and 1,000 pupils at national level.

It has been decided that an administration and finance handbook will not be developed since the Cuban government already distributed handbooks to each branch that addresses these topics. The CRC has also trained Red Cross personnel in these issues.



As part of the Cuban Red Cross's capacity building project, branch offices throughout the country were renovated and equipped with improved sanitation systems. Some branches also received computers and printers.

The CRC has proposed that the proposed workshop and handbooks for administration and finance be replaced with handbooks and training in water safety. Due to the urgent need for volunteers to have good informational references in this area, this seems an appropriate option. In addition, water safety is a programme area that gives the National Society visibility. The Federation support to this programme within the Capacity Building Funds II and III, has provided technical training to the National Society and has supplied 700 volunteers with t-shirts. Thus far, the water safety programme has yielded good results, with a significant number of volunteers being trained. The volunteers have regularly been present at most of the beaches in the country and have been able to provide assistance to those in need.

Training

The CRC held three training workshops during the period covered by this report. A long distance learning in communications workshop was held in August to follow up on the distance learning programme for communication, which includes seven modules. This programme was started in 2002 with the support of the Capacity Building Fund. The workshop had 23 participants and included a presentation of the contingency plan for communication. Approximately 60 per cent of the participants were also part of the Cuban journalists' network and 40 per cent were part of the Cuban Red Cross communicators' network. A final training session is planned for later in the year in order to complete the last of the seven modules and to evaluate the impact of the distance learning programme. Already, the programme has improved the visibility of the Red Cross within the media, including an increased number of newspaper articles and radio spots about Red Cross activities. The link between Red Cross communicators and the media has been strengthened through this programme, and a project has been developed that would include a "coach journalist" in each region that would be able to help Red Cross communicators improve their techniques and knowledge of journalism. This would also help promote knowledge and understanding of the Red Cross among journalists.

A workshop addressing the management of information during times of disaster was also held in August. The workshop included 20 participants from the Red Cross and 22 journalists from the various sectors of the Cuban media. Some of these journalists were also members of the Cuban Journalists' Union. The workshop promoted awareness of such issues as the needs of the Red Cross during disasters, standard tools for using and managing information during disasters, ethics in journalism and operational information. The workshop also discussed information tools such as the Red Cross web site, specific terminology that is used during disasters and writing situation reports.

The third workshop held during the reporting period dealt with the cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) and the national development plan (NDP). A first draft of the CAS has been drawn up by the Cuban Red Cross, which now needs to be revised and further developed. Later drafts of the CAS will include a clearer presentation of the programmes related to the CAS and a more detailed analysis of potential partners in the country. This last element has been difficult to finalize because of the political situation in Cuba. Further development of the CAS needs to include more support and input from the National Society as a means of empowering the CRC in development capabilities.

Expected result 5: The capacity of the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) to meet the needs of the most vulnerable is enhanced.

National Development Plan

An ad hoc commission composed of members of the board of directors, technical staff and a delegate from the International Federation was created in July in order to revise the content of the first draft of the national development plan (NDP) for the Haitian National Red Cross Society. The document was later analyzed during consultations and workshops with Red Cross members and partners. The NDP was finalized in August and presented at a partnership meeting in mid-August. The document contains the National Society's long-term strategy, including the vision of the HNRCS and objectives for the HNRCS's programmes for the next five years.

Partnership Conference and CAS process

The CAS process has been explained and promoted among HNRCS members and partners since September 2002. The proposal to organize a partnership conference in 2003 was discussed with HNRCS management, members of the board of directors and members of the administration committee at the governance training session for leaders in 2002 and throughout 2003. Organization of the meeting was finally completed and the meeting was held from 20 to 22 August with more than 30 participants. The meeting included members the HNRCS board of directors and presidents and directors of every branch of the Haitian National Red Cross Society, as well as representatives from

the American, Dominican, French, Netherlands and Norwegian Red Cross Societies. In addition, representatives of the Regional Delegation in Panama, the Americas Department of the Secretariat in Geneva and the ICRC office in Port-au-Prince were present.



A partnership meeting for the Haitian National Red Cross Society was held in August. The meeting provided the National Society with the opportunity to explain its long-term strategy and presents its programme objectives.

The partnership meeting provided the National Society with the opportunity to explain its long-term strategy and present the objectives the HNRCS will try to meet in social medicine, disaster preparedness and response, health, community assistance, youth, communications, blood banks, ambulance services and organizational development. In addition, the meeting demonstrated how key members of the National Society had been empowered to prepare the NDP and how the process was carried out with the active participation of the board of directors and members of technical staff.

Overseas branches demonstrated their interest in supporting the various programmes presented by the National Society as part of their bilateral collaboration. For example, the French Red Cross has expressed interest in the youth programme of the HNRCS that would involve training 50 youth leaders, and the disaster preparedness programme that would involve creating local disaster committees within communities. The Norwegian Red Cross is planning closer coordination with the Haitian National Red Cross Society and plans to place a delegate in the country by the end of the year to support two projects in branch development and disaster preparedness. The American Red Cross expressed an interest in coordinating with the Federation and the Norwegian Red Cross to promote the “Tog ether We Can” HIV/AIDS project. In addition, the ICRC reconfirmed its support for traditional activities such as communications, as well as newer programmes such as those to combat violence, particularly on the Haitian border. Finally, the Federation promised its continued support for organizational development programmes, safe blood programmes and for projects addressing the needs of migrants in the border region.

Impact

- Changes in the organizational structure of the Cuban Red Cross have led to better communication between branches and better training of volunteers.
- The partnership conference in Haiti provided the National Society with the opportunity to share its goals and objectives with regional partners. Several of these partners have expressed an interest in supporting Haitian National Red Cross Society programmes in the future.
- The Jamaican Red Cross plans to create a resource development policy and to share lessons learned with others in the region.
- National Societies trained in PPP are using this for the appeal process.
- 27 new branches have now been recognized in the Dominican Republic.
- There is increased activity and contact with the CCORC.
- Barbados Red Cross has completed the process of the revision of Statutes.
- The capacity of the sub regional office to support Red Cross youth has been improved.
- The distribution of handbooks and informational materials is beginning to have a positive impact as knowledge is shared and spread within the National Societies in the region.

Constraints

- Limited funding has been available for organizational development programmes, particularly in the eastern Caribbean following the ending of support from the capacity building fund.
- The Federation has no personnel with a specific organizational development portfolio in the English speaking Caribbean, leading to further stretching of capacity.

Coordination

In Cuba, the Cuban Red Cross and the Federation have been working closely with members of the Cuban media, specifically with members of the Cuban Journalists' Union, as a means of promoting understanding of the Red Cross's goals and principles. In addition, the CRC has been working closely with the Cuban Ministry of Health to create first aid handbooks. In the Dominican Republic, the Federation worked closely with the ICRC to oversee National Society elections and the process of including new branches in the National Society.

Federation Coordination

Goal: The Red Cross in the Caribbean, as a collective entity, contributes effectively and efficiently to capacity building related to service delivery to the vulnerable in all four core areas of *Strategy 2010*.

Objective: The Red Cross in the Caribbean - through effective coordination - makes better use of the linkages and resources available in the region, both within and beyond the Red Cross Movement, for the purpose of institutional development and service provision.

Progress/Achievements

Expected result 1: Throughout the two-year period covered by the present appeal, the momentum established by the process of RCAS and CAS development during 2001 will have been maintained, and all Red Cross stakeholders in the region will have been involved in the process of review and further refinement of Federation strategies. The RCAS monitoring group will have held six-monthly meetings to oversee the implementation of the RCAS. The CAS process in Haiti and Cuba will have been completed and partnership meetings held.

In Haiti, the existing coordination between the Federation and the ICRC is being strengthened by the presence of both institutions in the field, with delegates working together on organization, funding and follow up for important events such as the partnership meeting for the CAS, and the General Assembly during which the Haitian National Red Cross Society's Statutes were reviewed. These two organizations have both been working closely with the Haitian and Dominican Red Cross Societies, the Haitian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Haitian National Police, and Human Rights NGOs regarding migration issues surrounding the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In addition, an integrated approach is being developed between the Federation and the ICRC concerning a specific programme in disaster preparedness in Haiti.

The revision of the regional cooperation agreement strategy was one of the central themes of the biennial meeting held in Trinidad in July. Through participation in working groups, the revision of the entire document was completed and the new version was distributed to all members of the CCORC. Also at the biennial meeting, a report covering progress against the RCAS from August 2002 to May 2003 was completed and presented to all participants. It was later circulated to all CCORC members.

Despite the enthusiasm that the revision process has generated, the RCAS remains rather unmanageable. In a special session of the CCORC management committee, it was agreed that this problem needs to be addressed by creating a shorter document that is more tailored to information and marketing needs. The goal of the shorter version would be to create a document that could be presented to partners. The Federation will support this process over the coming months.

The RCAS monitoring group did not meet during this period. However, the biennial meeting served a similar function.

The CAS process in Haiti consists of a simple and practical framework that was drawn up during the partnership meeting and is based on the national development plan of the HNRCS. All Red Cross partners working in the country, including the Federation, the ICRC, and the American, French, Netherlands and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, have agreed to provide short, medium or long term support to the National Society in specific programme areas, such as organizational development and health.

Expected result 2: A perceptible strengthening of the CCORC will have been achieved, permitting it to play a more proactive role in fostering regional cooperation amongst the various Red Cross components. The Federation will have provided inputs for a functioning secretariat of CCORC, in the form of a part-time staff member at the Federation's Trinidad sub regional office (SRO), and have met at regular intervals with the CCORC leadership. Caribbean representatives will have attended and participated actively in key regional and global Red Cross meetings in 2003 and 2004.

On 4 July the Caribbean Cooperation of the Red Cross (CCORC) elected a new management committee with the following results:

National Society	Position
St. Lucia	Chair
Antigua and Barbuda	Vice Chair
Dominican Republic	Secretary
Suriname	Treasurer
Barbados	Member
Bahamas	Member

Since then, the SRO has been working to raise the profile of the CCORC, including distributing information and articles on the association to all members. In addition, in early October the management committee will meet in Trinidad to put together a plan of action for 2004-2005 to ensure that the CCORC is increasingly active.

The Federation has set aside funding for administrative support to the CCORC, which will take the form of an assistant based in St. Lucia. A job description has been developed and the CCORC president is moving ahead with the recruitment process.

Expected result 3: The programme for the regional recruitment of delegates has been promoted effectively, and up to fifteen delegates from the region identified and trained, through a basic training course held in the region, for deployment on Federation missions, in the region and elsewhere.

The Federation is coordinating efforts to hold a basic training course (BTC) in Panama in early December. The Regional Delegation is providing many of the required resources and ICRC is ready to assist. A budget has been sent out to overseas branches and the ICRC, and if sufficient funds are made available this project will go ahead.

Impact

- The RCAS was revised and updated and shared amongst Red Cross and regional partners.
- The new CCORC management committee has been elected and is now active.
- The job description for the CCORC administrative function has been finalized and recruitment procedures can commence.
- Funding for a basic training course (BTC) is currently being sought.

Constraints

- Funding for Federation Coordination programmes has been limited.
- The RCAS remains difficult to manage given its length and complexity.
- It is proving difficult to raise money for the proposed BTC.
- It has been difficult to generate interest in the CAS process within the Haitian National Red Cross Society. The document must be a simple, user-friendly tool that encompasses all projects and partners.
- Outside of meetings, which have been fruitful and productive, there has been little follow up from CCORC members on agreed actions points.
- The Red Cross in the region has yet to translate the CCORC into genuine peer support.

International Representation

Goal: A wider range of international support will be mobilized to further Federation aims at the national, regional and international level.

Objective: The Federation will have raised awareness of its aims and activities, and will have mobilized support for Red Cross activities at national and regional level in core areas of Strategy 2010.

Progress/Achievements

Expected result 1: The Federation, its aims and activities, and the role of the various Red Cross components, are better understood and supported by governments and international agencies, through the promotion and development of partnerships with key institutional actors, including PAHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, the International Labour Organization (ILO), CDERA, and CARDIN, and through a systematic review of possible future partnerships with intergovernmental bodies (CARICOM, ACS, OECS) and private sector associations.

A significant amount of work has been carried out in coordination with other organizations over the reporting period. The Caribbean Red Cross HIV/AIDS Network (CARAN) has coordinated closely with UNICEF, UNAIDS, PAHO and CAREC on HIV/AIDS programmes. The regional health programme has also worked closely with the Haitian Ministry of Health to set up mobile clinics in Port-au-Prince. The disaster management programme in the region has received significant funding from the European Community, through DIPECHO funding. UNDP, Oxfam, Movimundo, UK International, Save the Children, OFDA, CDERA, OAS and ACS have all also supported the regional disaster management programme.

In addition, it is worth highlighting a meeting between the Federation's coordinator and disaster management delegate and the secretary general of the ACS. At the meeting both parties re-affirmed their interest in signing a MoU, which is now planned for early 2004. In addition, the meeting in Barbados with UNICEF, CAREC and PAHO regarding HIV/AIDS programming has already resulted in increased cooperation. The Federation is currently exploring the possibility of an additional MoU with UNICEF to cover the shared work in this area.

Expected result 2: Specific sectoral aims of the Federation - in each of the core areas of *Strategy 2010* - are acknowledged and supported by governments at relevant international forums, as a result of targeted lobbying with governments and embassies, and participation by the Federation at relevant international forums.

Thanks to intense lobbying from the headquarters and within the region, the Federation was invited to attend the Caribbean regional preparatory meeting for the international meeting that will be held to review the implementation of the Barbados programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing states (SIDS) that will take place in Port of Spain from 6 to 10 October. The Federation coordinator gave a presentation to assembled government, UN, NGO and civil society representatives in which the role of the Red Cross was emphasized as being part of the solution to many of the challenges faced by SIDS. The presentation will be included in the final report on the meeting. The Federation made contacts with a number of organizations working in the region and has received several invitations to participate in other fora, such as the upcoming UNESCO meeting on HIV/AIDS education.

The CCORC has been made aware of the importance of its participation in the final preparatory meeting for SIDS in the Bahamas in January. The meeting will take place in Mauritius in 2004.

Expected result 3: Additional resources for the Federation in the Caribbean are generated through targeting by Federation staff of critical professional and private sector bodies, wide distribution of appeals, reports, updates, and other public relations and public information material, and focused advocacy campaigns around key dates: World Red Cross Day, World AIDS Day, release of the World Disaster Report, see also the humanitarian values programme).

The September partnership meeting in Barbados incorporated the launch of the World Disaster Report and the "Together We Can" peer education manual. This was well received by the Barbados media, with both print and television companies present. Also, the addition of an information officer in the SRO as of October has produced early results. Articles have already been produced for the Caribbean web site and have been distributed among

CCORC members. This progress will be taken further with a proposed second partnership meeting in Trinidad in December and a specific concentration on World AIDS Day.



The September partnership meeting in Barbados incorporated the launch of the World Disaster Report and the "Together We Can" peer education manual.

Expected result 4: Durable linkages will have been built between the Federation and key inter governmental, non-governmental, and private sector agencies, to the benefit of the Red Cross as a whole.

In September, the Federation organized a partnership meeting in which the Federation explained the role and programmes of the Red Cross in the Caribbean. The meeting, which was among the first of its kind for the Federation in the Eastern Caribbean, was attended by representatives of the Barbados Red Cross, CARAN, the Barbados National HIV/AIDS Commission, UNICEF, CDERA, PAHO, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the US Embassy, together with the consul of the Netherlands, the Australian High Commissioner, the consul for the Bahamas and a member of the Brazilian Embassy. In December, a second partnership meeting is planned for Trinidad.

The Federation already has existing MoUs with CDERA, UNICEF, and Ericsson Response, the latter which is operated through PADRU. The existing MoU with UNICEF provides logistics assistance to the region, and the Federation is hoping to complete an additional MoU for assistance in HIV/AIDS programmes. The Federation has also signed an MoU with the OAS and expects to complete a MoU with ACS within the next few months. The Caribbean also benefits from the worldwide agreements the Federation has reached with the Pan American Health Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Olympic Committee, UNAIDS, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Population Fund.

Impact

- Working relationships with a number of key organizations have been strengthened.
- The Red Cross has increased its involvement in the sustainable development of SIDS and the preparation for Mauritius 2004.
- The profile of the Red Cross has been increased in the region.

Constraints

- Much time is required to follow up these relationships which are difficult to manage with such limited capacity in the region.
- There is limited funding for this programme area.

For further information please contact:

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

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

Caribbean sub-regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.49/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

17/12/2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,547,557	TOTAL COVERAGE 91.2%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				580,063		
AMERICAN - PRIVATE DONOR		11,120	USD	15,118	15.05.03	HIV/AIDS
AMERICAN - PRIVATE DONOR		40	USD	54	31.01.03	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				38,500	24.02.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEV.
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				13,500	24.02.03	COMMUNITY HEALTH
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				35,000	24.02.03	INTERNATIONAL REP.
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				19,250	24.02.03	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				35,000	24.02.03	HUMANITARIAN VALUES
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				25,000	24.02.03	TRINIDAD HEALTH
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				40,000	24.02.03	JAMAICA DISASTER PREP.
BRITISH - RC		10,650	GBP	22,514	09.06.03	DELEGATE SALARY
BRITISH - RC		1,500	GBP	3,336	04.07.03	BIENNIAL MEETING
BRITISH - RC		7,500	GBP	16,571	02.10.03	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - RC		15,000	GBP	33,428	02.12.03	COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - RC		1,475	USD	1,915	04.12.03	T&T OFFICE, HIV ADVISOR
CANADIAN - RC		2,000	CAD	2,021	16.05.03	BIENNIAL MEETING
ECHO (02009)		276,471	EUR	428,254	03.07.03	CARIBBEAN CBDP
ICRC				10,000	01.07.03	BIENNIAL MEETING
JAPANESE - RC		108,135	USD	139,224	13.06.03	DP CONTAINER PROJECT
MONACO - RC		10,000	EUR	15,225	13.05.03	
NETHERLANDS - RC		3,743	EUR	5,798	23.07.03	CARAN REGIONAL MEETING
NETHERLANDS - RC		1,172	USD	1,560	23.07.03	CARAN HIV/AIDS
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		250,000	NOK	46,750	14.05.03	CARAN REGIONAL MEETING
NORWEGIAN - RC				10,000	18.06.03	BIENNIAL MEETING
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,200,000	NOK	226,200	23.09.03	CARAN ACTIVITY KITS & TRAINERS MANUALS
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		500,000	NOK	94,500	22.10.03	OD DELEGATE, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES
NORWEGIAN - RC		400,000	NOK	75,600	28.10.03	BTC, CBDP
SPANISH - RC		5,000	EUR	7,688	16.05.03	BIENNIAL MEETING
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND ALLOCATION				150,000	30/04/2003	CUBA - PCU001
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND ALLOCATION				62,000	06/10/2003	HAITI - PHT006
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2,154,069	CHF	84.6%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
FRANCE	DELEGATE(S)			94,783		
NORWAY	DELEGATE(S)			25,462		
SPAIN	DELEGATE(S)			5,092		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			43,367		

Caribbean sub-regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.49/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

17/12/2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				168,704	CHF	6.6%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	