

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

BANGLADESH

10 July 2003

Appeal no. 01.53/2003; Appeal target: CHF 3,233,438

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: 1 January to 10 June 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: 48.6%; please refer to the Contributions List for this appeal on the Federation's website. http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/01080301.pdf

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,932,278

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Programme Summary: With less than 50 percent of the 2003 Appeal covered, further financial support is needed during the next six months to continue with planned activities for 2003. The poor response causes serious concerns, bearing in mind that Bangladesh is one of the world's most disaster prone and poorest country. As a result, programmes will have to be adjusted, and activities scaled down in Disaster Management, Humanitarian Values and Health. A continuation of the current situation will be a major challenge to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Operational developments

During the reporting period the political climate in Bangladesh remained largely unchanged, complex and always challenging. Fewer *Hartals* (country-wide strikes) have been experienced. During the war in Iraq, Bangladesh, experienced increased tension including regular weekly demonstrations. Prompt and rapid response by the government has prevented any serious incidents taking place.

Currently Bangladesh is considered as a strong candidate for the position of Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference. If elected, new opportunities would arise for further strengthening of the existing links and enhancement of cooperation with respective sister Red Crescent Societies whose countries are members of the Organization of Islamic Conference.



In early January the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) responded rapidly to an emergency situation created by an unusually severe cold spell in Bangladesh which resulted in the deaths of more than 760 people.

The Federation allocated CHF 50,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), in order to assist 75,000 of the most affected population with blankets, warm clothing and high-protein food. The relief items were provided in 35 districts of Bangladesh.

In April and May several tropical storms and tornados lashed the country. The BDRCS national headquarters, after receiving assessment reports from its units, responded immediately utilizing its buffer stocks. More than 6,940 beneficiaries were assisted in the five districts of Kishoreganj, Brahmanbaria, Faridpur, Bogra and Noakhali. Among relief items distributed were 1,388 family kits and 147 cartons of high protein biscuits.

The next four months are expected to be a critical period for Bangladesh with the commencement of the monsoon season, which each year results in heavy flooding nationwide. Coordination is currently underway with the BDRCS's disaster management department including relief, transport, logistics, finance and health.



BDRCS youth and volunteers conducting search and rescue operation - ferry accident site

1. Health and Care

Bangladesh Red Crescent health programmes include curative and preventive aspects of health care, implemented through five general hospitals, nine health clinics and two specialized eye clinics. These institutions provide both in-patient and ambulatory services to the community. The National Society also has a nationwide network of 60 mother and child health (MCH) centres, in some of which management responsibility has been successfully devolved to the communities that use their services. Located in rural areas, these centres provide essential primary health care support (prenatal and postnatal care, training of traditional birth attendants in safe delivery practices and limited curative care for mothers and children 'Under Five') at community level.

Overall Goal: The health status and life chances of vulnerable people in Bangladesh are improved.

Programme Objective and expected results: Increased capacity of the Bangladesh Red Crescent to contribute effectively to the reduction of health vulnerability in Bangladesh.

Expected Results:

- Increased capacity of Bangladesh Red Crescent to contribute effectively to a reduction in the national incidence of HIV/AIDS and to promote and provide support to people living with the syndrome.
- Decreased incidence of vaccine preventable and vector borne diseases.
- Increased road safety and access to First Aid on highways.
- BDRCS increased ability to deliver effective support to targeted vulnerable communities in which morbidity and mortality among mothers and children are reduced.
- Improved recruitment and retention of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors.

Project: HIV/AIDS

Progress/Achievements

- Coordination cell of BDRCS arranged a colourful rally to highlight the HIV/AIDS anti-stigma campaign on 8 May 2003. The Chairman of BDRCS, managing board members, officers, staff and Red Crescent youth volunteers participated in the rally wearing Red Ribbon T-shirts and displayed colourful placards, banners etc.
- BDRCS added HIV/AIDS information into all life skill, first-aid and other training programmes.
- BDRCS hosted strategic planning workshop on HIV/AIDS (country level) on 28-30 April 2003.
- Incorporated information on HIV/AIDS into different training courses. So far 15,000 CPP volunteers at coastal belt have received information on HIV/AIDS through different training courses.
- Dissemination information on HIV/AIDS transmission organized in five BDRCS blood centres.
- HIV/AIDS awareness information added to BDRCS training manual.
- Project proposals have been submitted to GOB, UNICEF, and SDC.
- BDRCS HIV/AIDS strategic planning developed.

Impact

- Increased awareness about HIV/AIDS among youth volunteers, service providers, policy makers.
- BDRCS became a partner in HIV/AIDS activities with GOB, NGO and INGO.

- More clients of Public Health Care programmes are aware of HIV/AIDS and related stigma. Over 300 volunteers and Unit Liaison Officers participated in the rally organized on 8th May (Anti-stigma rally on HIV/AIDS). All of them have been trained on HIV/AIDS.

Constraints:

Due to financial constraints several activities have not been implemented to date (i.e.: Training of Trainers, Peer Education programme, establishment of Hotline, mail box and telephone counselling service, STD management, capacity building for the service providers).

Project: Vaccine Preventable and Vector born diseases:

Progress/Achievement:

- Over 500 trained volunteers actively participated in National Immunization Day (NID).
- Red Cross Youth (RCY) volunteers vaccinated over 100,000 NID missed under-5 children.
- RCY volunteers conducted a prevention campaign against dengue fever in Dhaka City.
- Linkage with GO and NGO established.

Impact:

- Over 500 RCY volunteers are trained for deployment in activities linked to National Immunization Day (NID) and vector born disease control.
- Growing numbers of the public are aware of NID, vaccine preventable and vector born diseases.

A large number of NID missed under-5 children have been vaccinated and other vaccine preventable and vector born diseases reducing the level and number of vulnerability of “floating” children. The BDRCS organized several rallies on the subjects of NID and vaccine preventable disease control attracting participation of hundreds of volunteers and community people.

Constraints:

As the program has been implemented jointly by the BDRCS and the government, the management on both sides are involved in the process of organizing the Red Crescent Youth (RCY) and community volunteers to conduct the NID operation for eradication of Polio and prevention of vaccine preventable and vector born diseases. The management has faced certain problems in executing the joint operation which at times caused some delays. It is expected with more joint operation carried out the experience will help to avoid similar problems in the future. Joint training programs are being anticipated for the future.

Project: Community Based First Aid and First Aid:

Progress/Achievement:

- Continuous First Aid awareness campaigns by BDRCS targeting the public.
- RCY volunteers are fully motivated and enthusiastic about First Aid application.
- Acknowledgment of First Aid importance within the BDRCS authorities and personnel.

Impact:

- Based on preliminary figures provided by the Ministry of Transportation, highway accident rates (mortality) have been reduced. There are approximately 15,000 to 20,000 people killed annually on the roads of Bangladesh. During the reporting period, these numbers have been relatively low which could be related to many factors, among which, the increased ability among the general population in providing first aid assistance to the victims in the time of the accident. One of the major problems in the country is the poor communications system, which makes it extremely difficult to get accurate and up-to-date figures, as many incidents and assistance provided remain unreported. It is assumed that casualty and accident rates are reduced due to community awareness but the actual decrease in the rates has not yet been measured.
- The training on First Aid for RCY and community volunteers has faced some constraints with being implemented, and the First Aid posts on major high ways, as stipulated in the appeal 2003, have not yet been established. Additionally, referral management has not been improved due to funding constraints.

Constraint:

- Current organizational and operational management provided by the BDRCS require further training and is currently lacking the adequate resources to be able to run efficient First Aid interventions.

Project: Mother and Child Health care – (MCH)

Progress/Achievement:

- A total of 10 MCH centres were renovated by the end of 2002 and are functional. Antenatal, delivery and postnatal services, as well as curative services for patients are available. Only one centre has no facilities for institutional delivery due to lack of space. In three MCH centres pathology services are available for three basic tests (haemoglobin, albumin, sugar and pregnancy test).
- The number of general patients in each centre has doubled during the period of January 2003 through May 2003, which is very encouraging. Promotion of the centres and the quality of service given encourages more clients to come. In January 2002 a total of 1,109 general patients' clients visited nine centres, in May 2002 a total of 2,238 general patients received services from the nine centres under Dhaka division.
- All trainings have been completed in 2002. No new trainings were conducted for the health care providers in 2003.
- All ten MCH centres were successfully involved in the NID days of polio in April and May 2003. Seven centres have Expanding Program of Immunization (EPI) services provided at doorstep.



Mother and Child Health Centres – Training of Community Health Volunteers.

Impact:

- Overall it is assumed that the centres make a positive impact on the health status of the beneficiaries. Clients use the centres for their good services provided, and they do not use other service providers. No impact measurements have been done in terms of health related outcomes and behaviour change of the clients.
- No clients for family planning are recorded in ten centres, and no clients for pathology services are recorded in seven centres.
- The relationship with the government has improved, and the MCH centres are recognised as part of the immunisation chain. At the same time, this is an opportunity for the centre to promote its activities to the mothers with young children.

Constraints:

- Integrated health services are not yet available in all MCH centres. Only three MCH centres provide pathology services, and not all centres are used as EPI outlets from the government. More linkages with the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) need to be established to develop integrated door-to-door services, which will be even more convenient for the clients.
- Due to fund transaction problems and devaluation of the foreign currency, the programme to start training for local community midwives has not yet begun. The same applies to pathology training, which was foreseen as an activity and will be done in the next two months.
- Not all centres have EPI services yet provided by the government. The middle management and supervisors of the project need to establish links with the relevant local health administration in order to attract these services in the centre. During the yearly planning of the health ministry, the change of EPI places is possible, and therefore MCH centres can be used as outlets in the future.

2. Disaster Management

Goal: Vulnerability to the impact of disasters and community dependence on external support are reduced.

Objective: The capacity of the Bangladesh Red Crescent to provide support to individuals and communities seeking to withstand the impact of disaster is increased and for greater self-reliance.

Expected Results:

- BDRCS distribution of food rations and essential non-food relief items to refugee families from Myanmar is maintained for one year.

- Increased BDRCS organizational capacity to conceive, plan, launch and manage effective disaster preparedness and response initiatives and to provide practical support to families disaggregated by disaster.
- Sustained and reinforced Bangladesh Red Crescent's organizational capacity for assisting vulnerable coastal communities to prepare for and withstand the impact of cyclones.
- Increased capacity of local volunteers to prevent and mitigate disasters in vulnerable communities.
- Increased resilience of communities vulnerable to disaster in remote villages of the Citation Hill Tracts region.

Progress/Achievements

Myanmar Refugee Relief Operation - MRRO

BDRCS continued to distribute a daily food ration provided by WFP, equivalent to 2,100 calories per person; and non-food items on a weekly basis, bi-weekly and monthly. The food items include rice, dal, cooking oil, salt, sugar and baby food. Non-food items included soap, rice husk, spices and kerosene.

As the BDRCS operation was limited during the first quarter of 2003, due to a lack of adequate funding, there was an inability to pay salaries and allowances within the program and to volunteers for a period of the first quarter of this year. The situation eased at the end of April, when WFP and UNHCR confirmed continuation of funding for BDRCS distribution costs. The extension of the agreement will cover the period up to 31 December 2003.

Community Based Disaster Preparedness

At the end of the first quarter of 2003, the Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) Programme completed the implementation of activities carried over from 2002 caused by late disbursement of funds (Dec-2002). The Plan of Action (PoA) for 2003 underwent a thorough scrutiny by the professionals of BDRCS and the Federation before finalization. It is worth mentioning that the CBDP Units had not obtained any access to any PoA in the past. The necessity of sharing of PoA with Units, as well as incorporating recommendations of the recent evaluation, were given priority by all concerned and thus led the CBDP to conduct a review workshop held on 6 and 7 April 2003 at BDRCS national headquarters. The workshop has given a new direction with specific aim to further improve communication and understanding between Units and National Headquarters.

The programme extended its direct support to 15 (11 CBDP and 4 Shelter Maintenance and Management -SMM regions) disaster prone Units for implementing various activities to establish decentralized disaster response at unit and community levels and strengthen community disaster preparedness. The activities focus on three major objectives aimed at reducing the vulnerability of the targeted people and to enhancing their coping capacity.



Female CBDP volunteers assisting in community based development program – production and installation of sanitary latrines

The Red Crescent Youth (RCY) and Squad volunteers from various units including Patuakhali, Faridpur, Rangpur, Brahmanbaria, Feni, Moulvibazar and others, disseminated information on the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, Principles and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) by organizing rallies and academic sessions on dissemination of the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement in schools and colleges. The same units also completed the RCY package activities (Basic-CBDP and CBFA Training, RCY teachers training, cultural competition etc.) In addition, on 26 March, the RCY participated in the grand march in commemoration of the National Independence Day.

January 2003 with participation also from Swedish Red Cross representative. Cordial discussions led to recommendations with regard to more effective and efficient implementation of the CBDP programme. On the basis of the recommendations officers/staff were re-organized. Staff numbers of CBDP were reduced from six to four. In addition, based on the recommendation of the partnership meeting the CBDP department is sharing its Plan of Action for 2003 and recommendations of the evaluation with the units.

A partnership meeting between BDRCS and British Red Cross representative was held in Dhaka in

Impact

The range and scope of local coping mechanisms available to communities vulnerable to disaster was increased as communities are demonstrating increased interest and participation in disaster preparedness activities implemented by the BDRCS. The Units and local communities have been able to cope on their own with smaller scale disasters (i.e. tropical storms), first, through proper disaster preparedness measures ensuring the minimum casualties and damages are caused and then, by using their local resources (human and material) assisting the affected population.

Constraints

Implementation of programme activities were slower than expected during the period under review, as most of the Unit Executive Committees (UEC) are newly-elected and still not fully informed about the CBDP activities. Squad volunteers have been facing difficulties in conducting their traditional activities as they had to contend with the transitional period (changeover of UECs); and, waiting for the Units and its squad to be properly settled and reorganised.

In addition, the Unit Liaison Officers (ULO) presently posted in the phase-out Units who were not provided with support for transport costs are facing constraints on visiting designated communities. Other CBDP Units have not been provided with ULOs to carry out follow up activities, widening the gap between the Unit and the community. Internal change process i.e. transfers and posting of ULOs in some cases inflicted an adverse effect on the units' ability to keep activities going uninterrupted.

At the national headquarter, the new director of CBDP department was appointed in March 2003. There has been a change of three directors of the CBDP department in a period just over a year which has put some additional pressure reflected in a slow-down implementation pace of planned programs. During the last two months, the CBDP department has been able to increase its activities and it expects to continue to improve.

Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP)

The cyclone season has started on 10 May, 2003 a depression formed in the Bay of Bengal and moved in a north-westerly direction and gradually weakened. Another depression formed on 19 May, which moved in a north-easterly direction and crossed the Myanmar coast near the south of Akiyub. All departments and levels of CPP were alerted and prepared as per the agreed action plan to face any eventualities.

Preparatory meetings were organised in 1,650 Units of 30 Upazilas (Administrative Units) within the CPP command area with approximately 13,200 volunteers attending. Respective Upazila and Zonal officers monitored the meetings. Several decisions, recommendations, suggestions and new strategies on working procedure were adopted in those meetings. The ultimate results of holding those unit committee meetings are very positive.

Cyclone Preparedness Program – Community Shelter Maintenance and Management (SMM) committee members-volunteers attending their regular monthly meetings



The Cyclone Preparedness Program also procured 21,010 pieces of dry cell batteries for warning equipment and these were distributed among volunteers in the field.

Awareness Build-up Activities

The volunteers of Companigonj Upazila arranged a cyclone field demonstration on 28 April, 2003. About 6,000 people including local administrators and school children witnessed the demonstration, which reflected the potential impact on cyclone awareness, preparedness and mitigation issues. A Federation delegate and Swedish Red Cross representative were also among the observers.

Training

BDRCS CPP arranged awareness training for fishermen and students of educational facilities in Cox's Bazaar, Teknaf, Sandwip, Patiya, Sonagazi, Rangamti, Monpura, Daulatkhan, Lalmohon, Galachipa and Barguna Upazilas. A total of 440 fishermen and 19,000 students have participated in those campaigns conducted by local Upazila CPP officers and community trainers (TOT obtained volunteers). The two-day union-based refresher training sessions of

volunteers in the same districts are in progress and are scheduled to be completed by June 20, 2003. A total of 3,204 volunteers are participating in those training sessions.

Union and Upazila committee meetings were organised in 253 Unions/Upazila and were attended by 2,717 team leaders and volunteers of the programme.

There is on-going awareness training for students of 40 educational institutions in the districts along the coastal belt. A total of 8,000 schools students are participating in those training session which is being conducted by local Upazila CPP officers and community trainers (TOT obtained volunteers).

The Director and his assistant from the National Institute of Rural Development, Govt. of India visited CPP national headquarters. The guests expressed their satisfaction with the procedures and different activities of the programme.

Awareness Raising Activities

A cyclone awareness drama 'Sonar Char' was organised by CPP in Gazipur on the occasion of 11th National Youth Red Crescent Camp 2003.

A cyclone field demonstration was arranged by the volunteers of Sudharam Upazila on 26 January 2003. The Secretary of the Ministry of disaster management and relief, BDRCS Chairman, Board members, CPP members, Secretary of Noakhali Red Crescent Unit and CPP Director viewed the demonstration along with 4,500 members of the public.

Social Welfare Activities

Volunteers are involved in performing social welfare activities in their respective communities in coordination with the local administration, NGOs and other agencies. Some of the activities facilitated by the volunteers during the reporting period were:

- A total of 4,820 members of the community were provided with emergency first aid services by the first aid trained male and female volunteers of the programme.
- 145 people affected by Tropical winds were provided with necessary assistance.
- A total of 10 victims of boat /trawler accidents were rescued and provided with help.
- A total of 71 victims of road accident were provided with emergency services.
- A total of 873 whose dwellings were affected by river erosion were provided with necessary help to shift their houses and belongings to safer places.
- A total of 390 patients affected by diarrhoea and similar conditions were provided with necessary help.
- Female volunteers provided help and assistance with TBAs to 400 pregnant women.
- A total of 1,133 volunteers took part in maintenance and repairs of embankments, bridges, culverts and roads in their respective Upazilas.
- 662 Volunteers extended their cooperation to the local Health Department to make the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) a success.
- A total of 2,879 volunteers took part in motivational work on safe, sanitary latrine use.
- A total of 1,866 volunteers took part in the Total Literacy Movement (TLM) organised by the respective Upazila administration and a total of 10,862 people were the beneficiaries of the movement.
- A total of 2,717 volunteers and their family members participated in the coastal plantation programme and planted 27,192 saplings in the roadsides and embankment of the respective Upazilas.

Impact:

The 11 million people inhabiting the 710 km coastline of Bangladesh (along with numerous offshore islands) depend on the Cyclone Preparedness Program and its 33,000 devoted and committed volunteers. These volunteers are well organised to face any eventualities for saving lives and property in their own communities. Since the inception of the cyclone preparedness programme in 1972, a total of 177 depressions have formed in the Bay of Bengal out of which 18 intensified into severe cyclonic storms. The volunteers faced all types of situations with determination and courage, and gradually achieved greater success in moving people to shelters and saving lives and property of the coastal communities.

Constraints:

The CPP program continues to face funding difficulties. Although the government of Bangladesh provides approximately CHF 400,000 per year, this amount remains inadequate to meet the basic expenses related to the

programs activities. The BDRCS CPP department, supported by Federation, is currently working on the funding proposal for Cyclone Preparedness Program, which would include Earthquake preparedness as a new component. The program will be submitted to ECHO for its consideration for funding under DIPECHO projects for 2003-2004.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Program (CHT-DP)

The program was only partially implemented due to the delayed transfer of funds. Activities conducted from April to early June focused on the visible progress achieved so far, including Health awareness and formation of village development activities (VDC) and refresher training on the Essential Service Package (ESP).

Progress / Achievements

- Health awareness activities including Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA).
- WATSAN activities.
- Home based Income Generating (IG) activities.
- Formation of Village Development Committees (VDC).

Health activities

During the reporting period, 60 health workers continued to conduct regular awareness raising activities in the health sectors and have provided necessary medicines in the target areas under this program to three CHT Units. In some cases, they have been providing advice to patients. Working conditions continue to be harsh as the access to some hilly areas remains difficult. In addition, a total of 97 Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) volunteer workers have been carrying out their regular activities in all three CHT Units earning a very good reputation among the community.

Water and Sanitation (WAT/SAN) activities

During the reporting period, all previously installed water sources in two Upazilas of three Chittagong Hill Tracts' districts remain in operation. The maintenance committee of each water source has been very active looking after the water sources and taking necessary action whenever needed on a day-to-day basis.

Home based Income Generating (IG) activities

Home based Income Generating activities are being implemented in six sub-districts of three CHT districts. So far, BDRCS has provided Taka 1,200,000 (*In 2000-2001: Taka 600,000 for the 1st three sub-districts and in 2002: Taka 600,000 for 2nd three sub-districts*) as a revolving fund in three CHT districts.

Formation of Village Development Committees (VDCs)

The BDRCS has learned from previous experience that the formation of village development committees is a vital in the development of those communities. This formation activity was started in the 2nd quarter of 2002 but suddenly discontinued because the CHT-DP could not supply appropriate guidelines on this topic. The Guidelines on Village Development Committees (VDC) are being finalized at the national headquarters. The main feature of this program will be to raise awareness among the community people for self-reliance and inspire them to develop their respective area. It is expected that those communities would be self-sustainable in the future if the CHT DP provides all relevant training to all VDCs under the three CHT Units. Since March 2003, 30 VDCs were formed in Khagrachori, 52 VDCs in Bandarban and 20 VDCs in Rangamati Unit.

Impact

The efforts of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society to assist vulnerable people in the CHT areas are well recognized, both among the tribal and non-tribal communities.

Development activities in the field of Health including TBA, Water Sanitation, Income Generation and formation of VDCs have had positive impacts in the community in minimizing vulnerability. People in the post-conflict region are now becoming more aware of the principles of Red Cross and Red Crescent. The CHT Development Program of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society feels that this program has all necessary conditions fulfilled to be successful.

Constraints:

Insufficient donor support and the late transfer of funds have reduced the pace of the implementation of several activities during the first five months. A welcome new partner, New Zealand Red Cross, has made positive commitment to contribute to the CHT development activities.

3. Humanitarian Values

As the majority of activities of the BDRCS information department are funded by the ICRC, at the end of last year a draft plan and budget for 2003 concerning the BDRCS dissemination programme was prepared and submitted to the ICRC regional office in New Delhi.

The final and approved Plan of Action (PoA) and budget was received in February 2003 from the ICRC office in New Delhi. The first quarter's fund allocation, out of the annual budget, was only obtained on 20 March 2003.

Goal: Social harmony, humane treatment of victims of disaster and respect for the dignity of human life are increased.

Objective: Increased awareness, understanding and acknowledgment of the values that guide its action and respect for the Bangladesh Red Crescent as an independent, principled and impartial humanitarian organization.

Expected Results:

- **Developed capacity of BDRCS for the promotion of the Movements' fundamental principles and the values are actively disseminated in the context of all programmes.**

Progress/Achievements

An orientation workshop on Red Cross/Red Crescent movement issues, jointly organized by the BDRCS, ICRC and the Federation for the BDRCS Managing Board Members was held on 17/18 February 2003. All BDRCS Members, including the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Treasurer participated. The workshop held at national headquarters was facilitated by the Regional Cooperation Delegate of ICRC and Head of Federation delegation. The workshop was very successful and Board members said it had improved their knowledge about various issues related to the Movement and this will be important for better understanding of their respective roles and improved performance of their work in the future.

On 24 to 28 February, the 11th National Youth Camp of BDRCS was held at the national scout training center in Mouchak, Gazipur near Dhaka. It was opened by the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh who is also the President of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. A total of 1,500 Red Crescent Youth members, volunteers, Red Crescent Teachers, Staff members participated in the camp with 46 District Units from throughout the country represented. A total of 46 District Units from throughout the country were involved. The camp was full of a wide variety of programmes including cultural shows, competitions, drama etc. The entire premises of the camp were colorfully decorated with banners, flags while large Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems and logos of the movements' components were displayed. Dissemination materials such as laminated multicolored posters of the seven fundamental principles, emblem, and different pharmaceutical symbols, illustrations on the basic rules of behavior of IHL, titles of four Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols were also displayed. To help achieve the aim and objective of the national camp and for better management purpose several sub-camps were established – each named after one of the seven fundamental principles of the movement. One of the major activities was training which included outlines of Red Cross/Red Crescent basic issues such as First Aid, disaster preparedness, health awareness, leadership etc. This facilitated the training of 1,000 youth members. The event wrapped up with the groups taking part in a quiz on Red Cross/Red Crescent basic issues.



Seven principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – the BDRCS Youth display on the occasion of the 8th May celebration

Students, volunteers and teachers were each given a copy of “Red Crescent and my country” with a total of 1,200 books distributed. The whole event received wide media coverage both in print and TV.

The information department was also very active during the implementation of other activities of the society such as: polio vaccination by youth members, relief distribution among cold wave affected people, tornado victims and fire disaster victims, liaising with national dailies and television and raising awareness amongst the mass population about BDRCS activities in general.

Several other activities have been carried out during the reporting period:

- Five one-day workshops for 75 RCY in the 5 cities.
- Two one-day workshops in two divisional cities for non RC Personnel.
- Printing of BDRCS 2002 annual report.
- Printing of 1st quarter Newsletter.
- Two one-week monitoring missions in CHT.

4. Organizational Development (OD)

In early 1995 Arthur D. Little, an international consultant agency carried out a comprehensive review of the Management System of BDRCS. The consultant strongly recommended, among other priorities, an extensive institutional development of the national headquarters as well as in the branches. The National Society and the Federation carried out assessments of national headquarters and selected branches for institutional development. Separate Plan of Actions (PoA) and budgets were prepared for institutional development at national headquarters and branch institutional development and Community Service Programme (CSP). Considerable progress has been made on the planned activities over the last six years. The 2003 plan of action for OD has been prepared according to subsequent evaluations and reviews, and appropriate changes have been added particularly at the branch level.

The new organizational development delegate joined the Federation delegation Dhaka in March 2003.

Goal: A principled, skilled and efficient National Society supportively linked to communities within which vulnerability is being progressively reduced.

Objective: The Bangladesh Red Crescent has moved towards becoming a well functioning National Society, with a national network of active Branches and volunteers carrying out activities in accordance with its mandate and principles and motivated to improve the lives of vulnerable people.

Expected Results:

- Bangladesh Red Crescent competencies in program planning and management and the capacity of its Branches to provide well managed and locally sustainable support to vulnerable communities are increased.
- Reflecting the diversity of its membership base and the impartial inclusiveness of its mandate, governance of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society has become more democratic and its integrity more transparent.
- The capacity of Bangladesh Red Crescent to attract, recruit and retain volunteers from all age groups and classes of society has increased.
- Public knowledge and understanding of the humanitarian policies, priorities, standpoints and programmes of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and of the International Movement is increased.
- The Bangladesh Red Crescent's capacity to generate, access, mobilise and manage financial resources is increased.

Progress/Achievements:

An orientation on 'Organizational Development' for the Branch Executive Committee members was held on 25 to 27 February 2003. The orientation was conducted at the 11th National Youth Camp, with 17 branch executive members specially invited by the Planning & Development Department. The programme included Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, fundamental principles, use and misuse of the emblem, fundraising, and branch development while there were practical demonstrations of youth activities. Through different exercises and brainstorming, the branch secretaries acknowledged the importance of interacting with each other and sharing information and experiences. The five newly elected secretaries (17 total) were very enthusiastic about the programmes and found the entire exercise very useful.

Three two-day orientation workshops on Organizational Development for the Unit Executive Committee were held from 24 to 29 May 2003 in the BDRCS training room. The main objectives of the workshops were to familiarize the Unit Executive Committee members with OD objectives and the newly developed special Branch Development package and also to enable the Units to increase their capacities and resources. The second workshop was organized immediately after the first targeting the unit level Officers and volunteers. Each unit was represented by three members: Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Chief of youth Volunteers.

The Constitution Review Committee has revised the 7th draft of the Constitution. The committee has incorporated some important suggestions given by the ICRC Co-operation and IFRC OD delegate. A workshop is being organized for 20 to 21 June at Rajendropur, Gazipur in order to prepare the final draft.

Project Program Skill Management (OPRG):

The Planning and Development Department organized a half-day evaluation workshop on 2 February 2003 at the BDRCS training center with all departmental heads of the National Society. The objective of the workshop was to evaluate the performances of the PoA for 2002. The progress of the department, in terms of activities and funding, was presented including methods of evaluation. This type of progress report and presentation was a new experience for the BDRCS, the participants were able compare their own progress relative to others for the first time. The participating heads of the departments felt that the evaluation, though a quick one, could demonstrate the year's achievements in a comparative manner and this should be applied in assessing the quarterly progress as well.

The director of the Planning and Development department introduced the idea of a "package programme" for branch development. This would be designed as a competitive program between branches in order to get stakeholders to initiate branch activities on their own. All 68 branches of the Society would be included in the" competition. Each branch would be teamed up with an officer from the branch or from the national headquarters. The workshop participants unanimously expressed the view that the package would be an effective instrument for the branches to move forward on their own, and could lead them on the track toward sustainability.

A general reporting session was held on 13 April at BDRCS training room with a total of 30 BDRCS officers attending. Bearing in mind that English is not the official language in Bangladesh and in order to enhance the vocabulary and English language communication of the officers, the BDRCS Planning and Development department engaged a professional training institution named Gateway Consultant Ltd. to organize the English Language Course. A total of 27 BDRCS officers attended the course.

Project Communication and Advocacy Development (OCAD):

As a part of the two-year development plan, the first phase of the computer training program for 22 BDRCS officers was completed in December last year, during the last five months in this year, all trained officers have become far more efficient in their work using computers. The Planning and Development Department is currently organizing the second phase Computer training course for 20 new officers, which will be conducted in June.

Project Finance Resource Development (OFRD):

The Fundraising Department organized an "Open Musical Concert" in Dhaka City on 7 March 2003. The concert was held at the same time as other events, and thus was not able to generate as much funds as expected. This experience will guide the BDRCS in the future.

Another fundraising event was the Charity Golf Tournament held on 24-25 April 2003. Funds collected at this event, will be partially used to cover the core expenditure and the rest for the procurement of emergency relief items for the BDRCS buffer stocks.

The BDRCS Fundraising Department held a life member enrollment campaign at the BDRCS compound on World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day on May 8. The campaign resulted in 15 new life members of the Society.

The initiative has already been taken to organize three resource mobilization workshops at Branch and national headquarters levels. The workshops are scheduled to be held in June and July 2003.

A Resource Mobilization workshop was jointly planned with the Regional Delegation to be held 23-26 June. This is part of the regional OD plan funded by reallocated OD DFID funds. The venue will be the BDRCS national headquarters with members of 30 Branches, national headquarters staff and volunteers attending

Another initiative of the Planning and Development Department is to identify and develop souvenir items under the income generation activities of the Society. A committee has been formed consisting of three members headed by a Managing Board Member. The committee will formulate a procedure to develop and promote income generation from the sale of souvenirs.

Constraints:

The planned activities of the Organizational Development Department for 2003 have not progressed as per the plan of action, mainly due to funding constraints. It is expected that these outstanding activities will be implemented during the next quarter of 2003.

5. Federation Coordination

In April 2003, the BDRCS and Federation held an International Fundraising Golf tournament in Dhaka. A total of 150 participants took part including representatives from the international community. Funds raised will go towards purchasing relief buffer stocks. The tournament will become an annual event.

The BDRCS has continued to receive support from the movement's national societies and international donor agencies.

Goal: A well governed, efficiently managed, widely respected and supported National society with a clearly defined vision of its role in the country, its obligations to the vulnerable and its responsibilities within the RC/RC Movement.

Objective: The Bangladesh Red Crescent has developed comprehensive and coherent strategies, plans and programmes understood and supported by other members of the RC/RC Movement.

Expected Results:

- A comprehensive 5-year Development Plan consistent with the principles established in the Bangladesh Red Crescent's Co-operation Agreement Strategy.
- Increased long-term support for Bangladesh Red Crescent priority programs by Movement partners (ICRC and PNS).
- A new Constitution of the Bangladesh Red Crescent agreed and approved by ICRC and the Federation.
- Increased capacity to rapidly deploy appropriately trained and internationally experienced staff in support of the development programs and emergency relief operations of sister National Societies.

Progress/Achievements:

The signing of a four-year funding and implementation agreement with the British Red Cross, supporting BDRCS's CBDP and OD programs is in its final stage.

From January this year the Bangladesh delegation changed its reporting lines from Geneva to the Regional Delegation. This has been to date, a smooth transition.

The BDRCS and Federation are currently working on a new CBDP strategy incorporating previous BDRCS' German and Japanese CBDP supported programs.

The head of delegation facilitated the German Red Cross society (GRC) basic training course in March. It was also an opportunity to meet with the GRC international department to discuss ongoing support to BDRCS. There is a strong possibility that they will support BDRCS's appeal 2004 in the CBDP areas. GRC continues to support the BDRCS's Mother and Child Health (MCH) program and have a full time health delegate based within the BDRCS health department.

In April, the South Asia Regional delegation conducted a valuable BDRCS health mapping exercise. A separate report is available from the South Asia Regional Health Delegate, or the Regional Department in Geneva.

Although the ICRC does not maintain a permanent office in Bangladesh, very close cooperation is maintained with the ICRC region delegation in Delhi. ICRC makes regular visits and excellent relations are maintained. With some assistance from the ICRC/SARD, the BDRCS has finalized the final draft of its new constitution. After the June 20-21 board meeting, which will include a one-day final review of the document; it will then be sent to the Constitution review committee in Geneva by July 2003.

The Swiss Red Cross maintains a separate office in Bangladesh with a full time delegate based in Dhaka. Although their programs are independent from BDRCS, regular contact is maintained, and hopefully in the future Swiss Red Cross will be able to continue support BDRCS especially in technical areas and training.

During this reporting period the Federation delegation has hosted visits from the British and Swedish Red Cross societies. Head of Delegation arranged a meeting with the EC Ambassador for the BRC and SRC visit to discuss a long term CBDP funding application. German Red Cross will also be involved in further negotiations. Head of Delegation also hosted the vice President of the Australian RC who was on a private visit to Bangladesh. He was able to make a field trip to the CHT region.

Impact

The BDRCS has increased performance, targeting the vulnerable and consolidating its program activities over the last couple of years. This has enabled the national society to regain some of its previous PNS donor support. The national society has now obtained a high profile as an independent international humanitarian organization, being transparent and creditable with the Bangladesh community and International missions based in Dhaka. Excellent cooperation is being maintained on all levels with the government of Bangladesh.

6. International Representation

The Federation has continued to maintain a close contact with the GoB, International Community UN agencies, EC and ECHO. Concrete results have been achieved in this area. In 2002, the delegation managed to raise approximately 750,000 CHF locally; this supported emergency appeals and project funding.

Goal: Knowledge and awareness of the Federation and its policies among government, UN, non-governmental and other international development agencies are increased.

Objective: Greater external understanding and appreciation of Federation strategies are reflected in increased international support for the Bangladesh Red Crescent's programs.

Expected Results:

- More focused and effective promotion of the Federation and its policies in the international arena.
- Delegation advocacy networks among international organizations extended to include all Diplomatic Missions, UN Agencies and INGOs operating in Bangladesh.
- The international humanitarian prestige of the Federation is formally acknowledged by the Government of Bangladesh and reflected in a signed Legal Status Agreement.
- Greater consistency of approach and action by international players involved in relief operations in Bangladesh.
- The Bangladesh Red Crescent is regarded as a centre of humanitarian excellence in the South Asia Region and knowledge and appreciation of its programs among the Federation's member Societies is increased.
- Strengthened BDRCS relationships with WFP, UNHCR and other UN Agencies.

Progress/Achievements

The head of delegation visited 17 Foreign Embassies in the first two months of the year, introducing BDRCS's appeal 2003. To date, the embassies of Australia, China, UAE, Denmark, and Switzerland have contributed locally to BDRCS Appeal 2003. Personal close contact is maintained with the representatives of UNDP, UNHCR and WHO; currently all three are BDRCS partners. The Head of Delegation arranged field visits for 3 Dhaka-based ambassadors to view BDRCS activities.

The delegation's priority has been to obtain a Diplomatic Status Agreement with the government of Bangladesh (GoB.) Much time and effort has been spent on this subject. The Agreement is due to be signed by July 2003. Close cooperation has been maintained with the GoB secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the State minister of Foreign Affairs and the Director General Moa. The delegation has unfettered access to all Ministries especially Health, Relief, and Foreign Affairs.

Federation/ BDRCS facilitated a USD 2 million GoB donation to Iraq in April through the Kuwaiti Red Crescent. The Chairman of the BDRCS has been nominated as one of the vice chairmen for the forthcoming Movements International Conference due to be held in Geneva November 2003.

Constraints

Regional allocation of DFID support (London Office) to Bangladesh has been very successful and very much appreciated, the Federation is currently looking at ways to expand upon this success and work with DFID's local

office. The Bangladesh delegation will continue to liaise with the DFID Bangladesh office, which receives regular Red Cross/Red Crescent activity reports in country.

For further information please contact:

- *Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Mr. Obaidur Rahman, Secretary General, Phone: +88 02 933 7314; e-mail: bdracs@bangla.net*
- *Federation Delegation in Bangladesh; Tony Maryon, Head of Delegation, Phone : +88 02 831 5401; Mobile +88 017 521 615; e-mail ifrcbd03@ifrc.org*
- *Regional Department, Federation Geneva: Ewa Eriksson; Phone: 41 22 739 4353, e-mail:Ewa.Eriksson@ifrc.org*

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>

APPEAL No. 01.53/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

14.08.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
-------	----------	----------	------	-----------	------	---------

CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3'233'439	TOTAL COVERAGE 48.6%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				289'080		
AMERICAN - RC		22'926	USD	31'168	07.05.03	COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT
AUSTRALIAN - RC		5'025	AUD	4'128	14.04.03	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - RC		73'000	GBP	158'337	03.04.03	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
BRITISH - RC		20'000	GBP	44'480	14.07.03	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
DANISH - GOVT		2'367'000	BDT	56'718	08.01.03	PROCUREMENT 6'500 BLANKETS, INCL. TRANSPORT/DISTRIBUTION, DIRECTLY TO DELEGATION
NEW ZEALAND - RC		100'000	NZD	79'600	17.07.03	SAFE DRINKING WATER, LATRINES, TBA
SWEDISH - GOVT		450'000	SEK	72'000	23.05.03	REPORTING DELEGATE
SWEDISH - GOVT		900'000	SEK	144'000	23.05.03	CBDP
SWEDISH - GOVT		500'000	SEK	80'000	23.05.03	CHT
SWEDISH - GOVT		600'000	SEK	96'000	23.05.03	CPP
SWEDISH - GOVT		750'000	SEK	120'000	23.05.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEV.
SWEDISH - RC		200'000	SEK	32'000	23.05.03	CPP
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		108'000	USD	145'908	25.07.03	PURCHASE OF 7000 FAMILY KITS
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND ALLOCATION				75'800	07.04.2003	BANGLADESH - PBD005
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'429'219	CHF	44.2%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			32'690		
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			109'240		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				141'930	CHF	4.4%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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