

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

INDIA

Date 19 December 2003

Appeal No. 01.54/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 12,862, 905 (USD 9,647,179 or EUR 8,232,259)

Programme Update No. 2

Period covered: 1 June to 15 November, 2003

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 95%; See attached Contributions List for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 702,077

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Monsoon Floods (24/2002), Drought (16/2003)

Programme Summary:

The Indian Red Cross Society along with the Federation has achieved satisfactory process on the Annual Appeal during the reporting period. Most of the planned activities for June to November have been approved and scheduled for implementation towards the end of the year. The drought operation in Rajasthan was closed on 28 October with distribution of a one-time food ration to 8,300 families. A partner national societies meeting was convened by the Indian Red Cross in November to discuss the huge savings from Gujarat rehabilitation (health reconstruction) appeal. The duration for reconstruction has been extended for six months i.e. until June 2004 due to various reasons and has been agreed to by donors.

Operational developments

The Indian Red Cross has undertaken a major capacity building exercise at the Gujarat state branch with a new organisational structure agreed to. New positions of health coordinator, capacity building officer and a disaster preparedness coordinator have been appointed. The new structure will strengthen support to four districts (district and sub-district) branches.

A taskforce has been formed within the India Red Cross/Federation team for the development of a disaster preparedness plan. This process is utilising information gathered from the *Well-prepared State Branch* questionnaire sent out to state branches in eight disaster-prone states earlier this year.

Disaster preparedness community-based trainings have been conducted in 34 sub-districts in Gujarat and training manuals have been developed by the society and tested by field workers during these courses.

The SPHERE initiative has proceeded since its launch in India in February. There have been regular coordination meetings of the member agencies. During the floods in Assam and Orissa in the most recent monsoon period, coordination meetings organised by the India Red Cross were held with SPHERE agencies.

The International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Health Organisation (WHO). The agreement between WHO and 11 countries in South/South-East Asia establishes a framework for collaboration in emergency health, HIV/AIDS, communicable diseases and voluntary blood donor recruitment.

As a direct result, the India Red Cross has participated in the two regional immunisation days organised by the government in different states, and successfully covered the required amount of children to be immunised.

The national society is in the process of scaling up its HIV/AIDS response and the appointment of a HIV coordinator since the last programme update is part of this process.

The 'Reconstruction Surplus Donors' meeting in November hosted by the India Red Cross addressed issues regarding the Gujarat reconstruction project. It was attended by representatives from the Hong Kong Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, German Red Cross, American Red Cross, ICRC, India Red Cross and Federation. The meeting looked at the current status of the programme including construction and finance, and to view plans relating to disaster management, reconstruction preparedness and HIV/AIDS and on how to use surplus funds. The participants recommended that there be an update on organisational development, the handing over of current programmes in Gujarat to India Red Cross national headquarters and a review of the reconstruction project in Gujarat. Donors agreed to use the savings from the reconstruction project in India on other potential projects.

1. Health and care

The health and care programme comprises the following projects;

- HIV/AIDS prevention and advocacy;
- integrated and community based health (Gujarat appeal 20/2001);
- national health (Gujarat appeal 20/2001)

Goal for HIV/AIDS project: The vulnerability to HIV/AIDS of approximately 800,000 Indians – mostly women, children and youths – is reduced.

Objective and Expected Results: The capacity of the Indian Red Cross to implement HIV/AIDS prevention and advocacy related to the dignity of people living with HIV/AIDS is increased through children, adolescents and the communities.

Expected results for this objective are:

- a better understanding of Indian Red Cross HIV activities and capacities in implementing HIV/AIDS prevention, care and advocacy projects;
- an Indian Red Cross HIV/AIDS policy developed through one workshop of state branch secretaries and one managing board meeting in coordination with organisational development (OD) programme, and HIV/AIDS policy disseminated to the branches;
- a five-year strategic plan formulated for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and promotion of dignity for people living with HIV/AIDS and incorporated with Indian Red Cross sectoral components of OD;
- youth peer education to 25,200 adolescents (15-24 years) supported in Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Tripura through 42 trained teachers, 8,400 Red Cross youths, established counselling centre and HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns;

- child peer education to 135,000 school children (9-15 years) supported in Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka through trained Red Cross staff, teachers and junior Red Cross volunteers drawing on lessons learned in the Gujarat child-to-child initiative for health awareness;
- community-based HIV/AIDS prevention supported for 600,000 people in three selected states through 3,000 CBFA trained health volunteers;
- a community-based HIV/AIDS home care pilot project proposal formulated for one to two high-prevalence states in 2004;

Progress/achievements

Although the India Red Cross has been involved in HIV/AIDS prevention, the efforts have been scattered and have lacked consistency. However since the previous update, the national society has made progress in building capacity to implement the programme and has initiated activities amongst youth and in communities.

The Indian Red Cross has given high priority in HIV/AIDS prevention and has strengthened its human resources. A national HIV coordinator has been recruited and programme planning and supervision are improving as a result. Further discussions on strategic planning in HIV/AIDS are now underway.

The national society has initiated a nationwide awareness programme (currently being rolled out in the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra) through peer education amongst the young population in schools and colleges. Coordinators at state and district level (one district in Tamil Nadu and two districts in each of the other two states) are in place and five colleges and five schools in each district have been identified. A training workshop for the coordinators was held in November. The national HIV coordinator following meetings with state/district branches and the state programme coordinators has finalised plans for further training for teachers, peer educators and students.

With the support of the South Asia regional delegation, the South Asia Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA) programme officer will assist the India Red Cross with training of trainers.

The project 'Care & Support, Prevention and Stigma' has been developed and will be piloted in a district of Tamil Nadu which has a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. The project will target pre-school children (2-6 years) of women who are HIV positive, HIV positive women and the communities they live in. If the project is successful, there are plans for the project to be expanded.

The Indian Red Cross observed the World AIDS Day with the dissemination of information materials to youth, rallies in Tamil Nadu and a poster competition in Haryana.

Impact

The India Red Cross has made HIV/AIDS a priority programme and is scaling up its response. Boosted by the appointment of the national HIV coordinator, there is improved planning and supervision of the programme. This is helping lay a good foundation for the National Society HIV/AIDS activities in the future.

The India Red Cross has a clearer and more defined long-term direction on HIV/AIDS through strategic planning discussions.

Constraints

The capacity of the India Red Cross is insufficient to address HIV/AIDS in a comprehensive manner in the various states where HIV/AIDS prevalence is high. This capacity needs to be further developed.

Goal for integrated and community based health project: The health vulnerability of the population, mostly women and children in rural communities, in Gujarat and nationwide is reduced.

Objective and expected results: The long-term health of some 1,500,000 people living in 1,500 villages of Kutch, Surendranagar, Banaskantha, Rajkot and Jamnagar districts is safeguarded and the capacity in public health of the Indian Red Cross Gujarat state, district and local branches and the local health system is increased.

Expected results for this objective are;

- health awareness enhanced in increased number of communities in rural areas through 400 Red Cross volunteers trained in community-based health and continuously supported by 30 Red Cross field health workers in Kutch, Jamnagar, Surendranagar and Rajkot;
- reproductive and child health of the population at the grass root level improved as a result of trained anganwadi (day care centre) workers and helpers and 750 trained traditional birth attendants in Kutch, Jamnagar, Surendranagar and Rajkot, in collaboration with and eventually sustained by the local health authorities;
- close coordination maintained and knowledge shared with the PNS community based bilateral health projects in Gujarat;
- 113 permanent health care facilities including primary health care centres, sub-health centres, anganwadis and dispensaries are rehabilitated in the talukas of Kutch, Banaskantha, Surendranagar and Rajkot.

Progress/achievements

The programme involved training of Red Cross volunteers in community-based first aid and follow up activities such as health awareness in communities, First Aid and referral to primary health centres; training of traditional birth attendants and health education in schools (child-to-child).

The training of volunteers and further refresher trainings in the above districts have been completed. In addition, the state branch has conducted further training of trainers in order to expand the programme in other districts. Volunteers are involved in prevention activities in their communities and they are gaining increased recognition and appreciation from the Ministry of Health for their efforts.

The volunteers in Kutch, Rajkot and Surendranagar have been engaged in the malaria eradication programme run by the Ministry of Health. The involvement of Red Cross volunteers in the tuberculosis programme is being considered.

An internal evaluation of the impact of the Community Based First Aid programme in Kutch district is underway. The India Red Cross with support from the Federation will conduct an evaluation of the programme in all the above districts in the near future.

The training of traditional birth attendants has been completed in Kutch and Rajkot districts and has achieved good results with improved antenatal and postnatal care, safe delivery practices and improved care of newborns. The state branch has conducted further trainings in two more districts.

The school health education (child-to-child) project has not been implemented according to the plan. The constraints of the programme will be reviewed and a revision of the programme is envisaged.

The state branch is building its capacity to support the health programme in districts and improve supervision. The health coordinator has been recruited at the state branch level.

Impact

While the programme has made an overall impact in developing community health programme in different districts the impact in communities is yet to be fully evaluated. These findings will be reflected in future reports.

Constraints

The capacity of the branch needs to be increased to be able to conduct the programme fully.

Goal for national community-based health project: Support to the Indian Red Cross Society capacity building in health preparedness and health relief.

Objective and expected results: The capacity of the IRCS to plan, implement and manage quality health programmes and emergency health responses and to support the vulnerable communities in responding to various disasters is strengthened.

Expected results for this objective are;

- a national health review conducted to assess the society's countrywide capacity for health disaster response and health related disaster preparedness and current HIV awareness activities by the Indian Red Cross, the government and NGOs;
- a health database containing health related information such as health structures of Indian Red Cross, government and NGOs, society's health programmes over the past ten years, disease and disaster patterns created, promoted and regularly maintained;
- Indian Red Cross core health policy developed and implemented;
- health coordination between the Indian Red Cross NHQ and the state branches developed;
- Indian Red Cross to develop national and international collaboration and coordination on public health in emergency situations;
- health training manuals of the Indian Red Cross are developed and published;
- nationwide emergency health and DP/health programmes of the Indian Red Cross are developed, implemented and extended from Gujarat to other states;
- 4,500 community-based health volunteers of the Red Cross in six states are using the CBFA training curriculum developed from the Gujarat community based health project;
- 300 traditional birth attendants trained in Uttar Pradesh.

Progress/achievements

A training of trainers workshop in community-based first aid involving the district coordinators from West Bengal; Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan was conducted. Due to various reasons including floods, the Red Cross volunteer trainings in Bihar have been delayed and they will take place at a later date.

The Indian Red Cross took part in the polio eradication programme in seven districts in Gujarat in September. The programme was expanded into districts of Bihar and West Bengal during November. Preparation is underway for Red Cross volunteers to be involved in polio eradication programmes in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Activities relating to the national health review and health database were outlined in Programme Update 1.

Impact

The Indian Red Cross has played a lead role in the targeted districts which were comparatively not well covered under immunisation. The national society's involvement has increased the coverage of the immunisation programme which has been appreciated by the local populations and the Ministry of Health.

Constraints

Coordination mechanisms need to be improved and more detailed planning is required.

2. Disaster Management

Overall Goal: The Indian Red Cross Society has become the leading disaster management agency in India.

Objective and expected results: Strengthening the disaster management (DM) capacity of the Indian Red Cross Society and the communities in Gujarat, strengthening national disaster preparedness (DP) capacity and national disaster response mechanisms and reducing vulnerability of communities to disasters with Indian Red Cross sectoral components of health and organisational development (OD). (*This objective has been modified from the text in the annual appeal.*)

Expected result: the disaster management plan, warehouses and trained staff of the Gujarat state branch are put in place and the coping mechanisms of the communities in four disaster prone districts in Gujarat are strengthened through 1,700 trained volunteers supported by the Indian Red Cross sectoral initiatives of health and OD components.

Progress/achievements

Renovation of the state branch warehouse (Vassna) in Ahmedabad began in September and is progressing according to plan. The state branch has demonstrated great deal of confidence in leading the way in renovation and has actively sought Federation technical support. The branch has been actively involved in identification and procurement of disaster preparedness stock material for Gujarat.

Subsequent to the disaster preparedness Capacity Building workshop in May, two more trainings have been conducted with participants drawn from sub-district branches from all over Gujarat. While to date only two district branches have formed disaster preparedness Committees with participation from government representatives, other branches have requested technical support from the state branch to do so. A meeting of district branch secretaries in Ahmedabad in October provided a good opportunity to follow-up on the trainings while promoting a greater awareness towards disaster management. The meeting addressed the issue of the Indian Red Cross taking the lead for disaster management programmes in a sustainable manner.

The disaster preparedness function within the Gujarat state branch is developing well. The branch responded well to floods during the monsoon period. The disaster preparedness coordinator is working well with the state branch and is increasingly participating in the state inter-agency forums.

Two training of trainers sessions with an integrated disaster mental health component were conducted in July in Rajkot and Bhuj with partial funding support from the American Red Cross. A total of 62 volunteer training courses for 1800 participants in the four earthquake affected districts of Bhuj, Rajkot, Surendranagar and Jamnagar are progressing towards completion. As a follow-up to the trainings, volunteers have prepared vulnerability capacity assessments for their communities and achieved participation from local government authorities in the formation of a disaster preparedness committee at the district level.

Disaster preparedness volunteer trainings have been conducted by the Spanish Red Cross for an additional 300 community-based first aid trained volunteers in two sub districts within the region. This is in addition to the originally planned 1800 volunteers within the budgeted amounts as per the approved programme budget in line with the June 2003 revision. Trained volunteers are increasingly being utilised by branches as resource persons for ongoing training activities throughout the state. The American Red Cross provided a third of the funding for the logistics support during trainings.

A training manual for volunteer training to be used by field workers has been developed and field tested. Preliminary inputs have been received from organisational development and health and further technical clarifications requested in order to improve the manual.

Technical cost estimates for the Gujarat state branch control room construction were completed. There have been delays in the construction due to government planning permission issues which have now been resolved.

A state branch program manager supported by the disaster management programme has been identified and appointment confirmed. Support during the selection process was provided by the Federation organisational development counterpart.

Impact

The disaster preparedness coordinator at the state branch is developing in his role and is getting recognised by the district branches. This will lead to better coordination of the disaster preparedness activities including reporting and follow-up.

Improved disaster preparedness capacities within district branches in Gujarat were assured through intensive follow-up by the state and district volunteers.

An improved coordination mechanism has been evolved by the Gujarat state branch with the United Nations Development Programme in implementing their field level activities.

There has been increased interaction between the Gujarat State Branch and the state government on issues related to disaster management.

Expected result: the DP policy and plan of the Indian Red Cross is developed in line with SPHERE and other accepted policies and standards and disseminated to the branches.

Progress/achievements

Regional consultations took place earlier this year as outlined in Programme Update 1. The Indian Red Cross and Federation continue to be a part of the SPHERE India Initiative Managing Committee and actively support the process. Inputs were provided into the development of the National Society Development Plan. A draft disaster preparedness plan is being developed for 2005-06.

Impact

A task force has been formed within the IRCS-Federation disaster management team for the development of disaster preparedness plan.

The SPHERE institutionalisation process commenced and is progressing well.

Expected result: A functional Indian Red Cross disaster management centre and disaster management department are established at NHQ with disaster management systems in place linking the NHQ with the disaster coordinators of state branches and zonal warehouses. (Note in Programme 1 and 2 this replaces the original text from the Annual Appeal which stated ‘the functional and sustainable disaster management systems in place linking the NHQ disaster management centre with key governmental authorities, local and international NGOs, and with eight state branches and six zonal warehouses;)

A function disaster management centre has been established during 2003. The issue of systems to ensure long-term sustainability is being addressed in planning for 2004-06.

While the SPHERE initiative has been utilised as an opportunity to link with NGOs and the government, stronger Indian Red Cross-government links with long term impact have been planned for 2004 through an improved co-ordination mechanism.

The Indian Red Cross Deputy Secretary continues to act in the role of disaster management director. That position was vacated earlier this year and a replacement is still being sought. A new administrator for the Disaster Management Center has been appointed. During the absence of the former Disaster Management Centre administrator who left at the end of July, the relief department had deputed personnel for administration.

The Center is increasingly being used as a training venue for the Indian Red Cross, South Asia regional delegation and external organisations such as St Johns. The premises have also been used to host SPHERE India Inter-agency forum meetings. Revenue generated from the hiring out of the conference room pay for maintenance of the Disaster Management Centre.

Procurement for disaster management control room equipment at the Gujarat state branch has been done.

The report coming out of the disaster preparedness review conducted in May has been endorsed by the Indian Red Cross. It has been shared with partner national societies in-country and has been posted on the Federation isaster Management Information System webpage. Work is being done on follow-up recommendations.

A disaster management training schedule for 2004 has been developed.

Impact

The recommendations from the disaster preparedness review report have used as a guidance tool in planning for 2004 and beyond in the Appeal 2004 process. The long term commitment by the British Red Cross to support the Indian Red Cross disaster management programme will help in putting the review report recommendations in practice.

There has been improved communication between the national headquarters and the Gujarat state branch. This assisted the Gujarat state branch in successfully carrying out local flood relief operations. Timely reports are being received by national headquarters from the Gujarat state branch.

Expected result: The disaster preparedness capacity of the Indian Red Cross at the national and state branch levels is reviewed according to the well prepared national society questionnaire, eight disaster prone state branches engaged on DP policy and best practices, and DP capacity building of four branches engaged on DP policy and best practice, and DP capacity building of four state branches enhanced by joint DP/OD initiative. (NB. The expected result on the functional knowledge management unit as outlined in the Annual Appeal has been incorporated in the above expected result in Programme Updates 1 and 2)

Progress/achievements

The Indian Red Cross has participated in regular disaster preparedness sectoral meeting forums which have included the German Red Cross, American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and the Federation. These have provided good opportunities for cross-sectoral information sharing and harnessing learning. Greater institutional mechanisms are being established for lesson learning in capturing good practice in 2004.

Capacity assessment of district branches at the state level in Gujarat was carried out using the *Well-prepared District Branch* tool based on the *Well-prepared National Society* model. A disaster preparedness conference with disaster management state branch secretaries from the eight targeted states is scheduled for December 2003, with the objective of greater branch participation in planning for 2004-05.

The disaster management team provided technical support to German Red Cross towards the appointment of the disaster planning coordinator at the Orissa state branch.

Impact

Disaster preparedness committees are continuing to be formed at the district branch level in Gujarat.

There is promotion of disaster preparedness with the district branches through greater involvement of the state branch secretary in Gujarat state branch.

Expected result: The national disaster response capacity of the Indian Red Cross is strengthened as a result of reinforced national society's emergency fund and volunteer mobilisation, highly trained and easily mobilised disaster response team, and three pre-positioned mobile disaster units (MDUs).

Packing lists for the MDU were prepared during August and procurement for assessment kits was finalised. Criteria for the disaster response team have been developed and communicated to the state branches for nominations of personnel for disaster assessment and response training and further protocols are being developed.

Assessments were undertaken together with national headquarters in the wake of floods in Assam, Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar. The Indian Red Cross disaster preparedness coordinator was involved in the assessment and follow-up with the branches undertaken. Fundraising efforts were undertaken by the state branches in Orissa and Bihar and relief provided. Six states were supported with relief goods, from the national disaster preparedness stock, namely- Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Chattisgarh, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

Procurement of disaster preparedness stocks for completion of approximately 25000 family packs is currently in process with support from the American Red Cross and the Gujarat earmarked funds from the Netherlands Red Cross.

The Indian Red Cross and Federation disaster management teams were engaged in tracking of a cyclone build-up off in the coast of Orissa during October. Joint monitoring was undertaken in close coordination with the South Asia regional delegation and teams put on alert.

Monthly reports are being sent on time by the Gujarat state branch to national headquarter disaster management team.

Impact

There is a higher level of response preparedness which has been achieved through finalisation of additional assessment kit equipment.

In view of the floods in Orissa and the departure of the relief delegate, the Federation disaster management delegate has promoted the need for a disaster response coordinator at the Indian Red Cross. The suggestion has been well received by senior management.

Expected result: To establish a logistics management system in strategically sited and rehabilitated warehouses. (NB the original expected result from the Annual Appeal which stated 'Delhi and other warehouses are renovated and further measures for warehouse sustainability achieved through replenished stock, catalogued relief items and highly trained Indian Red Cross regional and state warehouse staff.' was replaced by the above in Programme Updates 1 and 2)

Progress/achievements

The renovation of the warehouse in Delhi although planned for was delayed. Sustainability issues for the warehouse are planned to be addressed within 2004-2006.

Renovation of Viramgam warehouse in Gujarat is progressing, though delayed due to the late start of the reconstruction activity. Renovation of the Bahadurgarh warehouse has been scheduled for 2004 although planning for the renovation will be initiated within this year.

The relief items catalogue is being used in the current procurement of disaster preparedness stocks.

Impact

Strategic positioning of disaster preparedness stocks is becoming a reality with the completion of the warehouse in Gujarat.

Expected result: Risk reduction projects and community-based disaster preparedness activities in flood affected states are implemented and reviewed for expansion to selected states. (NB this is the amended expected result in Programme Updates 1 and 2 replacing the original expected result in the appeal which stated 'the impact of disasters in four flood districts of Assam and Bihar are reduced because of the three constructed flood platforms and raised tube wells, and community training.' This was due to the expansion of the project to Gujarat upon review of the Assam and Bihar experiences.)

Progress/achievements

Trained volunteers in Gujarat were active in relief distribution with state and district branches during local floods. community-based disaster preparedness activities being undertaken at village level in are being utilised for consolidating on standardised training material.

Trained volunteers in Assam were actively involved in the most recent flood operation in coordination with the district authorities. The Red Cross raised platform in Nalbari district, supported during the 2002 disaster response programme was utilised during this year's flooding.

A community-based disaster preparedness exercise has been planned for early 2004 for sharing of experiences among volunteers and will include the participation of other disaster management organisations.

Impact

Development of common CBDP training methodology has progressed well.

Federation Coordination and integration aspect

There has been intense activity in the second half of the year within the Indian Red Cross-Federation disaster management team. The finalisation of the Indian Red Cross Annual Appeal involved a great deal of coordination among disaster management, health and organisational development counterparts. Coordination meetings were held with the participating national societies including the American Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and the German Red Cross. Linkages for coordinated activities were discussed and partner national societies efforts are included in the 2004 Appeal narrative for 2004. Budget planning for 2004-2006 was discussed at the recent partner national societies meeting.

The Federation is continuing to support the upcoming German and Spanish Red Cross-supported water sanitation training for IRCS.

Structured sectoral meetings have improved disaster management programme understanding among partner national societies. Structured issue based meetings is helping achieve consensus around water sanitation issues.

Constraints

- The senior disaster preparedness manager's position remains vacant.
- The continued non-appointment of an Indian Red Cross disaster response coordinator, warehouse manager and disaster management director.
- Increased demands on the disaster management department due to multi-stakeholder engagement.
- Limited Branch capacity has required greater support from the national headquarters-Federation disaster management team.
- Inter-sectoral integration demands greater time for coordination and commitment.

3. Organisational Development

Overall Goal: The Indian Red Cross has become a leading humanitarian agency in India when mobilising, organising and managing local resources in order to improve the situation of the vulnerable.

Programme Objective and expected results: The Indian Red Cross structure, systems and resources are established and enhanced in order to increase the capacity of the national headquarters and selected branches to deliver effective volunteer-based programmes in the community.

Expected result: a branch development plan for the Gujarat state branch integrating the overall need of the district branches developed and implemented to increase the capacity of the branch.

Progress/achievements

The Gujarat State branch is making great progress in establishing a long-term branch development process.

During the last six months the state branch has;

- Established an new organisational structure in the state branch
- Strengthened the direct support to four districts (district and sub-district branches)
- Recruited approximately 100 volunteer managers
- Responded to emergencies in the community

- Initiated a District Branch Development process.

The branch development process in Gujarat state is outlined in Programme Update 1. As part of this process, new positions have been established and a Finance Manager, Programme Manager and Health Program Officer have been recruited. These will strengthen finance reporting and managements systems and aid the implementation of various programmes and reporting requirements.

The state branch capacity to support district branches development proved to be limited. These district branches also needed capacity building support during the same period. Four districts were selected to get direct support from NHQ by appointing Capacity Building Officers.

Three capacity building officers were recruited and placed in Rajkot, Bhuj and Surendranagar districts while the British Red Cross capacity building officer 'absorbed into the state branch continues to assist the Jamnagar district branch.

The capacity building officers initiated their work through assessment of existing capacities and assisting the branches in addressing internal weaknesses. One of the main tasks was to develop a volunteer database at the district branches through enrolment of volunteers and assist the branches in the recruitment of volunteer managers. The state branch as reported the presence of Capacity Building Officers have also improved the disaster response capacity of the district branches, and assisted branches in initiating new activities and in looking at organisational issues.

The state branch organised the recruitment of volunteer managers in the targetted district branches following discussions with field workers who are responsible for the supervision and management of volunteers recruited through the health programme.

In October the Gujarat State branch kicked-off the branch development process for district branches by organising a capacity building meeting for all district branches in Gujarat. The meeting helped assist the branches in recognising their existing capacities and accordingly plan development activities. The Indian Red Cross national headquarters, supported by the Federation and partner national societies, is committed to continuing support to the branch development in Gujarat.

Impact

- The Gujarat State branch and selected district branches have increased capacity to implement activities to assist vulnerable people in disaster and non-disaster situations.
- An efficient use of resources in responding to disaster emergencies.
- The Coordinator was despatched to respond and support the district branches after a cyclone struck the coast of Gujarat.
- Relations between the state branch and district branches have improved with increased communication.
- Increased capacity of the State branch to address the district branches needs to address internal capacity building.
- The Gujarat State has improved narrative and financial reporting.

Constraints

No significant constraints.

Expected result: a national branch development policy and strategy developed and the capacity of the national headquarters to provide development support to the branches is strengthened.

Progress/achievements

It has not been possible to proceed towards achieving this expected result. The main reason is that the Indian Red Cross national headquarters have yet to initiate the recruitment of the required branch development coordinator. This is expected to occur in the near future.

However, one important step during 2003 has been the review of the constitution followed up by review of existing branch rules and the development of uniform rules for the branches. The branch rules will be further refined based on the comments and suggestions by the state branch representatives. The ICRC and Federation both at regional and country level have provided input and supported the development of the draft branch rules. The rules will have to be presented to the managing body for final decision.

Impact

- The work on establishing the branch rules has exhibited how important it is for programme implementation to facilitate the compilation process when the rules for the branches exist but are not uniform throughout the country.
- The branches are positive and appreciate that national headquarters has taken a lead role.

Constraints

Without strengthened capacity of the national headquarters, it will be difficult to continue extending the support for branch development in other states. Currently, the disaster management department, with limited capacity, is merely handling the reporting of fund utilisation for branch development in Gujarat.

Expected result: a resource development policy and strategy established increasing the accountability, integrating financial, material as well as member and volunteer development, mobilisation and maintenance components with main focus on the development and implementation of a community-based volunteer programme management system including a relief and emergency volunteer concept to meet the needs of disaster management, health and other programmes.

Progress/achievements

It has been clear from all three national society development plan regional consultations and planning meetings, that resource mobilisation is an important issue that needs attention. The focus during 2003 of resource mobilization initiatives has been on establishing necessary systems in the Indian Red Cross and facilitating an increased understanding of the process and potentials. A draft resource mobilisation policy and strategy has been formulated as a base for further in-depth discussion and development within the Indian Red Cross national headquarters and the branches.

Several meetings held in the beginning of the year outlining the essential parts of the resource mobilisation strategy. However, the members of the task force felt it was an academic exercise, and wanted a more practical application.

The Rajasthan Drought was selected as a good cause that could be used as a first experimental case to combine practice and theory. A month-long domestic appeal campaign was planned to raise resources for disaster relief for 5000 families. This would have been the first nation-wide campaign (Appeal) launched by the Indian Red Cross in India, parallel to an international Appeal launched for the same purpose.

Unfortunately, the campaign could not be launched due to various circumstances but it was a useful , though the planning process was useful in;

- raising support for the campaign through partners who extended external expertise.

- provided the Indian Red Cross an understanding of the market potential and an experience in mobilising.
- highlighted the need for building a donor database management system.

The resources and support mobilised during this project were immense and there is strong interest from different partners in India to associate with the Indian Red Cross.

After this campaign, various avenues of enhancing the Indian Red Cross public visibility and support were explored. These included:

- gauging the Indian Red Cross brand equity through a survey;
- developing the Indian Red Cross branded first aid kit for the Indian automobile and home market;
- organising a film premier as a special event;
- enabling donation via credit card and;
- formulating a corporate partnership scheme.

These proposals await the approval of Indian Red Cross management.

Management of volunteers is another important issue for the branches. In Gujarat, the learning combined with experiences from Orissa, has resulted in a model that was launched during mid 2003. More than 100 volunteers have been recruited targeted districts as volunteer managers.

A draft volunteer management handbook developed in August by national headquarters with technical advice from the Federation, is to be tested in Gujarat, and further developed after comments and suggestions received from the field workers. The regional volunteering manual together with other resources have been used in the development of the draft volunteer management handbook.

A training of trainer workshop on volunteer management was held August with participants from the eight disaster prone states and the national headquarters. Following this workshop, the first local volunteer management trainings will be initially organised in Gujarat, and later on in the eight states.

Impact

- The resource mobilisation initiatives have shown that there is a great potential for Indian Red Cross to mobilise resources in country as well as from non-resident Indians living abroad.
- The initial discussions during the beginning of the year have resulted in an increased flow of the membership fees to the national headquarters. In the case of Orissa, more than 100,000 new annual members have been recruited which is an increase of more than 100 per cent on last year. .
- In Gujarat, a model has been developed and initiated to shift the responsibility and ownership from Federation to the state and the district branches having more than 2000 volunteers.

Constraints

- No appointment in Indian Red Cross, national headquarters as focal point for resource mobilisation. Resource mobilisation requires the recruitment of personnel for key positions at Indian Red Cross headquarters.
- The lack of effective tools to facilitate donations. The non-existence, for example of means of paying via credit card or the internet are issues which need to be addressed.

Expected result: the constitution, organisational structure, rules, policies and procedures reviewed, amended and established in accordance to the needs of the organisation and in coherence with the policies of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

Progress/achievements

One of the main issues during 2003, apart from developing the *National Society Development Plan*, has been to initiate the review process of the *Indian Red Cross Society Act, Rules and Procedures*. A meeting earlier this year involving Indian Red Cross senior officers and the regional and country delegations of the Federation decided the constitution review would be simpler if the national Society first established uniform branch rules. The group agreed that it will take quite some time to complete this task. It will also involve seeking the agreement of the ICRC and the Federation before the amended constitution is placed before the Indian Parliament.

After establishing the branch rules, the process of reviewing the Act of 1920 (1994) and the Society Rules of 1992 will begin. This is most likely to occur in early 2004. ICRC and Federation are jointly supporting Indian Red Cross in this process, relying on the experiences of sister societies in the region and the international guidelines.

Impact

The importance of reviewing the constitution has been raised in all three regional consultation meetings while working on developing the *National Society Development Plan*. Integrity is an issue of great concern of several branches. A new constitution for Indian Red Cross will harmonise the organisations relations internally and externally. The national society will be in a position to more effectively and independently implement programs and mobilise resources.

Constraints

The existing constitution is complicated and complex. It will be a lengthy process to guide a new revised constitution through the Parliament.

Expected result: a human resource development system and phased training programme for governance, volunteers and staff developed and established, and the Indian Red Cross central training facility in Delhi operational and a plan for sustainability developed and implemented.

Progress/achievements

New staff rules for Indian Red Cross staff based at the Headquarters have been drafted. These rules will replace parts of the Standing Orders passed by the Managing Body in 1950

Compensation of employees is guided by Central Government rules while the national society has no separate rules regulating employment, other than Provident Fund rules, Gratuity rule, Allocation of Staff Quarters, etc. management has therefore initiated the development of a personnel handbook. The Indian Red Cross has utilised the regionally developed *Federation Human Resource Manual* as a source for good practice.

The computerisation of the finance function also relates to human resource development. The software Navision Attain, mainly to be used by finance, has a module that also addresses human resource issues. Currently, the payroll module that is directly linked to the human resource module is being implemented. The mapping of human resources will begin and feed into the human resource module as soon as the payroll module is implemented. This will enable the department working with human resources to manage the information of about 650 staff employed by the national headquarters in a more systematic and efficient way.

The extensive rehabilitation of the Central Training Institutes' main building is now almost complete. The original plan was to have the building finished by the end of July. However construction was delayed by heavy rain in Delhi during the monsoon period. The building was also in worse condition than initially assessed. The building is expected to be able to be utilised before the end of the year.

Planning for the second phase, building an accommodation block, will commence as soon as the first phase is completed and funds have been committed. The American Red Cross has previously committed to supporting the second phase while the Norwegian Red Cross has expressed interest.

Impact

- Progress is being made towards establishing new staff rules which will be the first step in modernising the Indian Red Cross human resource system. In the longer run it will have impact on programme implementation and how the organisation is perceived.
- Progress is being made towards completion of the central training institute.

Constraints

- Development and implementation of human resource systems have been delayed due to the non-recruitment of personnel for key positions at Indian Red Cross headquarters. This is mainly due to the managing body's need to make a decision about forming a selection committee.
- Delay in completion of rehabilitation of the building for the central training institute due to weather problems and unforeseen structural issues.

Expected result: the capacity for financial planning, management and reporting upgraded at the national headquarters and a financial development project for the state branches designed and initiated.

Progress/achievements

The implementation of the finance development project is proceeding and will be complete in early 2004..

Since the installation of the Navision Attain software earlier this year, the process of customizing and adapting the system to Indian Red Cross procedures has been ongoing. Project implementation was delayed because the audit of annual accounts occurred at the same time. Computer training of primarily the finance department staff is now mandatory.

The hardware investment (computers, network, internet and software licenses) for the entire national headquarters and disaster management centre is being utilised.

Impact

- The software implementation has alerted the Indian Red Cross to the need for a comprehensive finance handbook for finance staff and managers/officers.
- The finance director has supported the Sri Lanka Red Cross with the development and upgrading of the financial procedures and systems of that national society.

Constraints

- A lack of key personnel at national headquarters. This is mainly due to the managing body yet to finalise a selection committee.
- Delays in procurement of software. This related to the global contract of Navision. The parties finally came to an agreement and the contract was changed to cater for the needs defined by the Indian Red Cross.
- The closing and audit of the accounts were taking place during April – June, which put the implementation on hold for a couple of months.
- The delay in the finance project at national headquarters has delayed the finance development project in the state branches until 2004.

Expected result: a communications policy and strategy developed, implementation initiated and the information capacity of selected state branches increased.

Progress/achievements

The communication strategy is taking shape. The taskforce established as a result of the process outlined in Programme Update 1 has met several times. A first draft of a logo for the Indian Red Cross has been developed. The next step in developing the strategy is a national communications workshop scheduled for January 2004 which will be attended by the focal points for communication in each state appointed by the state branches. This will facilitate future communication between branches and national headquarters as well as increasing the capacity to communicate externally during emergencies.

Several newsletters are now regularly (monthly and quarterly) being published by both national headquarters and branches and formats are becoming more uniform.

ICRC and Federation, on a regional and country level, are jointly working to support the communication development of Indian Red Cross, both financially as well as technically.

Impact

Branches are more and more interested in a uniform strategy and participating in developing standardised formats and approaches. Sharing of ideas and knowledge has increased between the branches. The role of the national headquarters is becoming clearer.

Constraints

The plan for communication development was revised mid-2003. Current staff levels have not permitted the full implementation of the plan.

Expected result: a long-term national society strategic plan developed and the cooperation agreement strategy established during 2000 updated.

Progress/achievements

The process of developing a long-term national society strategic plan is nearly complete. The draft *National Society Development Plan for 2004-2007* was presented at the state branch secretaries meeting in Delhi 31 October – 1 November 2003. The plan now has to be adjusted after the recommendations given by the branch representatives before presentation for endorsement by the managing body of the national society.

The *National Society Development Plan 2004-2007* was developed through the following comprehensive consultative process:

- self-assessment against Strategy 2010 during 2000;
- strategic planning exercise during 2000;
- Indian Red Cross branch mapping exercise 2001-2002;
- regional consultation and planning meeting – Amritsar in (March 2003);
- regional consultation and planning meeting – Kolkata (March 2003);
- regional consultation and planning meeting – Chennai (April 2003);
- national headquarters consultation and planning meeting – Delhi (May 2003);
- a small task force compiles and develops the draft development plan (June 2003);
- state branch secretaries meeting for further consultation (31 October – 01 November 2003).

A special report is available covering the outcome from the three regional consultations and planning meetings.

A small task force constituted of four Indian Red Cross state branch representatives and one representative from the national headquarters drafted the development plan based on the experiences from the consultation and planning meetings as well as other strategic documents and decisions. The draft was shared with branches and finally discussed at the state branch secretaries meeting.

Impact

Several sessions triggered discussions and helped in developing recommendations that need to be implemented during the coming three years in order to strengthen Indian Red Cross so that more vulnerable people receive effective help and support.

Branches expressed their commitment to the implementation of the development plan. The branches also gave clear indications of priorities on what should be the core activities in health and care in the community and disaster preparedness and response.

The cooperation between the components of the Movement has been strengthened. The meetings organised by Indian Red Cross gave an opportunity for Federation and the ICRC to jointly support the implementation and facilitate together. Several partner national societies active in India participated at the meetings.

Constraints

The plan cannot be endorsed until the managing body convenes its next meeting. This is most likely to occur in the second quarter of 2004.

4. Humanitarian Values

Overall Goal: Discrimination and violence in the community is reduced.

Objective and expected results: The capacity of Indian Red Cross to deliver its humanitarian message both within and outside the society and to advocate tolerance and coexistence in the communities is increased.

Expected Results under this objective are;

- There is greater understanding of the humanitarian values and the Movement's fundamental principles within and outside the Indian Red Cross;
- The profile and image of the Indian Red Cross is increased as a countrywide humanitarian organisation.

Progress/achievements

The Community Care Centre pilot project has been established and will provide care and support to HIV infected women and their children at Namakkal in Tamil Nadu. The goal is to improve the well-being, health and social status of the discriminated vulnerable population in the community, infected and affected with HIV.

Dissemination of the Movement principles among volunteers and the general public has taken place at various public events.

The Indian Red Cross promoted its image as a countrywide humanitarian organisation by participating in polio immunisation days in September and November. This campaign showed good cooperation with agencies including the World Health Organisation and state-level government health authorities.

Impact

The Indian Red Cross has strengthened its profile as an advocate of humanitarian values through various activities outlined above. The national society has further entrenched humanitarian values as integral to its core activities.

Constraints

There remains the task of achieving a unified vision and definition among all district and state branches on humanitarian values.

5. Programme Coordination

Overall Goal: Achieve collaborative and coordinated working relationships with the host national society, PNSs, ICRC and external stakeholders to assure effective service delivery and capacity building

Programme Objective and expected results: Create forums in formal and informal meetings with all stakeholders, information sharing and proactive facilitation and directional planning

(NB: as per Programme Update 1, the overall goal and objective have been amended from the Annual Appeal)

Expected Results under this objective;

- duplication of activities and locations are minimised by supporting the Indian Red Cross with negotiations and coordination of Gujarat programme activities with all major parties;
- regular information and security support are provided to Red Cross Red Crescent partners operating in India;
- donor confidence in the Federation's coordination role is reinforced by providing timely and informative reports on Federation's activities and the use of donor's funds in India as well as support to the Indian Red Cross in hosting review or consultative activities to channel communications with the PNS;
- an effective financial management service is provided in support of the existing programmes, and the facilitation of additional programmes within India as the need arises; and
- A strong working relationship with the society's governance and management is maintained.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

A partnership meeting was held in November on the re-construction savings from the Gujarat Rehabilitation Appeal 20/01. The Indian Red Cross conducted field trips before the meeting to the newly constructed and repaired Anganwadis in Gujarat.

The main objectives of the meeting were:-

- To present the status of the reconstruction programme including construction finance.
- To share plans relating to disaster management, reconstruction preparedness and HIV/AIDS with partners or potential use of these savings.
- Feedback from partners.
- Handing over of programmes in Gujarat to the national society.
- Open forum for dialogue amongst PNS, Federation and the Indian Red Cross.

Regular sectoral meetings are held with respective partner national societies, the Indian Red Cross and the Federation delegation.

A formal meeting to share the first draft of the 2004 Annual Appeal for 2004 with partner national societies, the Indian Red Cross and the India delegation took place in September. The Head of Delegation conducted number of informal discussions with partner national societies.

Impact

Continuous enhancement of quality and achievements of co-ordination mechanism are being carried out.

Constraints

Human resource capacity within the national society. This is being addressed as a part of the organisational development initiative.

6. International Representation

Overall Goal: The Federation and its policies are well advocated in the international arena.

Programme Objective and expected results: The Federation's role in providing support in the areas of communication, advocacy and external representation and donor support is maximised.

Expected Results under this objective are;

- Structured dialogue between the government and the Indian Red Cross established and government support explored to enable the society to play its role;
- The Indian Red Cross' coordination and links established with key national, regional and international organizations, funds and programmes;
- Cooperation opportunities between the Red Cross Red Crescent societies and regional delegation explored and facilitated;
- Effective partnerships and alliances formed between the Indian Red Cross and the Federation to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable, promote their interests at the national, regional and international levels, and mobilise support for the programme activities within the core areas of the Federation Strategy 2010.

Progress/achievements

Indian Red Cross launched the SPHERE institutionalising process in India. Being one of the three countries in the world where the pilot project has been initiated it is an outcome of the consultation process of SPHERE pilot agencies of India. SPHERE India is a coalition, a collaborative partnership, between governmental and non-governmental agencies in India, with a two-year budget that will enable institutionalisation of the SPHERE project in India.

During the Assam Floods 2003, SPHERE India constituted a joint inter-agency assessment in Assam. This was a groundbreaking move, perhaps first of its kind in South Asia.

SPHERE India has developed into more than a concept and now has a managing committee and a Chairperson and meets regularly to take the initiative forward.

An MOU was signed by World Health Organisation and International Federation for Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies through the South Asia Regional Delegation based in September 2003.

Impact

The impact of the SPHERE initiative has been to bring all the major humanitarian agencies in India onto a single forum to discuss and network.

Constraints

Time has been the major constraint. Fitting the SPHERE agenda among existing priorities of the member organisations has been challenging.

For further information please contact:

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

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

India

ANNEX 1

Continuation of the India Rehabilitation Appeal 20/2001

APPEAL No. 01.54/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

17/12/2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				12,862,905	TOTAL COVERAGE 94.5%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				11,194,473		
AMERICAN - RC		75,000	USD	99,150	17.10.03	IRCS TRAINING, MANAGEMENT, DELEGATION COSTS
BRITISH - RC				8,554	13.10.03	DISASTER MANAGEMENT DELEGATE
BRITISH - RC		1,500	GBP	3,390	03.09.03	CAPACITY BUILDING OFFICER
CANADIAN - RC		200,000	CAD	196,100	22.04.03	HEALTH & CARE ACTIVITIES
CHINA - HONG KONG - RC				63,469	12.06.03	VASNA WAREHOUSE RENOVATION
GERMAN - RC		69,159	EUR	106,332	01.08.03	PRIVATE HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION
NETHERLANDS - RC		76,684	EUR	118,017	14.08.03	PROCUREMENT RELIEF MATERIAL
NEW ZEALAND - RC		1,220	NZD	914	16.06.03	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				11,790,399	CHF	91.7%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CHINA	DELEGATE(S)			48,131		
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			52,731		
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			9,363		
GERMANY	DELEGATE(S)			39,918		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			160,327		
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			59,959		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				370,429	CHF	2.9%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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