

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

AFGHANISTAN

5 May 2003

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals. The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Appeal No. 01.52/2003

Appeal target: CHF 14,523,714 (USD 9.97m or EUR 9.84m)

Programme Update No. 1 Period covered: January-March 2003

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 25.2%; See attached Contributions List for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 10,862,069

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Summary: Security concerns are increasing. Factional infighting and criminal activity affect humanitarian operations throughout the country. Nevertheless, the Afghan Red Crescent continues to work to meet the needs of the country's most vulnerable people.

Operational Developments

It has been more than a year since various Afghan factions signed a milestone accord paving the way for political transition in their war-ravaged country. However, insecurity remains an ongoing challenge in Afghanistan, threatening the peace process at every level and thus putting the long-term development projects at risk.

The security situation during the period was tense in many parts of the country. There was an increase in the number of criminal incidents in most parts of Afghanistan like property robberies and vehicle thefts. Killings were also becoming more frequent. Often incidents of banditry and violence were aimed at humanitarian operations.

The killing of an ICRC delegate in the southern Afghan province of Uruzgan was a daunting event that shocked and dismayed people within and outside Afghanistan. The murder, the first killing of an international ICRC staff member in the country since 1990, reflects a grim picture of the problems faced by aid workers in the field. Following the incident, there were also several rocket attacks on the multinational peacekeeping force in Kabul, threatening both government and aid agency staff.

Factional infighting and criminal activity has affected humanitarian operations throughout the country and has led to the suspension of many humanitarian missions. As a result of the increase in security concerns in Afghanistan, following the outbreak of war in Iraq and then the tragic killing of an ICRC delegate in Urozgan, the majority of field trips for monitoring and supervision have been put on hold since mid-March. This will have a significant impact on the Afghan Red Crescent/Federation operation, particularly in the south and the

west - including the provinces around Jalalabad, Paktia, Paktika and Ghazni in the South, and Badgis and Ghor. In the West the situation remains volatile and a close vigilance is being kept.

Despite this complex situation, the Afghan Red Crescent Society has remained operational, providing vital assistance to the country's most vulnerable people. The Federation is now developing modalities on how to provide effective technical support to its colleagues at the local Red Crescent under the current circumstances to ensure the continuation of the programmes.

The country was not spared from natural calamities either. Heavy rains caused serious flooding in northern Afghanistan, affecting thousands of people and destroying hundreds of homes. Eleven people have been killed and over 2,000 people affected. In the Konduz province, 474 houses were damaged and 168 completely destroyed by the flood. It also had a serious impact on the Khanabad district and the surrounding districts of Chahar Darreh, Dasht-e Archi and Aliabad.

The heavy rains and snow have also provided widespread relief to Afghanistan. However, estimated seasonal precipitation remains far below normal, but better than last year. Regional rainfall deficits are greatest in the southern and western regions where the long-term drought persists. The areas that benefited most from the recent precipitation are the North-East, East and Central regions of the country.

Heavy snow caused the longest closure this year of the Salang Tunnel, and there have been other access problems in the central and north-eastern areas of the country. At the end of March, there was an earthquake, 5.8 on the Richter scale, in an isolated region of north-east Afghanistan, 135 km (85 miles) south of the Badarkhsan province. Fortunately it did not cause casualties nor destruction.

IDPs and refugees: Since the beginning of 2003, more than 8,800 Afghan refugees¹ have been assisted in returning home. Nearly 6,100 Afghans have voluntarily returned from Iran, while more than 2,700 Afghans have chosen to return home from Pakistan. According to UNHCR, most of the refugees are returning to the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar and the adjacent Kabul province. The UNHCR plans to assist 1.2 million refugees and 300,000 IDPs during the coming year despite some concerns that Afghanistan's weak infrastructure might not support this many returns. Last year more than 1.8 million refugees returned to Afghanistan. Notable is that there are still people leaving the north mainly from Faryab, Jowzjan and Badghis fleeing harassment and insecurity and coming down to the settlements in the south. According to UNHCR, of the estimated 600,000 displaced people throughout the country, some 350,000 are in the south.

Health and Care

Programme goal: The health vulnerability of one million Afghans - mostly women and children is reduced.

Programme objective: The capacity of the Afghan Red Crescent to reduce health vulnerability has increased.

The programme comprises four projects:

- Health clinics (including mother and child health);
- Emergency mobile units (EMUs);
- Water and sanitation;
- Community Based First Aid (CBFA).

Health clinics (including MCH)

Project objective: The capacity of Afghan Red Crescent is to provide high quality Primary Health Care (PHC) services, including Mother and Child Health (MCH) and health promotion is heightened.

¹ Source: UNHCR

Expected result 1: Afghan Red Crescent clinics provided regular medical consultation and treatment to the vulnerable people.

Progress/Achievements: Over **140,000** patients were treated in the 49 Afghan Red Crescent clinics throughout Afghanistan during the first three months of 2003. An average of 22% were children under 5 years. Major health concerns were respiratory tract infections, where the numbers in the Northern region were much higher than normal. Unfortunately the same is expected during the coming winter, especially with many families living in very poor accommodation. Laboratory tests were performed on **9,500** samples of blood, urine and stools this quarter. Data collected from the beginning of the year, up to and including March 2003 is given below:

Services provided (persons)	January	February	March	Total
Patients seen	64'112	38'601	40'752	0
Lab tests	2'985	3'598	2'917	9'500

Impact: In many places the Afghan Red Crescent clinic is the only access to health care for the vulnerable families, who know they will receive consultation from qualified and dedicated doctors and that the appropriate drugs will be available free of charge.

Constraints: There is still a need for health facilities in more remote areas of Afghanistan. Finding qualified health staff to work in these areas is a big problem.

Expected result 2: Afghan Red Crescent clinics provided regular health education, either in groups or individually.

Progress/Achievements: Over **135,000** people attended group health education sessions in Afghan Red Crescent clinics and above **35,000** people received individual health education during the first three months of 2003. Topics included care for a child with respiratory tract infection, when to seek urgent medical treatment, hygiene, nutrition and the importance of immunisation and family spacing. Data collected from the beginning of the year, up to and including March 2003 is shown below:

Services provided (persons)	January	February	March	Total
Group health education	55'172	40'185	40'482	135'839
Individual health education	13'021	10'732	11'249	35'002

Impact: Imparting information on health education is one of the most important health activities. It includes how to advise and teach people to prevent ill health and when to seek medical attention at the right time. In fact, group health education can stimulate discussion and lead to healthy behavioural changes. Individual health education allows a person to gather information and required detailed explanations from the health professional.

Constraints: Health education has taken place regularly in all clinics. Further training of health educators could improve the delivery of the health messages.

Expected result 3: Afghan Red Crescent has provided regular ante-natal and post natal care through its clinics.

Progress/Achievements: In the first three months of 2003, over **7,000** women attended antenatal consultations and nearly **2,000** postnatal consultations in Afghan Red Crescent clinics. The following data show the consultations per month:

Services provided (persons)	January	February	March	Total
Antenatal visits	3'201	1'917	2'063	7'181
Postnatal visits	619	636	691	1'946

Impact: In Afghanistan the majority of women deliver with no trained health person in attendance. In this regard, ante-natal attendance is crucial to monitor the pregnancy, to offer advice, and to urge referral for at-risk pregnancies. Similarly postnatal attendance is required so as to ensure both mother and child are checked and given advice for a healthy future.

Constraints: Although many women are now attending for antenatal support and advice, postnatal attendance remains low. Clinic staff have been urged to stress the importance of postnatal attendance, pre-natally. There are also lack of qualified female staff to offer these services in all clinics. Presently this service is offered in 35 of the 49 Afghan Red Crescent clinics. The Society is actively seeking more qualified female staff.

Expected result 4: Afghan Red Crescent provided regular growth monitoring services through its clinics.

Progress/Achievements: Over **6,000** children attended for growth monitoring in the first three months of 2003. Data collected from the beginning of the year, up to and including March 2003 shows:

Services provided (persons)	January	February	March	Total
Children growth monitored	2'112	1'921	2'201	6'234

Impact: When mothers bring their children for growth monitoring they also receive advice on nutrition and other important health messages. Children showing signs of malnutrition are examined by the doctor and treated and then referred to nutrition centres, wherever available.

Constraints: For malnourished children there are referral centres in most regional capitals. However, there is still a problem for malnourished children in remote areas, where it is also difficult to find the qualified staff.

Expected result 5: Women and children have received vaccination from Afghan Red Crescent clinics regularly.

Progress/Achievements: Over **42,000** children and more than **20,000** women received routine vaccination in Afghan Red Crescent clinics in the first three months of 2003. Afghan Red Crescent health staff and volunteers were also involved in the on-going polio NIDs (National Immunisation Days) campaigns, where all children under 5 years are targeted. Afghan Red Crescent also participated in a pilot tetanus vaccine programme for women of child bearing age, in Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar and Kandahar cities. In Jalalabad the first round in February reported a 91% coverage.

Data collected from the beginning of the year, up to and including March 2003 shows:

Services provided (persons)	January	February	March	Total
BCG	2'641	2'403	2'382	0
DPT and Polio	8'095	8'287	11'521	0
Measles	2'490	2'186	2'350	0
Tetanus (women)	6'578	6'536	7'100	20'214

Impact: Immunisation is one of the most effective preventive measures. Children can be protected from diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, measles and tuberculosis. Pregnant women who receive tetanus vaccine not only protect themselves, but also their unborn child.

Constraints: In the catchment areas of the clinics most children are receiving vaccination. However, there are many areas in the country where there are no clinics and it is therefore difficult for children to receive routine vaccinations. In Kandahar and Herat the mobile teams are discussing with Ministry of Public Health and UNICEF to try and establish a coldchain, so that they can take the immunisation programme to remote areas.

Expected result 6: Afghan Red Crescent clinics provided regular family planning services.

Progress/Achievements: 6,261 people or couples received family spacing advice and supplies in the first three months of 2003. Services offered include the oral contraceptive pill, contraceptive injections, male condoms and, in selected city clinics, after careful training of staff, the IUD (intra-uterine device). Data collected from the beginning of the year, up to and including March 2003 shows:

Services provided (persons)	January	February	March	Total
Family spacing clients	1'940	2'223	2'098	6'261

Impact: Families who are able to space their children can ensure that women have time to recover from one pregnancy before embarking onto another. Families can also plan the number of children they wish to have and the best possible spacing between the children to try to ensure healthy mothers and healthy children.

Constraints: Family spacing is a relatively new concept in Afghanistan. In the major cities more and more women and men, are beginning to take up this service, however in the rural areas it is still uncommon. The importance of family spacing, particularly to ensure a healthy mother and healthy children, is included in the health education programme for all Afghan Red Crescent clinics.

Expected result 7: Managerial and technical knowledge and skills of the Afghan Red Crescent clinics staff have been promoted and improved.

Progress/Achievements: In January there were workshops in all regions for clinic doctors and other staffs on the new HIS (Health Information System) reporting formats. The importance of collecting accurate health data was stressed. Health delegates and regional health officers made monitoring and supervision visits to clinics across the country and gave on-the-job training to relevant staff.

Impact: Regular workshops for clinic staff and supervision visits are important to keep staff updated and motivated and to enable them to offer the best possible service to the clients attending the clinics.

Constraints: Security constraints, particularly in March, have meant that many field trips have been postponed.

Expected result 8: The knowledge and skills of the Afghan Red Crescent existing traditional birth attendants (TBAs) have been refreshed as well as additional new TBAs have been trained.

Progress/Achievements:

- A three week training for 20 new TBAs from Baghlan province was completed in January.
- A two day refresher course for 17 TBAs in Darinoor was held at the end of January.

Services provided (persons)	January	February	March	Total
TBA deliveries	403	473	523	1'399
TBA home visits	1'380	1'604	1'949	4'933

Impact: 1,399 women were delivered by trained TBAs in the first three months of 2003. These TBAs also made nearly 5,000 home visits to pregnant and lactating women to offer health advice on the care of the pregnant woman and her baby.

Constraints: Recognising the importance of regular supervision and follow-up of TBAs after training, there is still a need for well qualified midwives to be trained as TBA supervisors, especially in rural areas.

Expected result 9: Better co-ordination of primary health care activities across the country has been assured by regular supervision visits and liaison and co-ordination with MoPH and all health partners.

Progress/Achievements: The Afghan Red Crescent and Federation regional health officers continue regular supervision visits to all clinics. In all regions health officers and delegates attend regular monthly health co-ordination meetings at Ministry of Public Health, as well as other ad-hoc meetings for health related agencies, including UNICEF, WHO and NGOs.

Impact: The importance of regular liaison, including sharing of ideas, helps to ensure that beneficiaries receive the best possible service from all health agencies and that agencies do not duplicate services for the beneficiaries.

Constraints: It is crucial to ensure that the Red Crescent does not miss the opportunity to become one of the key and visible players in the ongoing nation-building process. They can do so by developing stronger links with the main humanitarian actors in the country and the government as they chart a reconstruction and rehabilitation path for the country and participating more actively in the programme co-ordination and planning forums, where future health system is being debated and built. The possibility of the Afghan Red Crescent participation in the new Performance-based Partnership Agreement (PPA) needs to be explored too.

Expected result 10: Community participation in the management of the clinic is increased.

Progress/Achievements: A health committee has been appointed to Mehterlan clinic in Laghman province. The committee has representatives from the community, Afghan Red Crescent branch and Ministry of Public Health, and includes three female members.

Impact: The health committee for Mehterlan clinic is active and the motivation of the staff has improved which in turn reflects on the service they offer to the beneficiaries.

Constraints: Health committees are a new concept for Afghan Red Crescent. It is hoped that seeing the success of the Mehterlan clinic might encourage Afghan Red Crescent branches in other areas to consider activating health committees.

Expected result 11: Afghan Red Crescent expanded MCH including expanded programme on immunization (EPI) to all its clinics.

Progress/Achievements: EPI services commenced in Taloqan clinic, Takhar province at the beginning of the year. Afghan Red Crescent has also now taken over the support and management of vaccinators, from UNICEF/Ministry of Public Health, in all Afghan Red Crescent clinics offering EPI services.

Impact: With all vaccinators becoming part of the Afghan Red Crescent clinic team, it will be easier to incorporate them in all clinic activities. Working as a team it is hoped that any non-immunised child, or woman of child bearing age, who arrives at the clinic for any reason, will more easily be referred to the vaccinators to ensure the highest coverage.

Constraints: No new MCH activities have commenced during the first three months of 2003. Afghan Red Crescent hopes to be able to find more trained female staff to commence full MCH activities in all clinics by the end of the year.

Expected result 12: Afghan Red Crescent clinics has better integration with CBFA at provincial level.

Progress/Achievements: CBFA and health clinics are beginning to work more closely in the areas where there is a clinic near to the CBFA team of volunteers. CBFA supervisors have encouraged team leaders to visit the Afghan Red Crescent clinic on a regular basis (monthly) and to discuss with the clinic team health problems they have encountered in their villages. The health officers have advised the heads of clinics that they should encourage the visits of the volunteers, build up relationships, and use the volunteers to gather health information and suggest topics for health education or other follow-up in the villages. In areas where there is no Afghan Red Crescent clinic nearby, volunteers have been encouraged to make contact with any nearby clinic.

Impact: Slowly greater trust and understanding is building up between volunteers and the clinics, so that the clinics take more notice when patients are referred by the volunteers, and in the future it is hoped that the clinics will also request the help of volunteers in following-up patients, particularly poor attenders for antenatal clinic or immunisations.

Constraints: This is still a slow process, but CBFA and health teams are beginning to work more closely.

Emergency Mobile Units

Project objective: The capacity of emergency mobile units (EMU) to respond – both during disaster and non-disaster times - in each of Afghanistan's five regions has increased.

Expected result 1: The Afghan Red Crescent responded efficiently to emergency health needs of people (up to 1,000 within 48 hours) affected by disaster in each of the five regions.

Progress/Achievements: The second EMU training, facilitated by the two Norwegian and one Finnish ERU trained delegates who took part in the first training in 2002, was held in February 2003. This training included a field exercise, where participants had a chance to use and test much of the equipment, in Kandahar, Mazar, Herat and Jalalabad (for Jalalabad and Kabul EMU staff).

Impact: The training has greatly improved the ability of the EMU teams to respond to a major disaster. During the first three months of 2003 the Kandahar EMU has responded, with DP staff, to floods in Mianishan Arghandab district of Kandahar, and the Mazar EMU, with DP staff to flooding in and around Mazar. Namely, the EMUs assisted in assessing the disaster affected districts for needs.

Constraints: Some of the equipment, that had been on order for many months only arrived in country at the end of January. This also means that it was not possible to test all the equipment during field exercise. It is hoped that the same three trainers will return towards the end of the year, when another field exercise will be held as well as further training on assessment in an emergency.

Expected result 2: The Afghan Red Crescent provided health education, treatment and consultation to up to 80,000 people in remote areas through its mobile health teams.

Progress/Achievements: In the first three months of 2003 the mobile teams treated over 10,000 patients, who would not otherwise have had access to primary health care. Most of these people also received health education in groups or individually.

Services provided (persons)	January	February	March	Total
Patients seen	6'230	851	3'274	851

Presently there are two teams in Kandahar, two teams in Mazar and two teams in Herat. The second, newly appointed, Herat team started working in Adraskan after the training, while the first team moved to Maruf. In Kabul and Jalalabad one mobile team was formed. After training in Afghan Red Crescent fixed clinics, it is hoped that they will start working in remote areas in April. In Kandahar and Herat the teams are now discussing with Ministry of Public Health and UNICEF to start EPI activities.

Impact: The mobile teams bring much needed health support to remote areas where there are no other health facilities.

Constraints: Security has been a major problem, particularly in the recent month. The Herat team has returned from Maruf, due to security concerns, and has now moved to Baghdis. Constraints to starting EPI activities are the need for a safe coldchain for the vaccines. This is being discussed with the authorities. Other difficulties have been the loss of some key staff, mainly for financial reasons, including one of the very experienced Kandahar team doctors.

Expected result 3: The Afghan Red Crescent has recruited CBFA volunteer teams in the catchment areas of the EMU.

Progress/Achievements: 20 new CBFA volunteers were trained in Adraskan, where one of the Herat mobile teams is working and 20 TBAs were trained in Baghlan, where one of the Mazar teams is working.

Impact: The new volunteers and mobile teams have good contact and can work together to improve the lives of the beneficiaries. For example, the volunteers can refer patients to the mobile teams and the teams can also discuss with volunteers the main health problems they are seeing and advise the volunteers on the most relevant health education messages.

Constraints: Security constraints in some regions, particularly towards the end of the reporting period have made it difficult for teams to travel to some of the more needy areas.

Water and Sanitation

Project objective: The provision of water and sanitation to vulnerable people in drought-affected areas has increased.

Expected result 1: Safe water has been provided to 150,000 people via constructed wells that are community managed.

Progress/Achievements: In the first three months of 2003, 50 new boreholes were drilled in Kandahar town, Maruf, Dand, and Shega districts of Kandahar province and in Qala-e-Qah district of Farah province. Two old boreholes in Qala-e-Qah were deepened, bringing clean, safe drinking water to hundreds of families. In March the watsan team also completed the water installation in Afghan Red Crescent Qalat clinic, Zabul province.

Activity	January	February	March	Total
New Boreholes	30	8	12	50
Deepened Boreholes	0	2	0	2

Impact: The health of beneficiaries will be greatly improved with clean drinking water, and sufficient water for hygiene practices.

Constraints: Progress remains slow in districts outside of Kandahar town due to security constraints.

Expected result 2: Three agricultural self help groups have improved irrigation increasing efficient use of water.

There was a progress on this activity during the first three months of 2003. If security permits this work will continue later in the year.

Expected result 3: Three rainwater catchments established in grazing areas benefiting 50,000 people.

Progress/Achievements: There was no progress on this activity during the first three months of 2003. If security permits this work will continue later in the year.

Expected result 4: Wider training in hygiene reducing water related disease in target areas.

Progress/Achievements: A hygiene survey on attitudes, beliefs and perceptions was completed in Kandahar town in January. Following this survey the first five day training for female volunteer hygiene promoters was carried out. By the end of March a total of 29 female hygiene promoters had been trained. Each volunteer has committed to pass on the hygiene message to 50 other women. The volunteers will be supported and followed up on a monthly basis.

Impact: The programme is in its early stages, but it is hoped that the cascading of the training given by women to women will improve the hygiene knowledge of the community and result in a reduction of water related

diseases. By engaging community participation that includes training on different levels as well as a hygiene education effort that is closely linked to the health and volunteer programmes, will ensure the sustainability of the hard-ware component of the watsan project.

Constraints: Once again security, particularly in Kandahar region could become a major constraint to the building up of the programme.

Expected result 5: Sanitation facilities improved in drought-affected areas of Kandahar, Farah and Herat.

Progress/Achievements: Only limited work on sanitation facilities was carried out during the first three months of 2003. However it is hoped to link this with the hygiene promotion in the future.

Impact: Hygiene promotion will encourage communities to improve sanitation facilities.

Constraints: Security remains a major hurdle.

Expected result 6: Improved information management and planning of activities facilitated by a new database.

Progress/Achievements: Co-ordination meetings were attended in the technical Watsan group and in the hygiene promotion group of Kandahar region.

Impact: It is expected that information management and planning will be improved. Strengthening network with international and national agencies will help to share basic knowledge of hydro-geology, hydrology and existing water infrastructure.

Constraints: A proper database, which will be accessible to all concerned agencies, is yet to be established. Work is in its early stages.

Community Based First Aid (CBFA)

Project objective: The capacity of the community based first aid project to reduce vulnerability, particularly in remote areas, has increased.

Expected result 1: During a six month pilot project, in at least two regions, volunteers of the CBFA programme are reorganised into village or town community groups, with 10 volunteers in each group.

Progress/Achievements: The efforts have been keyed on organizing the existing volunteer base into smaller and manageable groups responsible for first aid, health education, water and sanitation, disaster management and youth projects. In order to achieve this, the Afghan Red Crescent has launched a survey of its previously-recruited volunteers in all provinces of Kabul and Jalalabad regions to establish their exact number, profile and training needs.

Impact: The Afghan Red Crescent hopes that a more innovative approach to volunteerism will strengthen the organization.

Constraints: The concept of reorganizing CBFA volunteers is new to the Afghan Red Crescent and lengthy discussions have taken place to ensure there is a full understanding and commitment from the National Society headquarters. This is a pilot initiative. Depending on the assessment of the pilot project, the Afghan Red Crescent will recruit and form 5-member CBFA teams in 100 villages or town communities in each of the 5 regions (total 500 teams and 2,500 volunteers).

Expected result 2: Each year 2,500 new volunteers are recruited and trained (depending on the assessment of the pilot project). In addition 500 villages or town communities will have five trained and equipped motivated volunteers each to serve their communities and to improve health and hygiene.

Progress/Achievements: 849 volunteers were trained from January till the end of March. This represents 33.96 % of the annual target of 2,500 volunteers in five regions in the country. They were recruited from 658 villages of 14 districts in 14 provinces. The new volunteers received a first aid bag and a Dari or Pashto manual during their training.

To improve knowledge and make learning more fun - and effective - particularly for youngsters, the Afghan Red Crescent organises first aid competitions. During the reported period, 547 volunteers from 28 groups in 13 districts of 5 provinces competed at group level. The winners - 22 volunteers - will continue competing at district level in the coming months.

Leadership training was provided to 350 volunteer leaders in Kabul, Mazar and Jalalabad. Topics included volunteerism, volunteers' role in disasters and first aid.

Impact: By mobilizing and training volunteers from local communities, the Afghan Red Crescent contributes in strengthening the local coping mechanisms. CBFA volunteers often operate in areas beyond the reach of mainstream health services, making their skills even more vital, which often means the difference between life and death. The first aid competition has managed to infuse some fun and commitment into this grassroots volunteer/health programme. Training has increased the Afghan Red Crescent leaders' understanding of the CBFA programme, to help them organize their work better, and also to evaluate and upgrade their knowledge.

Constraints: Lack of motivation is a serious problem among volunteers, who too often are left isolated, geographically and organisationally, and as a result their effectiveness has been limited. Since 1997, the Afghan Red Crescent has trained over 13,000 volunteers on the CBFA. During this period it was not possible to organize any CBFA training in Kandahar due to security reasons. Reports show that only 50 to 60 % of these volunteers are currently available and active in their communities. Two decades of war in Afghanistan, including a decade-long Soviet occupation and ensuing civil strife, left Afghanistan impoverished and mired in an extended humanitarian crisis. A devastating four-year regional drought compounded the crisis, drying up wells, parching agricultural land, killing off livestock, collapsing rural economies, and eventually exhausting the coping mechanisms of many ordinary Afghans, forcing them to leave their homes in search of food and water. Many of the volunteers trained by the Red Crescent are no longer living in their villages or are concentrating on staying alive. The Afghan Red Crescent aims to introduce new improved methodology of volunteer recruitment so that more committed and energetic Red Crescent people- inspired by the power of humanity - join and remain in the ranks of the Afghan Red Crescent.

Expected result 3: Volunteers have carried out activities, such as first aid, health education, disaster awareness, mine awareness and promotion of humanitarian values.

Progress/Achievements: Based on the activity reports received, 6,340 Afghan Red Crescent volunteers handled 80,571 cases, varying from the provision of first aid to the provision of requested advise in their respective villages. The cases reported include mostly diarrhoea, bleeding, wounds care, burns, fractures, animal bites, shock, STDs and unconsciousness.

Aimed to improve the community's understanding of health issues and increase hygienic behaviour, the Afghan Red Crescent volunteers disseminated 369,909 individuals about the importance of safe drinking water, hygiene, polio vaccine and vaccinating children under five years old, how to prevent diarrhoeal diseases, how to prepare ORS and mine-awareness sessions. The health education sessions are held at the Afghan Red Crescent corners established by the volunteers in each village.

During the reporting period, the Afghan Red Crescent regional supervisors and trainers met regularly with volunteer team and district leaders and volunteer groups. At these meetings, trainers and supervisors briefed the group leaders on volunteer activity reporting. They also gave a variety of refreshment courses on different topics such as fever, pneumonia, frostbite, burns and bleeding.

Follow-up meetings by trainers directly with volunteers themselves have also been held in all regions. During these follow-up meetings first aid bags have been refilled, while refreshment courses have been given on the importance of immunization, HIV/ Aids prevention measures and practical first aid practices.

In Herat volunteers participated in repairing/constructing of 44 km road, 98 bridges and 470 new latrines.

Impact: Supporting vulnerable people in isolated areas makes a significant contribution to reduce health vulnerabilities in the country. The community has more capacity to deal with day-to-day incidents as well as more serious challenges. Volunteers make a real impact, particularly in the control of communicable diseases and in community mobilization. The participation of volunteers in the polio national immunisation days is an excellent example of the importance of the volunteer programme.

Constraints: The first aid programme needs to continue to extend the basic health care coverage to isolated areas.

Expected result 4: The volunteers have mobilised communities to contribute local resources to the project and improve local coping mechanism.

Progress/Achievements: The Afghan Red Crescent has managed to establish CBFA corners in 71 villages since 2000 (3 corners in 2000, 62 in 2001 and 6 in 2002). The number of these corners is planned to be doubled this year to 150. Volunteers also organize consultative meetings with focus groups in the community to finding ways and means for improvement of local coping mechanism.

Impact: By strengthening local coping mechanisms, communities become less vulnerable to ill-health.

Constraints: In the impoverished country just emerging from the ruins, it is a challenge to encourage and mobilize the concerned community to support the CBFA programme through funds and materials.

Expected result 5: CBFA's roles and functions are integrated into those of disaster management, water and sanitation, youth and humanitarian values programmes.

Progress/Achievements: Efforts are ongoing to encourage other programmes and departments of the Afghan Red Crescent to utilise the volunteers resources of CBFA programme. 28 CBFA volunteers will be trained in disaster management in the Logar province.

Impact: In the case of a disaster, these volunteers trained on DM will be available to the Society to carry out assessment of the affected area, identify the extent of damage and number of casualties and/or affected people, and help the Afghan Red Crescent in disaster response operations. CBFA volunteers will be invaluable asset in spreading the messages of humanity, coexistence and tolerance building on their links with the local communities.

Constraints: The Afghan Red Crescent and Federation CBFA management staff need to increase awareness and improve each others' understanding and interaction with Integrated Primary Health Care, Disaster Management, Water & Sanitation, Youth & Volunteers and Promotion of Humanitarian Values Programmes.

Disaster Management

Programme goal: The impact of disasters on vulnerable communities is reduced as is their subsequent dependency on humanitarian aid.

Programme objective: The capacity of the Afghan Red Crescent's disaster management - both in preparedness and response is increased.

Expected result 1: The Afghan Red Crescent has a comprehensive disaster management structure at national headquarters and Branch level with greater capacity in disaster response.

Progress/Achievements:

- Work has started to reorganize the Afghan Red Crescent disaster management structure by revising job descriptions and establishing clear lines of reporting.
- Construction of warehouses in Jalalabad and Mazar has commenced. A construction company had been identified through tender. The works are expected to be completed by August 2003.
- Ongoing discussions are taking place to establish a disaster management and co-ordination unit which will consist of representatives of the Afghan Red Crescent, Federation and the ICRC. The Movement's components will co-ordinate with Government's Office for Disaster Preparedness (ODP) and other agencies involved in DM through this unit.
- Within the project, 19,144 families were assisted with basic relief items - coal, coal stoves, blankets and plastic sheeting. The project was implemented by the Afghan Red Crescent with the Federation's support and was part of the overall humanitarian efforts co-ordinated by the Government of Afghanistan and UNAMA to help the vulnerable communities to survive during the harsh winter climate.
- In addition, 217 affected families of the heavy floods in the northern Afghanistan were supported with the basic relief items by the joint Afghan Red Crescent and the Federation response teams on 1 April. The ICRC provided food items (rice, wheat flour, oil) and the Federation/Afghan Red Crescent provided tents, blankets, plastic sheeting and jerrycans. The Afghan Red Crescent Mazar DP team was reinforced by a team of three DP staff from Kabul to help in the assessment and also in the distribution process. The team from Kabul used a DP vehicle-on-loan, which is a part of Disaster Response Unit. The response operation was carried out in close co-ordination with the UN and other NGOs.
- The Afghan Red Crescent also assisted the victims of the avalanche in Badakhshan with basic relief items.

Impact: New structure will help the Afghan Red Crescent improve its disaster management capacity and provide timely and effective assistance to the vulnerable communities. Through the implementation of winter programme in close co-operation and co-ordination with other humanitarian organizations, the impact of adverse winter conditions on the vulnerable communities was reduced thereby alleviating some of the hardships they encountered. The distributions greatly boosted the Afghan Red Crescent's image and public awareness.

Constraints: The Afghan Red Crescent efforts during the reported period were mainly focused on relief distributions and finalisation of the winterisation project. Hence, little progress has been made on reorganising the existing DM structure.

Expected result 2: The Afghan Red Crescent has well defined disaster preparedness policy, strategy and earthquake mobilization plan, which are linked with the strategic planning of Afghan authorities and other agencies operating in the country.

Progress/Achievements:

- Discussions on the DP policy, strategy and earthquake mobilization plan have yet to start. In line with the agreement reached at the regional DP workshop in Sri Lanka in 2002, the Afghan Red Crescent DP policy will be based on a regional policy which would then be modified according to the Afghan Red Crescent strategic directions. Disaster preparedness policy and plan will be integrated into the government's overall DM strategy.
- The Afghan Red Crescent DP supervisor and the Federation's DP Delegate participated in a four day workshop on Capacity Building Programme on natural disaster prevention in Afghanistan organized by the German Government through the NGO *InWent*. The workshop was attended by representatives of: 13 Afghan Ministries, the Office for Disaster Preparedness (ODP), deputy governors and institutions like Kabul University and Polytechnic institute; UN agencies: UNAMA, WFP, UNDP and WHO; Asian Development Bank, GTZ and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany. The Afghan Red Crescent made a presentation on 'NGOs role in National Disaster Risk Management', which was highly appreciated by the organisers and participants, especially by the government ODP representatives. In all group presentations on capacity building, national DP planning and skills development, the Afghan Red Crescent was mentioned as an essential part of national disaster management structure. A significant role of the

Afghan Red Crescent in disaster management was acknowledged by the UN agencies and a number of ministries.

Impact: A clear disaster preparedness plan will help the Afghan Red Crescent to better position itself with the Government and other agencies involved in disaster management. It will also increase the credibility of the Society. Effective co-ordination with relevant humanitarian actors will ensure adequate, well-targeted and efficient mobilization of resources to mitigate the effects of disasters on vulnerable communities.

Constraints: The major work on the development of the Afghan Red Crescent DM policy, strategy and earthquake mobilization plan has yet to be done. Networking with main stakeholders, mainly with the Office for Disaster Preparedness (ODP) needs to be further strengthened.

Expected result 3: The Afghan Red Crescent has effective disaster response policy and plan at national and Branch levels.

Progress/Achievements: The Afghan Red Crescent DP department supported by the Federation has started working on a new disaster response manual. The first step is to review the existing version and develop a draft revised module, that would initiate discussions at the Society.

Impact: A consistent, agreed and shared disaster response policy and plan will increase the effectiveness of the Afghan Red Crescent to respond to the immediate needs of the disaster-affected communities.

Constraints: Little progress has been made thus far on the development of the Afghan Red Crescent disaster response policy and plan. An overall Afghan Red Crescent strategy and vision need to be developed as a priority. The DM policies and plans cannot be developed in isolation. The Afghan Red Crescent needs to identify the strategic priorities and choices facing the Society. The concept of a long-term planning is still relatively new to the Afghan Red Crescent who continues being reactive. In a country, where people still struggle for their survival, the Society is focusing on the immediate relief needs of the vulnerable communities. More discussions are necessary to ensure the Afghan Red Crescent fully appreciates the importance of longer terms plans.

Expected result 4: The Afghan Red Crescent has a strong disaster response unit (DRU) at national headquarters and disaster response teams at Branch levels with strengthened human resource development system in the Branches to support new volunteers.

Progress/Achievements: The Afghan Red Crescent has developed a disaster response unit (DRU) at headquarters level. The DRU consists of eight people selected from the existing staff. with diverse profiles - four from disaster management department, one from health, one from CBFA and two from logistics department. All members of the DRU will be trained on disaster management and will be available to leave for the disaster affected areas within short notice. The unit will have two vehicles on standby to ensure its timely deployment to a disaster affected area. A pactor station will be installed in one of the vehicles in order to maintain constant communication between the unit, regional centres and the headquarters. The Federation is now arranging for the procurement of necessary equipment for the units.

Impact: The DRU will increase the effectiveness of the Afghan Red Crescent to provide speedy response to the vulnerable groups affected by disasters. The unit already had a possibility to demonstrate its importance and relevant during the severe floods in the northern region. Shortly after the alert was received by the Afghan Red Crescent, the unit was immediately dispatched to the disaster-affected areas to conduct preliminary assessment and to organize a response operation. The unit acted very professionally. Lessons learned will be reviewed and standing operating procedures will then be developed based on their practical experience.

Constraints: The unit has demonstrated its professionalism during the recent emergency. However, a comprehensive training is necessary to ensure effective disaster response. The first session of the training is scheduled for May 2003

Expected result 5: The Afghan Red Crescent has more skilled and experienced volunteers and staff recruited from a wider base leading to better assessments and more relevant programmes. Volunteers recruited from vulnerable communities become members of the Society so that their perspectives are reflected in National Society's policies and services.

Progress/Achievements: The Afghan Red Crescent has started to work on a new disaster management training module with the support of the Federation. The programme planning meeting in January established good links with Youth and CBFA programmes by identifying various cross cutting issues. In consultation with the DP Department, CBFA and Youth programmes will recruit/assign volunteers to DP/Relief Department, mainly from the disaster prone provinces. These volunteers will then be trained on disaster management and form the base for the CBDP programme.

In the meantime, the Afghan Red Crescent DP supervisor for central region participated in a training on Geographical Information Systems (GIS) which was held in India and organized by the Federation's regional delegation. In addition the Afghan Red Crescent deputy head of DP/Relief department attended a disaster risk management regional forum in Iran organized by UNDP.

The Afghan Red Crescent DP Department at the headquarters and the central regional supervisor were provided with administrative kits. Other regional supervisors will be supplied with the similar admin kits too shortly.

Impact: With the expanded network of trained volunteers the Afghan Red Crescent will establish stronger links with the communities it works with and implement successful risk reduction measures. The Society will do so through active participation of the people most likely to be exposed to hazards, in the planning, decision-making, and operational activities at all levels of responsibility.

Constraints: The progress in the DM programme has been hampered due to the increased workload of the Afghan Red Crescent DP/Relief department burdened by the ongoing winterisation distributions. Frequent staff turn-overs is still the biggest problem for the National Society.

Expected result 6: The Afghan Red Crescent has enhanced community awareness of disaster hazards within target communities and functioning community based disaster preparedness programme in eight disaster-prone provincial Branches aiming at developing strong local coping mechanisms and self-sustaining capacities of the vulnerable communities.

Progress/Achievements: The Afghan Red Crescent seconded its DP supervisor for central region to the Federation Delegation DP department for at least six months. Consultations since then have been ongoing with the regional DP supervisors, Afghan Red Crescent relevant branches and volunteers on the planned vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) in eight disaster prone branches selected for the CBDP programme. The aim of the VCA is to draw provincial vulnerability profile and identify three most vulnerable communities for the CBDP. The process has started in Eastern region (Kunar province), Northern region (Samangan, Takhar, Baghlan) and Central region (Logar, Kapisa). Twenty volunteers in Kunar, Logar and Kapisa provinces were assigned by the Afghan Red Crescent for disaster management training in co-operation with community based first aid department. The same will be done in Northern region in co-operation with CBFA and Youth departments.

Impact: Through CBDP projects, the Afghan Red Crescent will be able to develop strong local coping mechanisms and self-sustaining capacities of the vulnerable communities.

Constraints: The main constraint is the lack of qualified human resources. Additional staff will be recruited to ensure successful implementation of the planned activities.

Humanitarian Values

Programme goal: Young Afghans are less vulnerable to discrimination, violence and intolerance - involving youth as change agents able to shape the present and future of the Afghan Red Crescent and to target the vulnerable people in the community.

Programme objective: The Afghan Red Crescent's capacity to advocate and act for tolerance and coexistence and promote humanitarian values among young people is increased.

Expected result 1: The Afghan Red Crescent has a structure and active youth network with a viable youth policy, increased visibility, credibility and stronger voice in the community. As their involvement in decision making process of the Afghan Red Crescent grows, their motivation and commitment to community work increases contributing to strengthening of the National Society's future.

Progress/Achievements: The Afghan Red Crescent recruited youth officers and trainers in each of the five regions of the country. The new officers were then trained according to the newly developed training module.

Impact: The Afghan Red Crescent has young, energetic and committed staff in all regions to ensure effective implementation of the programme. As a result the National Society has now increased capacity to advocate tolerance and coexistence and disseminate humanitarian message to young people throughout the country offering a sustainable alternative to Afghanistan's decades old gun culture.

Constraints: The original plan envisioned recruitment of one male and one female trainer in each region. This however appeared to be impossible in Kandahar and Jalalabad, as it is difficult to find qualified female staff in these areas. The Afghan Red Crescent has female officers in Mazar, Kabul and Herat regions, which will enable it to reach more female youth.

Expected result 2: Young volunteers, recruited and adequately trained, coached and supported by experienced teachers are committed. Their mobilization within the National Society and the local communities contributes to create more tolerance.

Progress/Achievements: The Federation is helping the Society to build programmatic capability of working with the Afghan youth. In this context, the focus during the period was directed towards reviewing the Afghan Red Crescent training module for its teacher volunteers and youth leaders, which earlier had been focusing primarily on first aid. The aim is now more to diversify it and include some other issues like how to work with youth, how to motivate them, why RC is focusing on young people, examples of other National Society youth activities, roles, rights and responsibilities of volunteers and members, give more information on the movement - who we are, what we do and where we work; the Geneva Conventions and the Fundamental Principles, aims and objectives of the Afghan Red Crescent youth programme, plus sessions on First Aid, disaster management and health awareness, including HIV/AIDS.

Now that the training has been provided for the Afghan Red Crescent youth officers and trainers in all regions - Kabul, Mazar, Herat, Jalalabad and Kandahar, the next step is for the regional youth officers to recruit and train teacher volunteers - 20 in each region - according to the newly developed module. The youth teachers will then train youth leaders - 100 in each region. Each youth leader will then recruit and train 10 youth volunteers. By the end of 2003, the Afghan Red Crescent youth programme will have trained 100 teachers from 50 schools, 500 youth leaders and 5,000 youth volunteers across the country. The Afghan Red Crescent youth officers have already returned to their bases after a nine-day training in Kabul and will start now working with the youth.

Impact: Volunteer groups will act as catalysts for community mobilization around the idea of tolerance and coexistence. The aim is not to have people know every aspect of International Humanitarian Law, or who can recount the life history of a famous founder, but rather to put humanity as a priority on people's agenda.

Constraints: The Society has to develop capacity so that it can effectively harness the inspiration that exists among individuals. It is a big but exciting challenge as the Red Cross and Red Crescent has no greater calling than to foster coexistence and tolerance in war-torn communities. Being an indigenous humanitarian

organization means the Red Crescent is best placed to build on the connectors that link communities while at the same time work to undermine the factors that divide Afghans.

Expected result 3: Youth volunteers are more motivated by the humanitarian mission of the Afghan Red Crescent and their enthusiasm grows through regular contacts inspiring other youngsters to join action and campaign for tolerance.

Progress/Achievements: A number of activities are planned to achieve this:

- Organize sport competitions – particularly in football, volleyball kite flying and cricket, as well as drawing and first aid competitions among young people (once a year at regional level).
- Organize seminars for youth volunteers on various topics of their interest twice a year in each region. Federation delegates will be involved to offer an international dimension, especially to discuss how communities elsewhere coexist.
- Create a youth club in Kabul and Mazar regions, to organize activities for young people. Identification of a site for the club including consultations with the local authorities is ongoing.
- Encourage groups of youth to operate as focal points for various community activities - in schools and elsewhere - that bring people together, such as groups for international friendship, disaster management, sports and theatre. 20 youth volunteers in each region will be identified and trained on disaster management to be available in time of a disaster.
- Provide practical opportunities for youth volunteers to participate in the Afghan Red Crescent activities such as fund-raising, membership drive, national immunization days, organization of special days and weeks, disaster response, dissemination etc.
- Encourage youth volunteers to participate in the dissemination of the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values by developing youth volunteers' newsletter and organising other similar activities to promote peace, tolerance and coexistence. The first edition of the newsletter will be issued in summer and it will include stories, drawings from young volunteers, main events, sport news on the competitions among the youth etc. At the end of year, the best story of the year will be selected and awarded with a prize.

During the first three months of the year:

- A site for the youth club in Kabul has been identified and preparations for tendering are now ongoing.
- ID cards for Afghan Red Crescent youth volunteers have been designed and are being printed now.
- A drawing competition on the topic of *Humanity* among 6-10 years old kids has started at provincial level across the country. The best drawings will be exhibited in Kabul on 8 May.
- Procurement of FA boxes and kits for the target schools and teacher volunteers is ongoing.

Impact: The Afghan Red Crescent work looks at the overall context within which some humanitarian awareness and action is vital to encourage that awareness and action. The programme is based on fun and togetherness, which appeal to the humanity in all of us. It aims to harness young people's energy and creativity to contribute to the nation building process strengthening tolerance and coexistence in the country. Afghans are romantic people. By appealing to their sentiments, the Red Crescent can be a catalyst for change and can make a difference in the way people behave towards each other. Youth as change agents can play an essential role in shaping the present and the future of the country. Innovation, creativity, enthusiasm, energy, tolerance, respect for others, the desire to discover, question, listen, and understand, to test, try out, plan, redo and rebuild, and share with joy, smiles and determination - these are the added values of youth and their involvement will inspire commitment in others.

Constraints: During the first three months the focus was primarily on recruiting new staff, developing of training materials and training of the Afghan Red Crescent regional youth officers. The main work with the youth will start in April.

Expected result 4: Better contacts and links are created between the youth volunteer groups from different regions of the country, as well as other National Societies youth sections.

Progress/Achievements: Later during the year the Afghan Red Crescent is planning to hold a youth camp in Jalalabad city for 150 young volunteers from Afghanistan's five regions - each region sending 30 youth volunteers. The camp will have an agenda of games, sport as well as Red Crescent awareness activities.

Following the recruitment and training of the Afghan Red Crescent regional youth officers, regional youth structures will establish twinning relationship with the youth organizations of other National Societies from within and outside the region. The plans also envisage the exchange of youth goodwill missions to other National Societies from within and outside the region.

Impact: The Afghan Red Crescent is more effective in spreading the message of the power of humanity and more aware of being part of a global humanitarian organization which share the same principles.

Constraints: Growing instability in the country might undermine the efforts to bring the youth from different regions of the country together.

Expected result 5: Better links with the ICRC's dissemination work are established.

Progress/Achievements: Regular information sharing sessions and co-ordination meetings are held with the ICRC.

Impact: Better co-ordination with the ICRC enables the Afghan Red Crescent to get their input and guidance on Afghan Red Crescent youth activities in the sphere of humanitarian values.

Organizational Development

Programme goal: A stronger civil society has reduced the vulnerability of millions of Afghans.

Programme objective: The Afghan Red Crescent has increased its ability to run needs-driven, volunteer-based services and programmes.

Expected result 1: Afghan Red Crescent Branches have increased their capacity to deliver services aimed at reducing the vulnerability of millions of Afghans.

Progress/Achievements:

- A number of workshops, meetings and discussions were organized for the presidents of provincial branches in all regions to review the objectives and develop a plan of action for 2003.
- The analyses of the branch assessment exercise, carried out last year, were finalized and recommendations for future branch development directions and priorities are now under discussion.
- In Jalalabad, a two day resource development workshop was held for the Afghan Red Crescent branch presidents and administrators from the eastern region.

Impact: The participation of the Afghan Red Crescent branches in the planning process has become more active. This helps to strengthen the sense of ownership in the National Society leading to greater commitment of the branches towards the implementation of planned programmes and increased sense of accountability towards donors and the vulnerable people we serve.

Constraints: The Afghan Red Crescent leadership at the branch level have different background, their commitment and understanding of the Movement and its Fundamental Principles varies as well as their skills and capabilities to provide effective leadership to the National Society at the provincial level. Most of the branch presidents are relatively new to the Movement (average seniority 1.5 years). Furthermore, the relationship between the headquarters and branches is not always clear. Responsibilities and accountability of the branches in regards to nationally co-ordinated programmes and activities are not clearly defined either. Interference of local government authorities in human resources and financial affairs of the Afghan Red

Crescent also is an issue. All these hamper the development of a coherent and uniform approach to the Afghan Red Crescent branch development.

Expected result 2: Afghan Red Crescent headquarters has appropriate structures and increased capacity to assist Branches to plan and implement programmes aimed at reducing the vulnerability of millions of Afghans at community levels.

Progress/Achievements: The Federation has employed an external consultant to carry out the Afghan Red Crescent headquarters review. The consultant had then a number of meetings with the Afghan Red Crescent leadership and heads of departments and developed recommendations to streamline the National Society headquarters structure and ensure a more effective support from the headquarters to the branches. These recommendations will be discussed with the Society in April/May 2003.

In the meantime, the Society leadership has stepped up its efforts to develop closer relations with branches. During the period, the President/Secretary General of the Afghan Red Crescent, as well as other senior managers from the headquarters visited the branches across the country to discuss the future plans and priorities of the Afghan Red Crescent. A meeting of all Afghan Red Crescent branch presidents is scheduled for May 2003.

Impact: The headquarters review will enable the Society to plan effectively based on reliable knowledge of its strengths and weaknesses ultimately increasing the programme impact on the vulnerable population. Improvement in communication between various Afghan Red Crescent departments will lead to improved organizational structure in the Society and better service delivery.

Constraints: The poor infrastructure in the country destroyed by decades of conflict hamper frequent communication between the headquarters and branches. Developing branch capacity is a major task, particularly in isolated regions. Initial steps have been taken but there is a long way to go. Internal instability in the Branches has remained a serious concern. A high turnover of the Afghan Red Crescent staff members significantly reduces the impact of capacity development efforts. The unpredictable security situation has also been a serious constraint on branch development.

Expected result 3: The Afghan Red Crescent has improved its programme monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure relevance and quality of services to beneficiaries.

Progress/Achievements: A two-day workshop on report writing was held for the Afghan Red Crescent middle management staff at the headquarters. The purpose of this training was to raise awareness in the Society on the significance of a good report. During the workshop the participants discussed the importance of communication, why we report, what is useful information, main reasons and consequences of poor reporting. The participants of the workshop shared some useful tips on how to manage the process of report writing more efficiently and clearly, choosing the right word, style, tone, language editing, and presentation. The workshop discussed the information flow in the Society too, a challenges the Afghan Red Crescent faces currently. It developed recommendations on how the Federation could help the Society further improve their report writing skills.

Impact: A good report is an effective management tool. It gives a possibility of analysis, measures performance, ensures transparency and credibility of an organization.

Constraints: The quality of reports from the Society is still very poor mainly due to poor communication between the headquarters and the branches and within the various departments. The Afghan Red Crescent needs to develop effective internal communication channels and information management to be able to better monitor the progress of the operation, timely identify the problems and find solutions to constraints, which will ultimately ensure better quality services to its beneficiaries. It is important to build-in monitoring and evaluation as an ongoing integral part of all programmes.

Expected result 4: The Afghan Red Crescent has a stronger human resource base, policies and practices enabling the Society to carry out effectively its programmes and services to the vulnerable.

Progress/Achievements: The capacity building of the National Society is ongoing through mentoring of the Afghan Red Crescent staff members via personal contacts. Some of them have been working in the delegation as staff on loan in disaster management programme, CBFA and health. This will help them learn from practice, and strengthen their professional skills and knowledge.

English courses for the Society's staff and volunteers are ongoing at the Afghan Red Crescent headquarters. Preparations are ongoing to establish basic computer courses too for mid and junior level officers of the Afghan Red Crescent.

The Federation, ICRC and the Afghan Red Crescent conducted regular tripartite meetings at leadership and technical levels to share information. The Federation liaison office at the headquarters of the Afghan Red Crescent in Kabul continues to function well - Federation delegates, on rotation basis, spend a working day once a week at the National Society compound. This further improves the co-operation and efficiency of our operations. Everyday contact facilitates rapid identification and solution to constraints/problems encountered during the implementation.

Impact: Knowledge sharing with delegates helps to improve the level of performance and increase accountability in the National Society. Through improved human resource management, effectiveness of the service delivery to the vulnerable will increase.

Constraints: Progress has been made in building capacity but the Afghan Red Crescent remains in need of reconstruction, both human and physical. The Afghan Red Crescent has a growing number of young, energetic people who are eager to learn and develop. A number of training courses are planned for this year to improve their professional skills and reassess strategies for improving the human resource development in all programmes.

Expected result 5: The Afghan Red Crescent is a better functioning National Society with well defined roles of governance and management and improved procedures, systems and structures.

Progress/Achievements: Leadership mentoring was implemented through personal contacts with Federation delegates. The Federation, ICRC and the Afghan Red Crescent conducted regular tripartite meetings at leadership and technical levels to share information.

Impact: reinforced basic management and leadership skills as well as an increased understanding of integrity issues that all RCRC staff and activities must adhere to.

Constraints: The Afghan Red Crescent has major organizational issues it still needs to confront. There has been progress but the National Society leadership - along with the whole of Afghan society - is subject to several external uncertainties. The concepts of governance and management are new to Afghanistan and changing perceptions takes a long time. Change is a long and painful process. The constitution of the Afghan Red Crescent remains dormant. The challenge is to reintroduce its salient features in the Afghan Red Crescent. In the current political context, this is not an easy task.

Expected result 6: The Afghan Red Crescent has a clearly defined mission and is recognized auxiliary to the authorities.

Progress/Achievements: The Afghan Red Crescent has yet to establish a clear mission and vision, its strategic directions and priorities. It has to assess where it is going as a humanitarian player. The Federation will provide technical support to the Society and help to facilitate the 'self-searching' process, which is planned to get started in May through internal consultations, discussions and brainstorming.

Impact: A clear vision and mission will help position better the Afghan Red Crescent with the Government and other humanitarian agencies, as the one organization that is nation-wide, indigenous, community-based and auxiliary to the authorities in meeting the humanitarian challenges confronting the country. A consistent, shared and cohesive strategy will help the Society to build further on the significant achievements of the past

years to meet the challenges of the future. It is obvious that the present Afghanistan is no longer the Afghanistan of years earlier.

Constraints: The Afghan Red Crescent needs to develop stronger links with the main humanitarian actors in the country and the government to chart a reconstruction and rehabilitation path for the country. It needs a clear and consistent strategy, and to ensure that the Red Crescent does not miss the opportunity to become one of the key visible players in Afghanistan's nation-building process. The Society has to demonstrate more effectively the added value and unique role of the Afghan Red Crescent as an auxiliary to the authorities in meeting the humanitarian challenges confronting the country.

Expected result 7: The Afghan Red Crescent is further democratized through developing diverse membership bases from within and outside vulnerable communities leading to better vulnerability assessment and more relevant programmes.

Progress/Achievements: Consultations are ongoing with the National Society encouraging them to carry out a broad-based membership drive in all provinces to attract new members from within and outside the vulnerable communities. Efforts continue to expand and diversify the Afghan Red Crescent volunteers network through community based disaster preparedness, CBFA and the youth programmes and reanimate the dormant Constitution of the National Society.

Impact: A diverse membership base will strengthen links with vulnerable communities and lead to better assessments of vulnerability and more effective planning of programmes.

Constraints: The major constraint is the complex political situation in the country, which is still defragmented and tattered after two decades of war, as well as security considerations. Nation-building efforts are ongoing, but this is a long and arduous process, which includes changing the mindsets and attitudes too. In this environment the rebuilding of the Afghan Red Crescent, which is still surviving the past, cannot go smoother and quicker as it reflects the community it springs from.

Federation Co-ordination

Programme goal: The Afghan Red Crescent develops sustainable capacity building and programming.

Programme objective: The Federation has facilitated longer strategic partnerships between the National Society and wider Movement and non-Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement Partners.

Expected result 1: The CAS process is launched, establishing partnership between the Afghan Red Crescent, other components of the Movement and external humanitarian actors.

Progress/Achievements: The Federation is assisting the Afghan Red Crescent to develop its strategic mapping and planning capability so that it knows better what the community needs, its own capacity to respond as well as the resources available internationally to assist activities. This will all be done through the Federation's co-operation agreement strategy (CAS) mechanism. The CAS will be a key tool in the Federation's efforts to co-ordinate the programming of various partners. The Afghan Red Crescent had developed a CAS back in 2001. It however needs to be reviewed and finalized in line with the new developments, challenges and priorities the Afghan Red Crescent is facing today.

Impact: The CAS will help the National Society to articulate: in what areas it requires support; and how its actions will fit into a broader and co-ordinated humanitarian effort to assist vulnerable Afghans.

Constraints: The extreme situation in Afghanistan has slowed progress in the National Society's strategic planning.

Expected result 2: A partnership meeting is held with the participation of the main stakeholders to review the Afghan Red Crescent strategic plan and co-ordinate the programming/support of various partners.

Progress/Achievements: The meeting is scheduled for August 2003.

Impact: the partnership meeting will help the Afghan Red Crescent engage its partners in the planning for 2004-2005.

Constraints: The fragile security situation might delay the meeting.

Expected result 3: The Afghan Red Crescent develops a plan to implement the objectives and action points of the Strategy of the Movement in line with the Regional Co-operation Strategy.

Progress/Achievements: Efforts are focused on raising the Afghan Red Crescent awareness and understanding of the Strategy of the Movement and the Regional Co-operation Strategy.

Impact: A better understanding of the Movement and the regional strategy will help the Afghan Red Crescent to prioritise its own objectives and the action points to serve the vulnerable in a more sustainable and systematic manner.

Constraints: The Afghan Red Crescent is yet to develop its policies, strategic directions and vision. Now the National Society is more reactive but lacks longer term plan. The Federation will therefore put more efforts into building this understanding in the Afghan Red Crescent through coaching, discussions, consultations and personal contacts with the delegates.

Expected result 4: A Memorandum of Understanding is signed between the Federation and ICRC ensuring clear allocation of respective roles and responsibilities in the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

Progress/Achievements: Consultations are ongoing.

Impact: The MoU will define the respective roles and responsibilities of the Federation and the ICRC in response to the humanitarian needs in Afghanistan. The purpose of the agreement is to mobilize and promote efficient use of human, material and financial resources for the operation and programmes in Afghanistan. The purpose is also to enhance co-operation and co-ordination between the Federation and ICRC and harmonize approaches and activities whenever both institutions are active in the same programme areas.

Constraints: The Federation has to further strengthening co-ordination with the ICRC, particularly in areas of correlated programming such as disaster and conflict preparedness, humanitarian values and dissemination, and health care.

Expected result 5: Co-operation agreement is signed between the Afghan Red Crescent, Federation and ICRC outlining the roles that the three Movement partners will undertake together with regards to strengthening and developing the National Society.

Progress/Achievements: The Movement components are currently discussing a longer term development co-operation agreement between the National Society, the ICRC and the Federation, which will define their respective roles and responsibilities in strengthening and developing the National Society.

In addition to the co-operation agreement, a core structure agreement will be developed. The agreement will define the scope and level of Federation and ICRC financial support to Afghan Red Crescent national headquarters and provincial Branches enabling all programme departments to efficiently and effectively deliver humanitarian services. This agreement indicates the introduction of a 'service charge' concept in 2003 establishing a clear link between programme delivery core Afghan Red Crescent core structure and reflecting sound management practice. This agreement will supplement a comprehensive range of country level tripartite accords as well as bilateral programmes between the Afghan Red Crescent and Federation.

Impact: Good co-ordination between the ICRC, Federation and the Afghan Red Crescent makes a strong Movement presence in Afghanistan even more potent. A co-ordinated support to the National Society will help the Afghan Red Crescent deliver better services to the vulnerable communities it serves.

Constraints: The Movement's contribution to the overall humanitarian efforts need to be enhanced by more harmonization in planning and programming.

Expected result 6: Strategic partnership is developed between the Afghan Red Crescent and country-based, as well as international agencies/organizations.

Progress/Achievements: The Afghan Red Crescent/Federation regularly attend co-ordination meetings with key humanitarian actors in the country. The Afghan Red Crescent was a member of a task force established by the government of Afghanistan and UNAMA to co-ordinate winter preparedness plan. UNAMA is now looking for a partner for a longer-term humanitarian assessment co-ordination, in which the Afghan Red Crescent could be involved. This possibility is currently explored.

Impact: Strategic partnerships between the Afghan Red Crescent and other country-based as well as international agencies/organizations, will help the Society strengthen its position as a key humanitarian player in the country.

Constraints: The Afghan Red Crescent has to be more proactive in developing effective networking. Through effective programmes the Red Crescent is recognized as a credible partner in disaster response. However, this foundation needs to be built upon to maximize the impact of the humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan. The Federation will, therefore, continue to strengthen co-ordination with the UN and NGOs as various international organizations - several hundred in Kabul alone - seek to optimize their support to vulnerable people.

Expected result 7: Afghan Red Crescent contributes as an active member in regional organizational development fora, which are seeking to define mutual capacity building support in specific areas between all six National Societies in the region.

Progress/Achievements: The Afghan Red Crescent is part of the Red Cross/Red Crescent regional forum on HIV/AIDS. Also it participates in the regional disaster response structures. The Afghan Red Crescent disaster management supervisor is involved in designing the GIS (geographical information systems) at country and regional level. In the coming months, he will attend the workshop in Delhi with GIS specialist facilitated by SARD to discuss the first draft of GIS for the region. This will be the second meeting in this year. Participants of the workshop include representatives from all six National Societies in the region.

Preparations are ongoing for the next regional meeting of Secretary Generals of South Asian Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, to be held in Kabul. The previous one was held in Islamabad in August 2002 hosted by the Afghan Red Crescent. This meeting is an effective forum for the management of the National Societies to share ideas, knowledge, exchange experiences, develop joint actions to meet the humanitarian needs and find solutions to prevailing challenges in the region. The Secretary Generals of the National Societies in the region had pledged to work together and to support each other.

The President/Secretary General of the Afghan Red Crescent participated in a conference of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Asia/Pacific in Manila.

Impact: Mutual capacity building between the National Societies of the region, knowledge sharing and best practice experience helps the Afghan Red Crescent strengthen its professionalism resulting in better services to target beneficiaries.

Constraints: The volatile security situation might make it impossible again to host the Secretary Generals meeting in Kabul.

Expected result 8: The Federation Appeal 2003-2004 is developed in a participatory manner.

Progress/Achievements: The appeal 2003-2004 will be developed through participatory discussions on the basis of the Afghan Red Crescent forthcoming vision and strategic directions.

Impact: The participatory discussions will strengthen the sense of programme ownership in the Afghan Red Crescent leading to better understanding of the humanitarian challenges in the country, goals and objectives of the Red Crescent support strategy and better services to the Afghanistan's vulnerable communities.

Constraints: The Afghan Red Crescent is in the process of developing its vision and strategy. The Federation will assist its colleagues at the National Society through facilitation and technical support.

International Representation

Programme goal: The Federation and its policies are well-known in the international arena.

Programme Objective: The Federation's role in Afghanistan of an effective co-ordinator of programmes in the core areas is maximized.

Expected result 1: Country advocacy strategy is developed with the National Society to highlight Afghanistan's needs within the Federation global advocacy priorities HIV/AIDS, disaster preparedness and promotion of humanitarian values.

Progress/Achievements: No progress has been made so far, but this will be a priority for the next quarter.

Impact: The Afghan Red Crescent, a representative Afghan organization speaking on behalf of people in need will be a powerful voice as the Red Cross Red Crescent advocates on key issues, such as the need to address growing intolerance in the community. Advocacy in favour of people affected by HIV/AIDS will be an important task of the Society's efforts. This will be pursued through dialogue with Governments and other concerned parties, private diplomacy, communications, and conference or public statements of policy.

Constraints: The National Society - with Federation assistance - needs to build its capacity to represent the voice of vulnerable Afghans at various local, regional and international forums.

Expected result 2: Good relationships are developed and maintained with national authorities to define the Afghan Red Crescent's in-country role and the government's support to the National Society to fulfil this role.

Progress/Achievements: The Federation health co-ordinator and deputy, with Afghan Red Crescent counterparts, attended several meetings in Kabul, including a meeting at Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) planning department regarding the design of 500 US funded proposed new (MoPH) clinics, an MCH task force meeting to discuss draft reproductive primary health and a workshop on health emergency response. Regional health co-ordination meetings, and regional EPI meetings were attended by the Afghan Red Crescent/Federation in all regions.

The Federation also attended the Afghan Development Forum in Kabul on 13-14 March 2003. This was a crucial meeting in follow up to the Tokyo Meeting in 2002 with a very senior attendance from 12 key donor countries, plus World Bank, Asian Development Bank, IMF, EU, ECHO, UNAMA, UNDP and other UN agencies.

Impact: Effective networking with the national authorities helps the Afghan Red Crescent better position itself as an auxiliary to authorities and secure the government's support to the National Society to fulfil its role.

Constraints: The Afghan Red Crescent has to demonstrate more vigorously its added value as a nation-wide, indigenous, community-based organization in meeting the humanitarian challenges in Afghanistan, its unique role as a community representative in Afghanistan's emerging post-war civil society. Its profile needs to be lifted locally.

Expected result 3: Advocacy materials are produced and disseminated to counterparts, agencies, organizations and partners.

Progress/Achievements: A brochure featuring the humanitarian challenges in Afghanistan, its vulnerable communities, people, programmes and priorities has been developed, printed and widely disseminated to partners and general public within and outside of Afghanistan.

Impact: The visibility and credibility of the Red Crescent as an important humanitarian actor and partner has been increased.

Constraints: More dissemination materials will be developed to lift the low profile of the Red Crescent, its mandate and work in the country.

Expected result 4: Networking is increased with representative offices of the UNAMA, UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA as well as other international organizations/agencies, notably with DFID, USAID, ECHO, SIDA, NORAD and DANIDA.**Progress/Achievements:**

- Regular consultations were held with the UNAMA winterisation task force to better co-ordinate humanitarian efforts to help thousands vulnerable Afghans during the harsh Afghan winter season.
- The delegation regularly attended the weekly NGO co-ordination meetings at the UNAMA, ACBAR and the ICRC.
- A number of meetings were held with representatives of the transitional government, ECHO, UNAMA, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, IMF, EU, ECHO, DFID, Finnish RC team, Afghan Assistance Co-ordination Authority (ACAA), CARITAS, the Charge d'Affairs a.i., Royal Norwegian Embassy, etc.

Impact: The Red Crescent has stronger links with the Government representatives and other key humanitarian actors in Afghanistan, to better co-ordinate humanitarian efforts, avoiding duplications and providing adequate, more effective support to the vulnerable groups.

Constraints: More contacts and better co-ordination is required. The Federation will be assisting the Afghan Red Crescent in developing a communication strategy, which will help strengthen the links with other humanitarian actors in the country and advocate more vociferously on behalf of the vulnerable.

Expected result 5: Opportunities are explored to establish partnership links with ADB, KFW, IMF and World Bank.

Progress/Achievements: No action has been taken so far, but this will be a focus during the next quarter.

Expected result 6: Red Cross Red Crescent programmes have sufficient and diversified donor support from national and international sources.

Progress/Achievements: The Afghan Red Crescent work is mainly supported by the Federation and the ICRC. It has to yet explore other possibilities of donors support from national and international sources.

Impact: A diversified donor support will ensure sustainability of the programmes and services to the vulnerable Afghans.

Constraints: A complex political climate in the country as well as prevailing security problems hinders transparent and accurate analysis of the resources of the Society across the country. Mechanisms and system for accountability are yet to be developed.

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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>

Afghanistan						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.52/2003		PLEDGES RECEIVED			09.05.2003	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				14'523'714		25.2%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				588'600		
AMERICAN - RC		269'851	USD	366'997	21.03.03	MEASLES PROG, VACCINATOR CAPACITY BUILDING
AUSTRIAN - RC		199'496	EUR	294'356	13.03.03	HEALTH PROGRAMME
FINNISH - GOVT		150'000	EUR	221'325	01.04.03	TRAINING OF VOLUNTTERS & RENOVATION OF WAREHOUSES IN MAZA-I-SHARIF & JALALABAD
GREEK - GOVT/RC		45'000	EUR	66'026	11.02.03	CONSTRUCTION OF HEALTH CLINIC
MONACO - RC		230	EUR	335	15.01.2003	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		95'695	EUR	139'284	10.12.2002	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		2'290'000	NOK	428'230	25.04.03	EMU PROJECT
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		5'050'385	NOK	944'422	25.04.03	INSTITUTIONAL DEV., DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'500'000	NOK	280'500	25.04.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
UNFPA		5'000	USD	6'808	01.04.03	EMERGENCY REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				3'336'883	CHF	23.0%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			54'538		
CANADA	DELEGATE(S)			6'078		
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			24'969		
GERMANY	DELEGATE(S)			47'967		
NETHERLANDS	DELEGATE(S)			70'307		
NORWAY	DELEGATE(S)			34'825		
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATE(S)			53'881		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			32'197		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				324'762	CHF	2.2%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	